

May 26, 2020

## Polling and Surveys during the Pandemic about School Choice and Public Education

(source: PIE Network email to members included information about the results related to parents, the National Alliance added in the results from any of those surveys that also posed questions around school choice)

Surveys have been posted to Box [here](#). The organization name is hyperlinked to the poll results on their website.

### Summary of Key Findings

#### [American Federation for Children](#)

- A RealClear Opinion Research survey of 2,122 registered voters shows that support for educational choice is strong.
- 40% of families are more likely to homeschool or virtual school after lockdowns.
- 64% support school choice.
- Summary of additional school choice polls available at AFC website: [www.SchoolChoicePolling.com](http://www.SchoolChoicePolling.com)

#### [EdChoice](#):

- Conducting a monthly tracking poll.
- 68% of parents surveyed are concerned that their child is missing instructional time due to COVID-19; and 66% are concerned about their child getting exposed to COVID at school.
- Bottom left chart shows respondent answers without a definition of charter schools, ESAs and vouchers over time. The chart on the right, provides a definition then poses the question again about support.

#### Do Americans support school choice policies?

Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations.

A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a 'school voucher' to pay partial or full tuition for the child's school.

An "education savings account" in K-12 education – often called an ESA – establishes for parents a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for educational purposes. Parents can then use these funds to pay for: school tuition; tutoring; online education programs; therapies for students with special needs; textbooks or other instructional materials; or save for future college expenses.

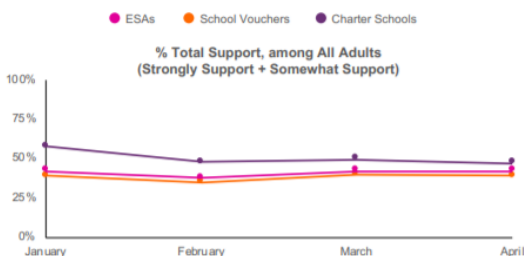
Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of charter schools, school vouchers, and education savings accounts (ESAs)?



#### PUBLIC OPINION TRACKER

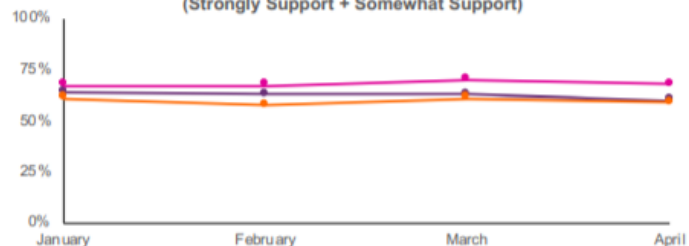
#### Do Americans support school choice policies?

Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of charter schools, school vouchers, and education savings accounts (ESAs)?



Legend: ESAs (pink), School Vouchers (orange), Charter Schools (purple)

#### % Total Support, among All Adults (Strongly Support + Somewhat Support)



### The New Teacher Project (TNTP)

- The New Teacher Project (TNTP) has extensive experience with developed a bank of survey questions based on their extensive experience doing surveys with thousands of schools.
- The COVID-19 Support Survey is designed to help district and charter network leaders gather fast and frequent feedback from stakeholders about the resources and support that will make the biggest difference in helping their school community manage the current challenges of the outbreak—and plan for when schools reopen. Download the survey questions on the [TNTP website](#) and contact TNTP for help with creating a survey and/or a dashboard that automatically updates the latest poll results. Contact [insight@tntp.org](mailto:insight@tntp.org) for more information.
- TNTP has also just released a survey bank of questions about regarding school reopening.
- Both sets of survey are available on Box [here](#).

### **Politico/Morning Consult**

- No questions about school choice, but they asked about schools and day care centers reopening.
- 41% of voters said it's a bad idea to reopen K-12 schools in the fall, and 44% felt it was a bad idea to open daycare centers.

### National Parents Union (NPU)

- Conducting weekly tracking poll of 500 parents nationally (April-June 2020).
- Topline results available here on [Box](#).
- The survey is not asking about support for school choice, but two relevant questions are below.

#### **Parents Still Believe Schools Should Err On Side Of Staying Closed**




Q. Even if neither one perfectly describes your views, which of the following statements do you agree with more?

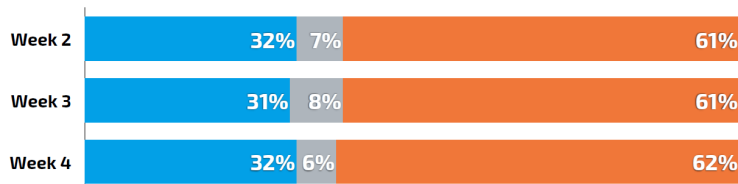
-  Schools should remain closed until they are certain there is no health risk, even if it means students fall farther behind.  Schools should reopen as soon possible so students don't fall too far behind and can receive the educational support they need.  Unsure



#### **Parents Continue To Say School Should Be Re-Imagined**

Q. Even if neither one perfectly describes your views, which of the following statements do you agree with more?

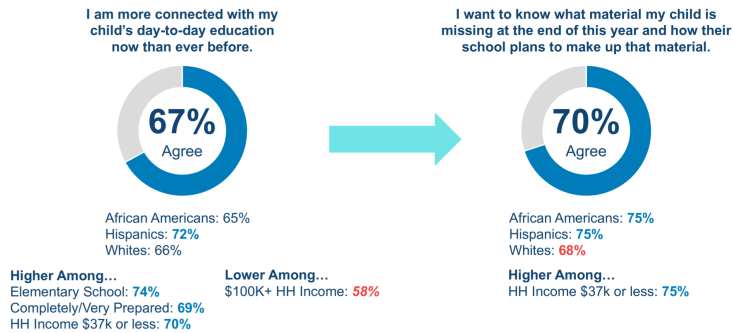
-  Schools should be focused on trying to get back to the way things were before the COVID-19 crisis as soon as it is safe to do so.  School should be focused on rethinking how we educate students, coming up with new ways to teach children moving forward as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.  Unsure



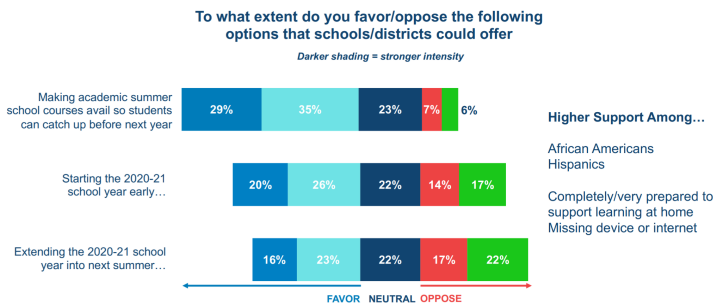
## Learning Heroes:

- Nationwide sample of 3,645 parents and guardians with children in public school, grades K-12.
- Survey does not ask questions about school choice but does ask many about how schools are doing now with closures and what parents expect in the future.
- Most parents want more personalized tools to support their child's learning; 7 out of 10 parents said they plan to get a better understanding of what their children are expected to learn next year; and 92% of parents report their children are at or above grade level in reading and math, even though data from NAEP shows the figure is closer to 37% of students performing on grade level.

### Parents Feel More Connected to Schooling and Want Answers for What Happens Next



### Most Parents Want the *Option* of Summer School Over Definitive Adjustments to the 20-21 School Calendar

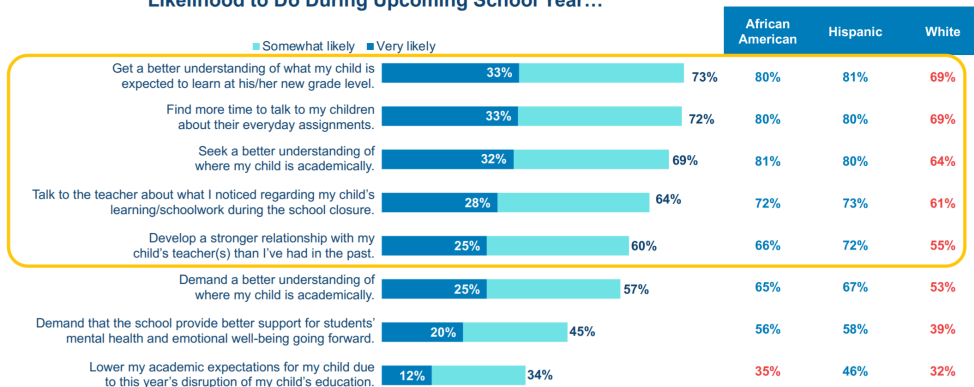


LEARNING HEROES: Parents 2020 30

### Parents Activated to Redefine Relationships Between Schools & Homes

#### Likelihood to Do During Upcoming School Year...

(% very/somewhat likely)



LEARNING HEROES: Parents 2020 31

### [EdTrust New York](#)

- Global Strategy Group partnered with The Education Trust New York to conduct a survey of 1,200 parents in New York State public schools, from March 25-April 1, 2020.
- No questions about school choice, questions were very similar to other parent polls and provide further evidence of how parents are reacting to the pandemic and what they need most both now and in the future.
- 95% of parents surveyed would like regular contact with or access to their child's teacher, while only 52% say schools are doing this already; and 92% of parents surveyed would also appreciate examples of resources to use to teach their child, while only 34% parents say their school is doing this already.

### [EdTrust West](#)

- Global Strategy Group partnered with The Education Trust–West to conduct a survey among 1,200 parents of children in California public schools from March 26<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
- No questions about school choice; the survey appears to be similar or the same as the EdTrust New York.
- 89% of parents surveyed are most concerned about their child falling behind academically as a result of not being in school; 84% of parents with high school students are concerned about ensuring their child is on track to graduate; and 82% are concerned about ensuring their child is on track to go to college.

### [Parents Amplifying Voices in Education \(PAVE\)](#)

- Surveyed parents in D.C. thru a variety of means.
- No questions about school choice, but the survey really got deep on specific issues families were facing and the stress they are feeling.
- 59% of parents cite managing their child's homeschooling as a top challenge. 52% of parents surveyed reported that they get the majority of their information from local government websites, 45% from Facebook, and 44% from their school website. This data also looks at how the stress of this crisis has disproportionately impacted low-income families.

### [TN Score](#)

- SCORE, in partnership with [Public Opinion Strategies](#), polled 500 registered voters in Tennessee, two-thirds of them parents with children who are living at home or graduated high school within the past two years.
- No questions on school choice.
- 52% of parents and 62% of voters overall support starting the 2020-21 school year early to make up for lost instruction; and three-fourths of those surveyed support using a statewide measure this fall to understand student learning loss.

### [DE Rodel](#)

- Survey of 859 respondents in State of Delaware.
- No questions about school choice, but a lot of questions for parents and teachers about what is needed now and in the future.
- 53% of community members surveyed identified wi-fi and broadband infrastructure as the most immediate learning support for educators and the students they serve; 53% want clear expectations communicated to all school and district staff about their roles and responsibilities; and 50% said educators needed more assistance meeting students' specific learning needs (such as students with disabilities, English learners, homeless students).

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