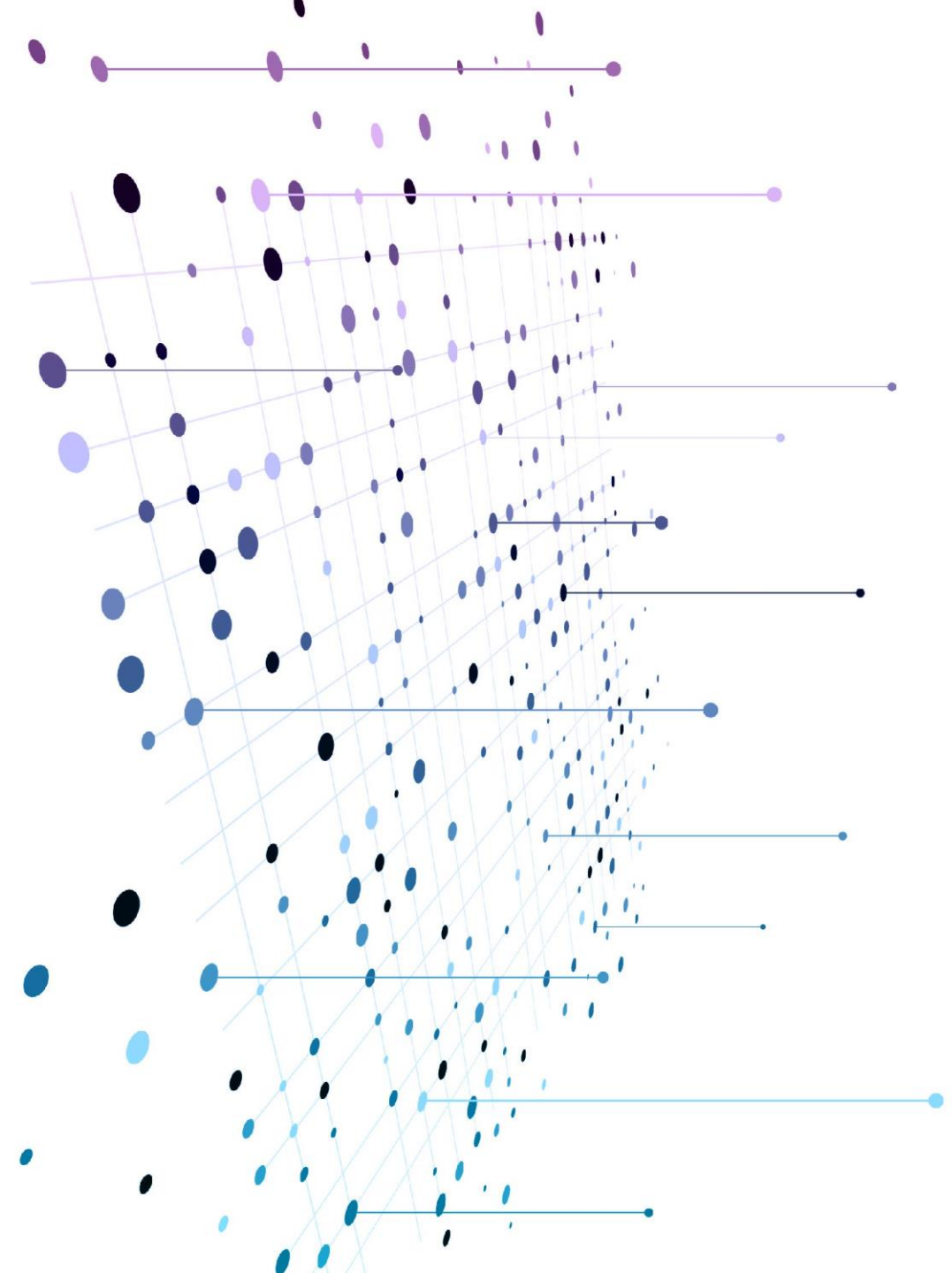




# The Public, Parents, and K–12 Education

National Polling Report #64

March 2026





## Views on K-12 Education



## Schooling and Experiences



## Trust and Political Parties



## K-12 Choice Policies



## Federal Education Tax Credit



## Survey Profile and Demographics

# KEY FINDINGS

## Views on K-12 Education

1. Americans are generally more optimistic about the direction of K-12 education at the state and local level than about education at the national level. Parent optimism about K-12 education is reaching levels that haven't been seen in over three years.
2. More than half of Americans and school parents view core academic subjects as extremely important for grades K-8, while skills for future employment are prioritized slightly more than other areas for grades 9-12. School parents also prioritize independent thinking skills for both K-8 and 9-12.
3. The general public and school parents greatly underestimate their state's per-student spending in public schools. The median estimate for all audiences is over \$10,000 less than the national average spending.
4. The general public and school parents are over 20 points less likely to say their state's spending per student in public schools is "too low" when given a publicly reported statistic. Providing respondents with a government-reported spending statistic consistently decreases their tendency to say public school funding is "too low."

### **Methodology:**

These polls were conducted between December 12 - 15, 2025, January 13 - 15, 2026, and February 9 - 12, 2026 among a sample of 2,251, 2,251, and 2,255 adults, respectively. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Adults based on gender, educational attainment, age, race, and region. Results based on the full surveys have a measure of precision plus or minus 2.07 percentage points.

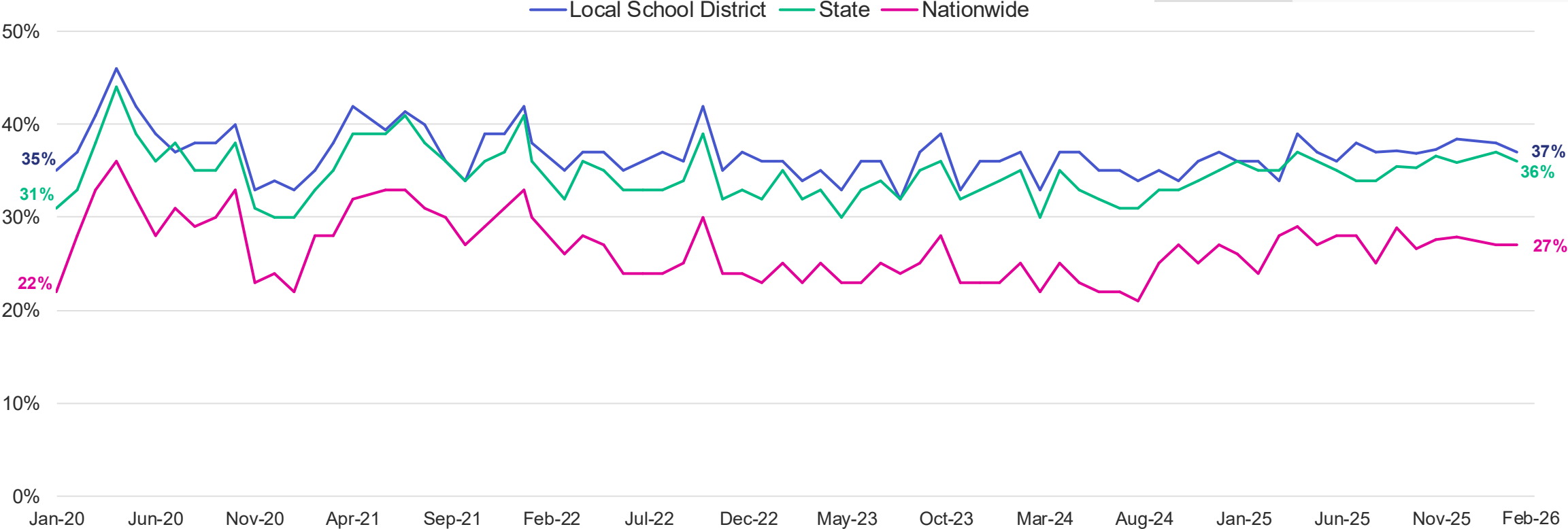
# Americans are generally more optimistic about the direction of K-12 education at the state and local level than about education at the national level.

Do you feel things in K-12 Education are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have generally gotten off on the wrong track?

All Adults

Feb 2026	Right Direction	Wrong Track
Local	37%	32%
State	36%	39%
Nationwide	27%	48%

% Right Direction

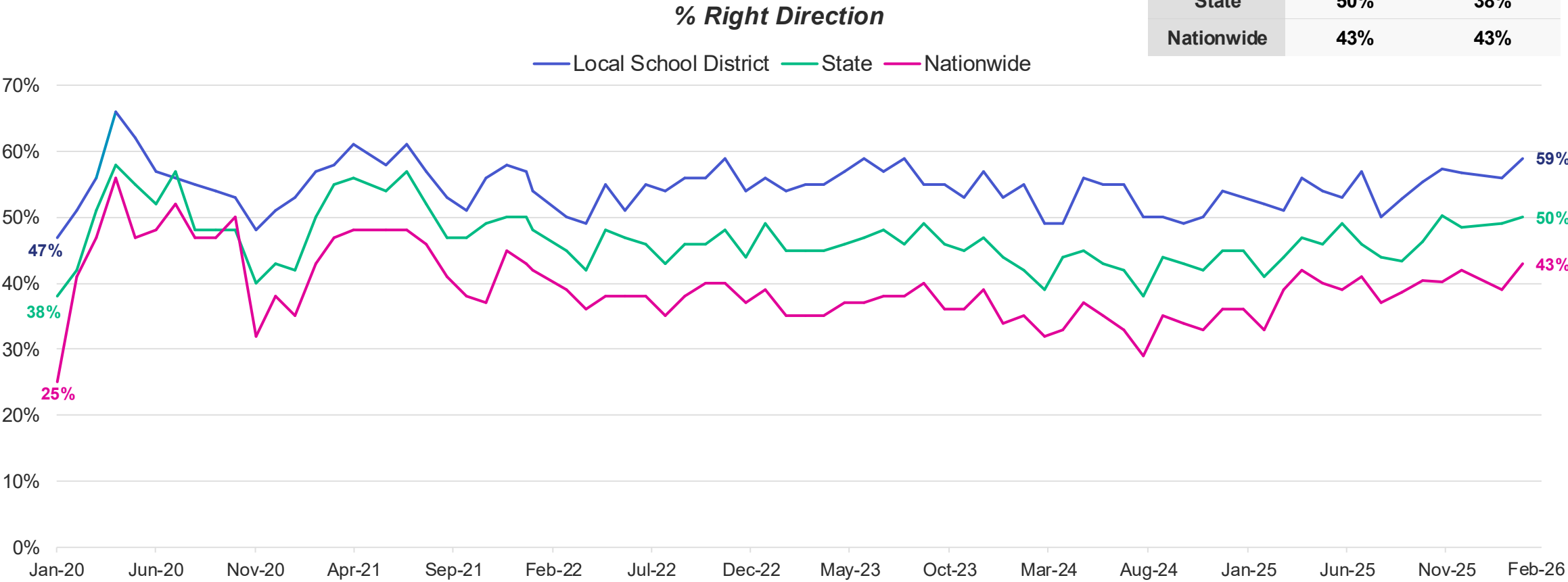


# Optimism about K-12 education is reaching levels that haven't been seen in over three years.

Do you feel things in K-12 Education are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have generally gotten off on the wrong track?

## School Parents

Feb 2026	Right Direction	Wrong Track
Local	59%	29%
State	50%	38%
Nationwide	43%	43%



# More than half of Americans view core academic subjects as extremely important for grades K-8. Skills for future employment are prioritized slightly more than other areas for grades 9-12.




What do you believe should be the main purpose of education during Kindergarten through 8th grade/9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade? In your opinion, how important is it for students to learn...

**All Adults**

**% Extremely Important**








**Grades K-8**

Average % selected Extremely Important **44%**

-  Core academic subjects (58%)
-  How to be good citizens (49%)
-  Socialization (49%)
-  To become independent thinkers (47%)
-  Skills for future employment (43%)
-  Values, moral character, religious virtues (37%)
-  To fix social problems (25%)

**Grades 9-12**

Average % selected Extremely Important **51%**

-  Skills for future employment (61%)
-  Core academic subjects (60%)
-  How to be good citizens (54%)
-  To become independent thinkers (54%)
-  Socialization (52%)
-  Values, moral character, religious virtues (44%)
-  To fix social problems (32%)

# School parents prioritize core academic subjects and independent thinking skills for both grade bands, while placing greater emphasis on skills for future employment for grades 9-12







What do you believe should be the main purpose of education during Kindergarten through 8th grade/9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade? In your opinion, how important is it for students to learn...

## School Parents

### % Extremely Important








#### Grades K-8

Average % selected Extremely Important **51%**

-  Core academic subjects (59%)
-  To become independent thinkers (54%)
-  Skills for future employment (54%)
-  How to be good citizens (53%)
-  Socialization (52%)
-  Values, moral character, religious virtues (48%)
-  To fix social problems (36%)

#### Grades 9-12

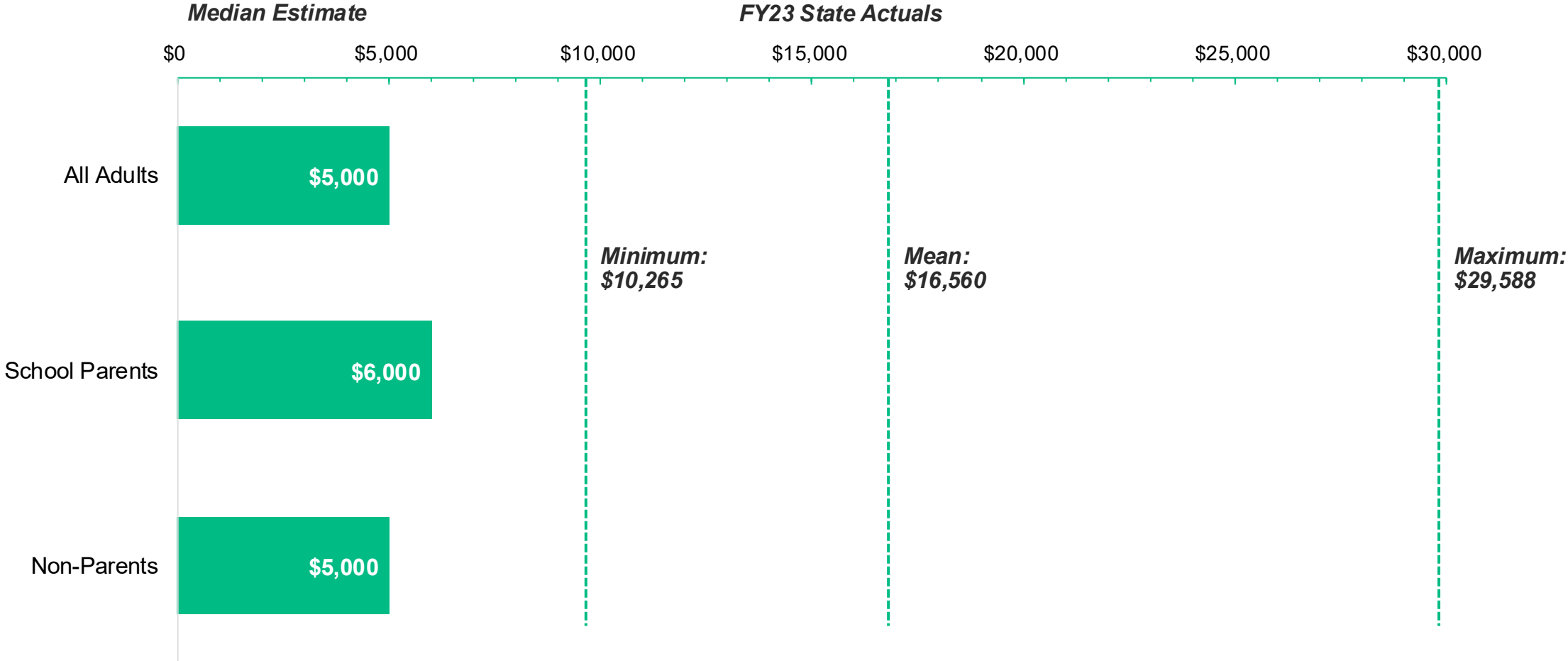
Average % selected Extremely Important **55%**

-  Skills for future employment (64%)
-  To become independent thinkers (60%)
-  Core academic subjects (59%)
-  Socialization (55%)
-  How to be good citizens (54%)
-  Values, moral character, religious virtues (51%)
-  To fix social problems (44%)

Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# The general public and school parents greatly underestimate their state's per-student spending in public schools. The median estimate for all audiences is over \$10,000 less than the national average spending.

How much do you think is spent per year on each student in your state's public schools? Your estimate of the state average—to the nearest thousand dollars—will represent the combined expenditures of local, state, and federal governments.



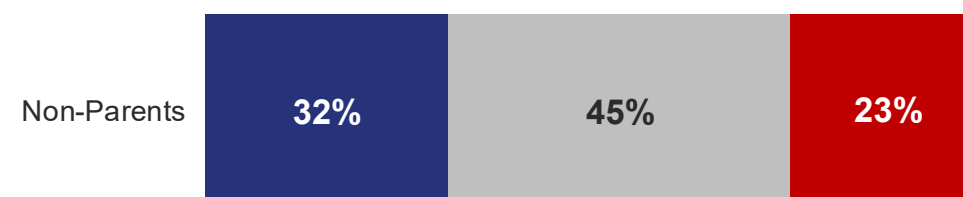
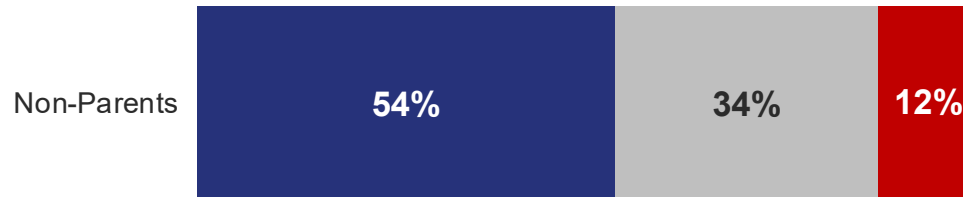
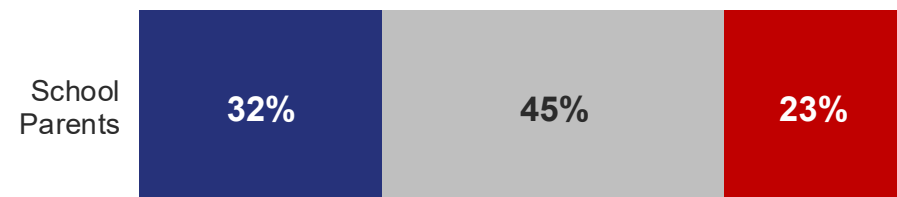
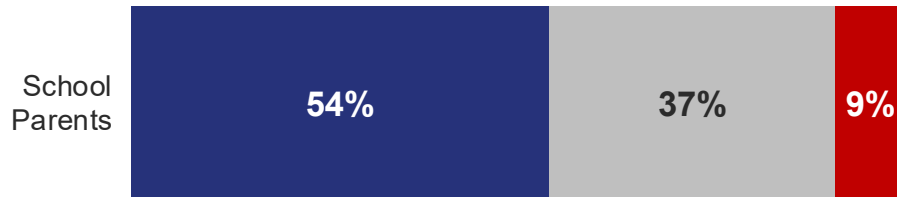
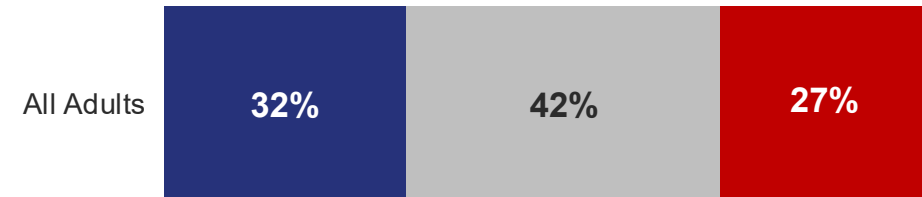
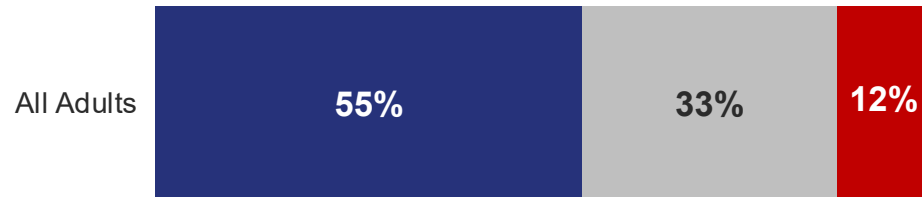
FY23 State Actuals Source: National Center for Education Statistics  
Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# The general public and school parents are over 20 points less likely to say their state's spending per student in public schools is "too low" when given a publicly reported statistic.

Do you believe public school funding in [STATE] is:

On average, [STATE] spends \$\_\_\_\_\_ per student attending public school each year.  
Do you believe public school funding is:

■ Too Low ■ About Right ■ Too High

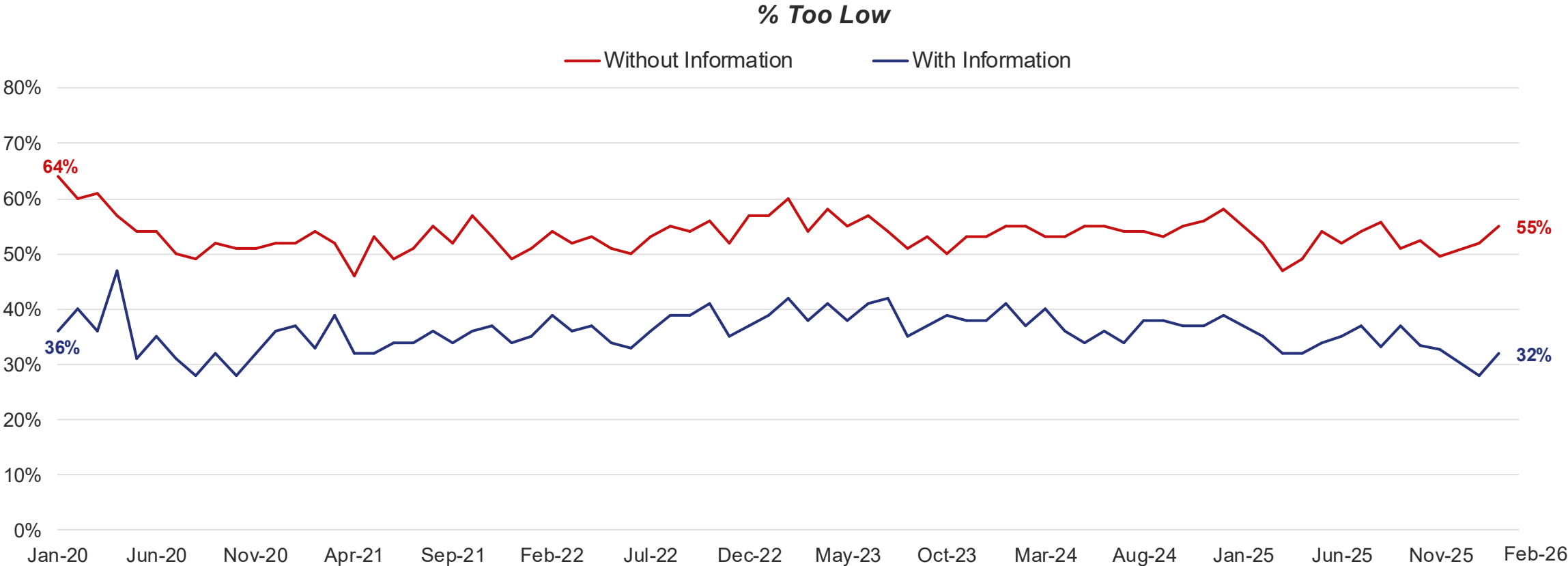


# Providing respondents with a government-reported spending statistic consistently decreases their tendency to say public school funding is “too low.”

Do you believe public school funding in [STATE] is:

On average, [STATE] spends \$\_\_\_\_\_ per student attending public school each year. Do you believe public school funding is:

## All Adults





## Views on K-12 Education



## Schooling and Experiences



## Trust and Political Parties



## K-12 Choice Policies



## Federal Education Tax Credit



## Survey Profile and Demographics

# KEY FINDINGS

## Schooling and Experiences

1. School parents consider math (33%) to be the most important class subject for their children this school year, while English/ language arts/reading follows at 22%.
2. A majority of school parents would rate their child's school either an "A" or a "B" when asked to grade it this school year. Private school parents are over 20-points more likely than public school parents to rate their child's school an "A".
3. Private school parents are much more likely (by 21-points) to say they are "very satisfied" with their child's schooling experiences compared to district school parents. The gap in satisfaction levels between private and district school parents has widened since January 2025.
4. There is a substantial disconnect between parents' schooling preferences and actual enrollment patterns. More than half of parents would choose a school type other than a public district school.
5. More than half of parents prefer having their child learn completely outside of the home, staying near an all-time high.
6. The percentage of school parents who currently have a tutor is similar to this time last year. The demographic groups most interested in tutoring for their child are Muslim parents, special education parents, and Gen-Z parents. Respondents from rural areas and small towns are the least likely to indicate an interest in tutoring.

### Methodology:

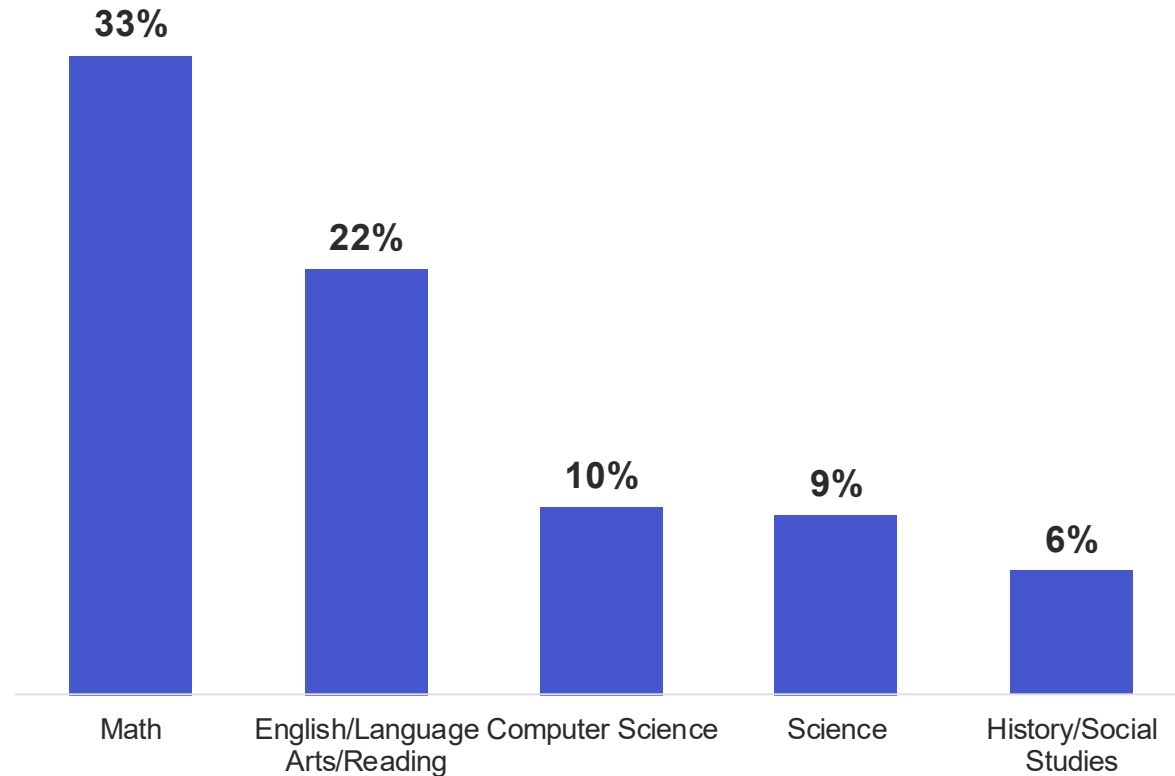
These polls were conducted between December 12 - 15, 2025, January 13 - 15, 2026, and February 9 - 12, 2026 among a sample of 2,251, 2,251, and 2,255 adults, respectively. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Adults based on gender, educational attainment, age, race, and region. Results based on the full surveys have a measure of precision plus or minus 2.07 percentage points.

# School parents consider math (33%) to be the most important class subject for their children this school year, while English/language arts/reading follows at 22%.

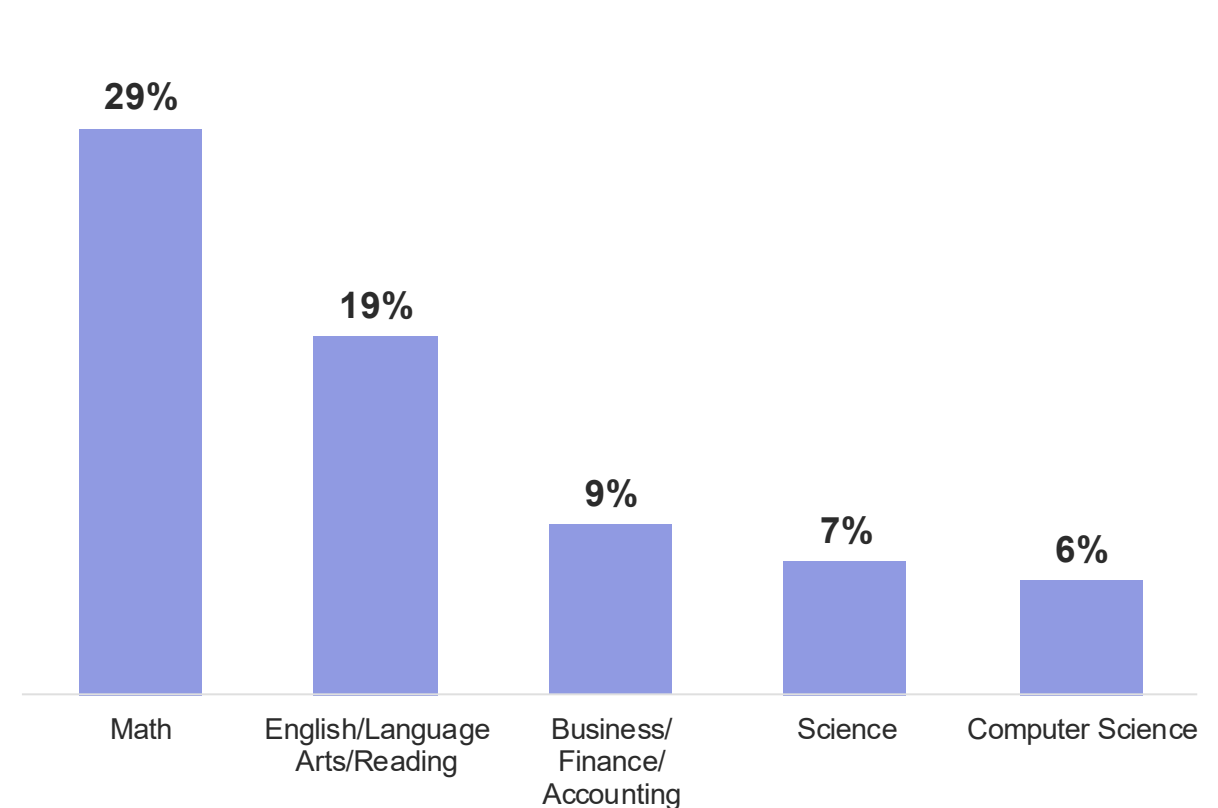
*In your opinion, what is the single most important class subject for your oldest/youngest child to learn this school year? // Thinking about all the subjects you studied in school, which one, if any, has been the most valuable to you in your life? Please select only one.*

## School Parents

**Most Important Subject for Child**



**Most Valuable Subject in Parents' Life**

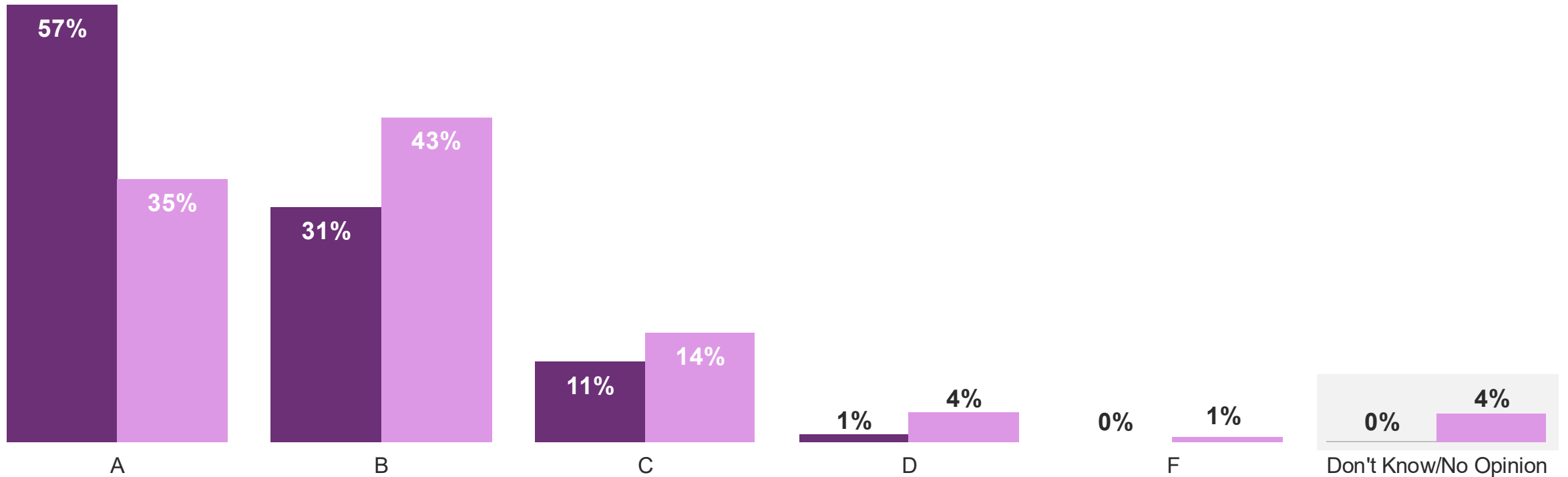


# A majority of school parents would rate their child's school either an "A" or a "B" when asked to grade it this school year. Private school parents are over 20-points more likely than public school parents to rate their child's school an "A".

*In thinking about the school your youngest/oldest child attends right now, what letter grade would you give it this school year?*

## School Parents

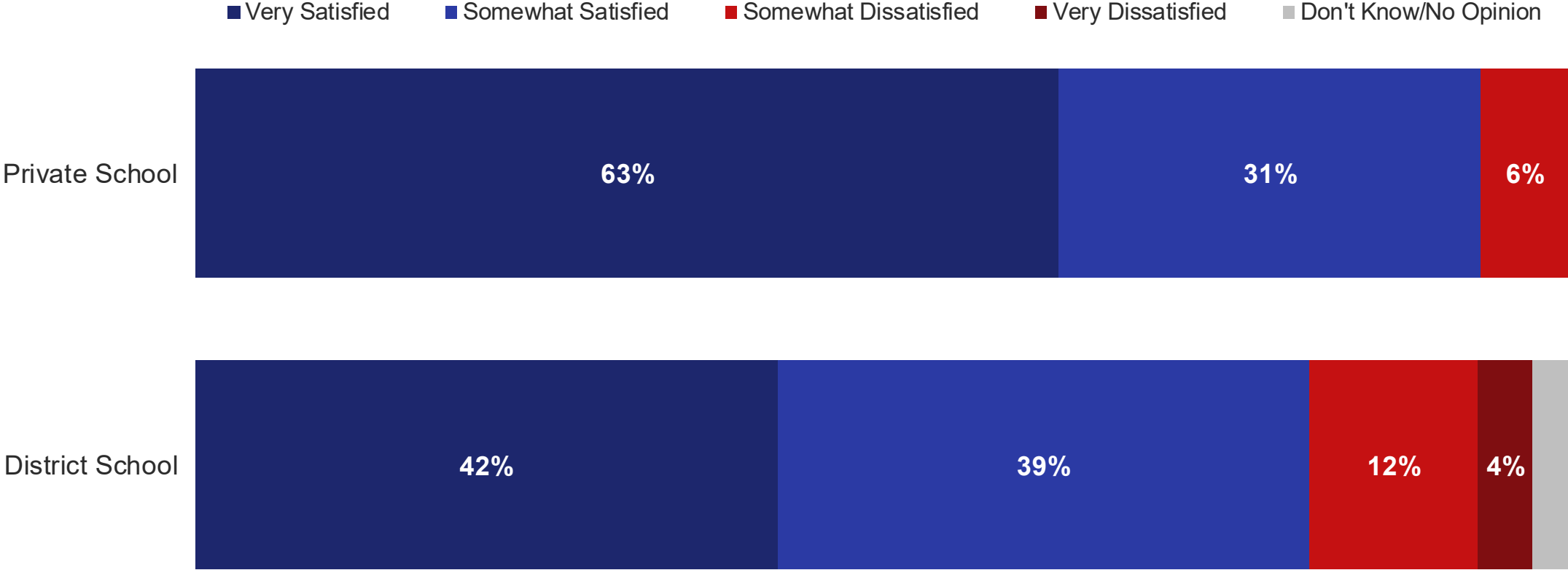
■ Private School Parents   ■ Public School Parents



# Private school parents are much more likely (by 21-points) to say they are “very satisfied” with their child’s schooling experiences compared to district school parents.

To what extent are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your child's/children's experiences with the following types of schooling?

## School Parents

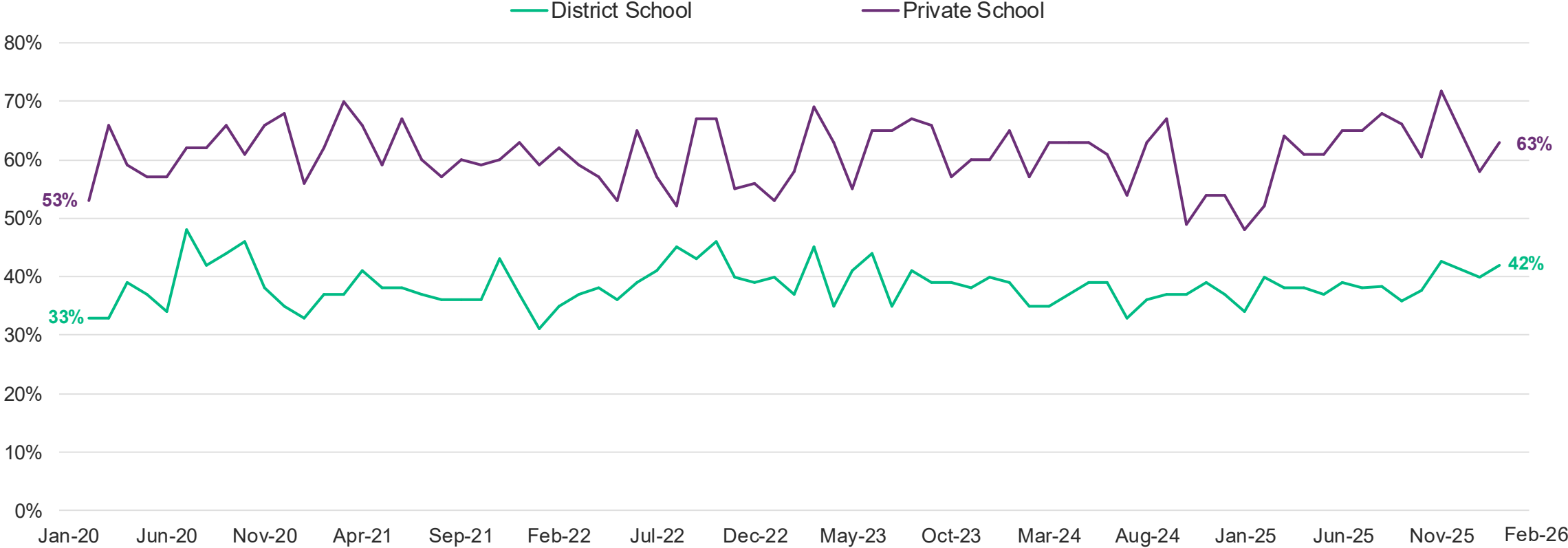


# Satisfaction with school experiences among private school parents has remained high compared to this time last year. The gap in satisfaction levels between private and district school parents has widened since January 2025.

To what extent are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your child's/children's experiences with the following types of schooling?

## School Parents

% Very Satisfied



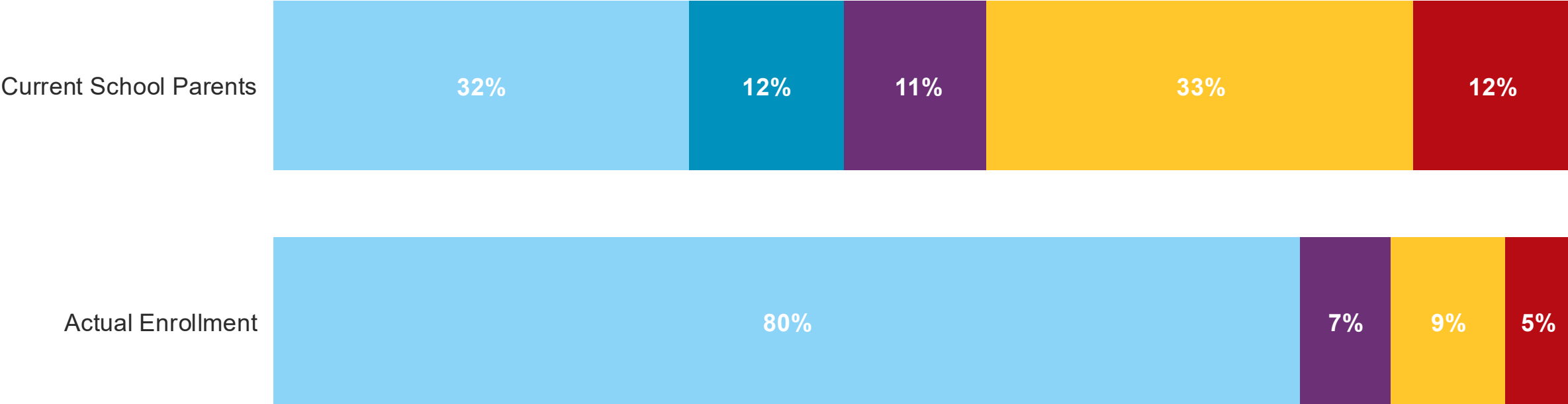
Note: Parent groups based on child/children school type attendance in SY25-26

# There is a substantial disconnect between parents' schooling preferences and actual enrollment patterns. More than half of parents would choose a school type other than a public district school.

School type preferences vs. enrollment, 2025

## School Parents

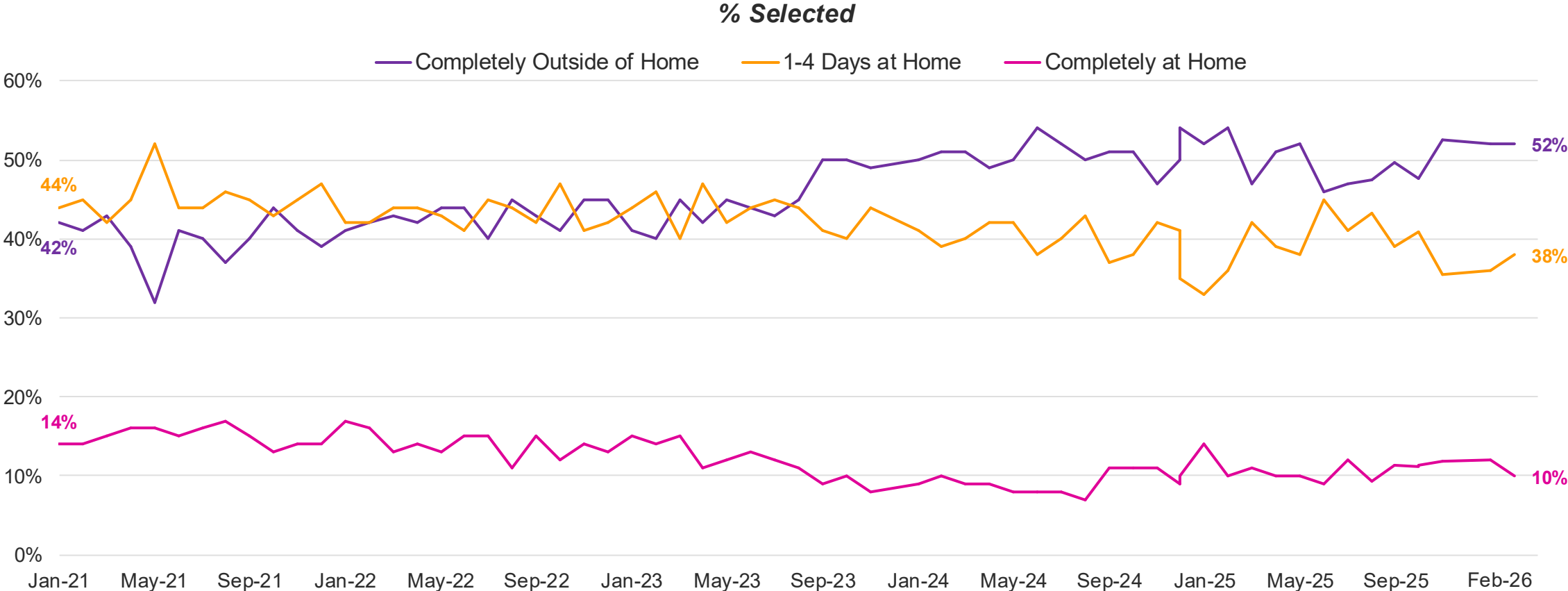
Public District School - Inside Residential District   Public District School - Outside Residential District   Public Charter School   Private School   Homeschool



# More than half of parents prefer having their child learn completely outside of the home, staying near an all-time high.

In order to provide the best education for your child/children, what would be your preferred weekly schedule and location between schooling at home with a parent/teacher/tutor, or outside the home?

## School Parents



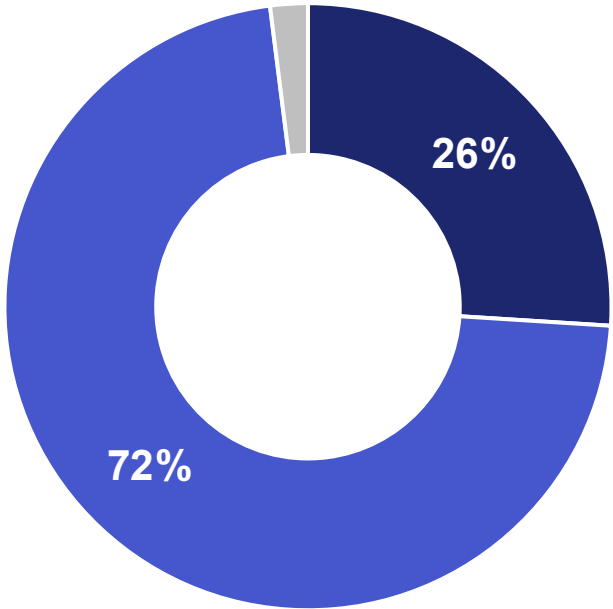
**Note:** Question text from January 2021 to May 2022: “After the pandemic, if given the option, to what extent would you prefer schooling to be scheduled each week at home with a parent or tutor to provide the best education for your child?”

# About one-fourth of parents indicate that their child has switched from one school type to another. School switching is highest among private school parents and parents who are union members.

Besides moving from grade school to middle school or middle school to high school, has your youngest/oldest child ever switched from one type of school (or school sector) to another? The various types/sectors include public district schools, public charter schools, private schools, full-time virtual schools, and home schooling.

## School Parents

- Yes, my child has changed school types
- No, my child has not changed school types
- I don't know if my child has changed school types



Top % Yes	
Private School	42%
Union Members	39%
Special Education	37%
Bottom % Yes	
Region: West	21%
Non-Special Needs Parents	21%
Moderate	18%

**Note:** Results are composite numbers between those who were asked about their youngest child and those who were asked about their oldest child.

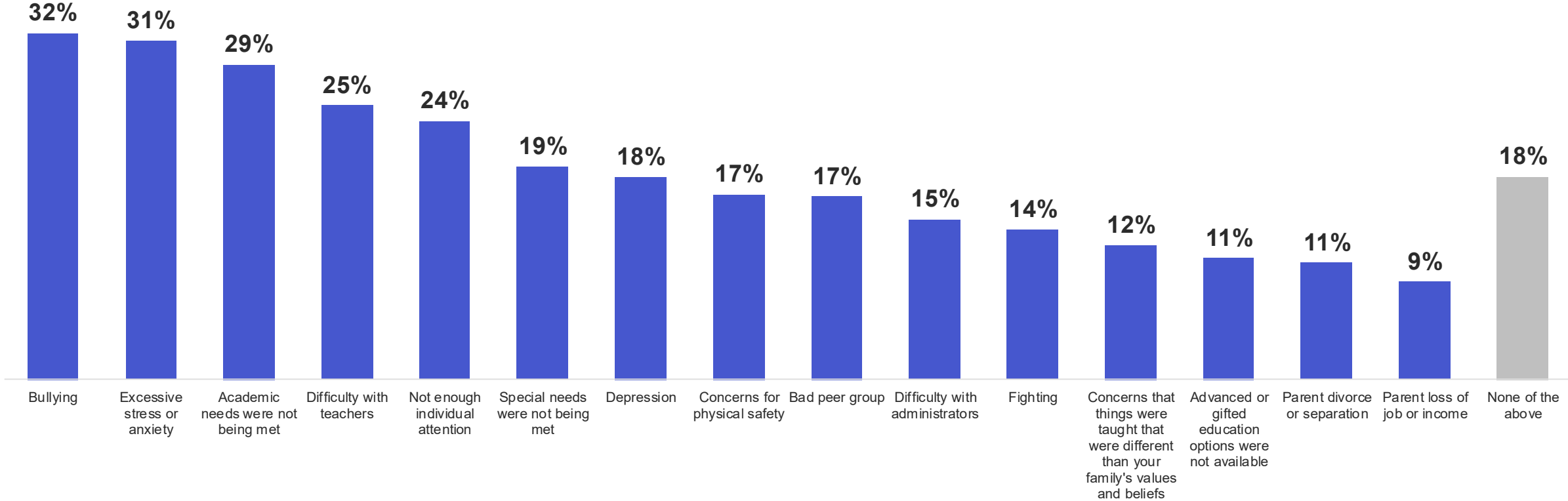
Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# Parents of school switchers are most likely to indicate a switch because of bullying, excessive stress, and academic needs not being met.

Children may encounter different circumstances both inside and outside of school that make it hard for them to achieve academic and personal success. Has your youngest/oldest child experienced any of these difficulties at her/his **former school**? Please select all that apply.

## School Parents (N=110)

% Selected



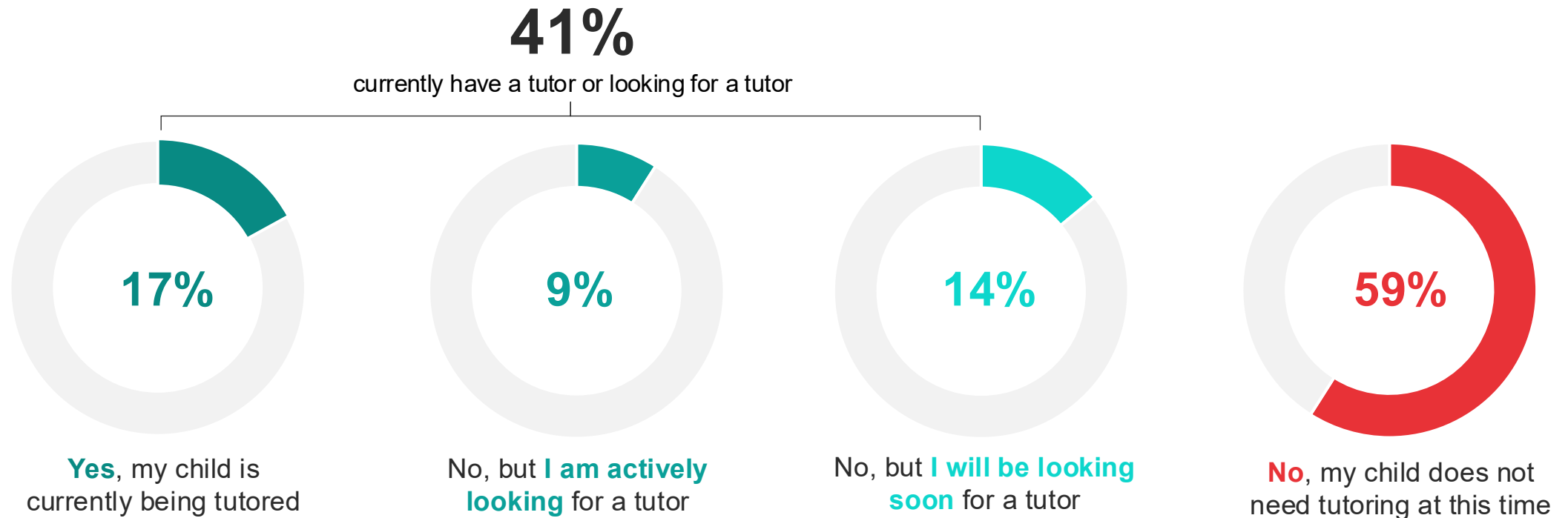
**Note:** Results are composite numbers between those who were asked about their youngest child and those who were asked about their oldest child.  
 \* Only respondents who indicated that their children have switched schools were asked about their child's former school.

Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# In February, 41% of parents were currently using a tutor or were interested in finding tutoring for their children.

Is your child getting tutoring outside of regular school hours this school year?

## School Parents



# Demographic Breakdown: Tutoring Interest

Is your child getting tutoring outside of regular school hours this school year?

**Tutoring Interest, Among School Parents**  
 Combined Responses from December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026

Groups **most** likely to be looking for / already having tutoring

Groups **least** likely to be looking for / already having tutoring

School Parents 40%

Muslim	59%
Special Education Parents	56%
GenZers: 1997-2012	56%
Special Needs Parents	53%
Ethnicity: Hispanic	51%
Black	51%
Urban Area	50%

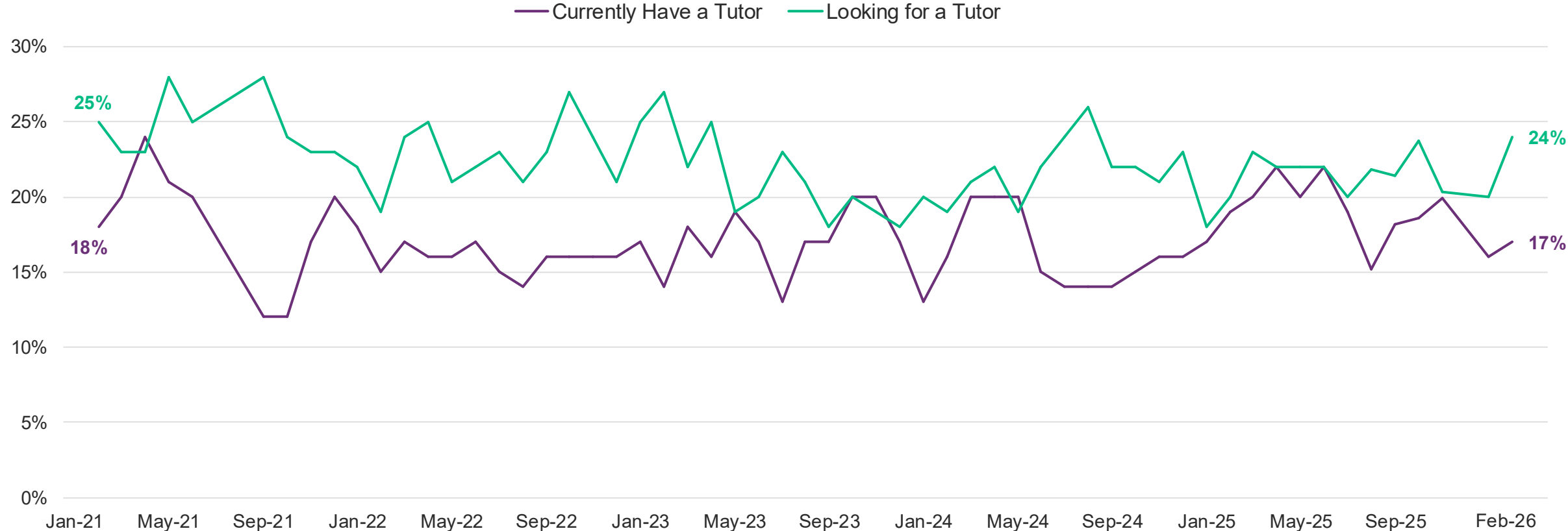
Non-Special Needs Parents	35%
Independent	35%
Female	34%
Age: 55+	34%
Rural	33%
Baby Boomers: 1946-1964	31%
Small Town	27%

Source: Surveys conducted December 12, 2025 – February 12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# The percentage of school parents who currently have a tutor is similar to this time last year.

Is your child getting tutoring outside of regular school hours this school year?

## School Parents



Note: Question was not asked in July 2021 and August 2021.



## Views on K-12 Education



## Schooling and Experiences



## Trust and Political Parties



## K-12 Choice Policies



## Federal Education Tax Credit



## Survey Profile and Demographics

# KEY FINDINGS

## Trust and Political Parties

1. Nearly two-thirds of parents trust other parents and teachers to make good decisions about K-12 education.
2. Trust in the Republican party to make good decisions about K-12 education is low. School parents (30%) tend to have more trust in the party compared to non-parents (17%).
3. Trust in the Democratic party to make good decisions about K-12 education is low, with similar levels of trust among both parents (27%) and non-parents (29%).
4. While the public is more likely to view the Democratic party as more trustworthy across measures in K-12 education, school parents are generally divided in their trust of the political parties regarding specific areas of K-12 education.
5. Less than half of school parents (43%) approve of the way the Republican Party handles K-12 education issues, while more than one-third of school parents disapprove (37%). School parents approve of the way the Democratic Party handles issues in K-12 education at roughly the same level (48%), while nearly one-third (30%) of parents disapprove.

### **Methodology:**

These polls were conducted between December 12 - 15, 2025, January 13 - 15, 2026, and February 9 - 12, 2026 among a sample of 2,251, 2,251, and 2,255 adults, respectively. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Adults based on gender, educational attainment, age, race, and region. Results based on the full surveys have a measure of precision plus or minus 2.07 percentage points.

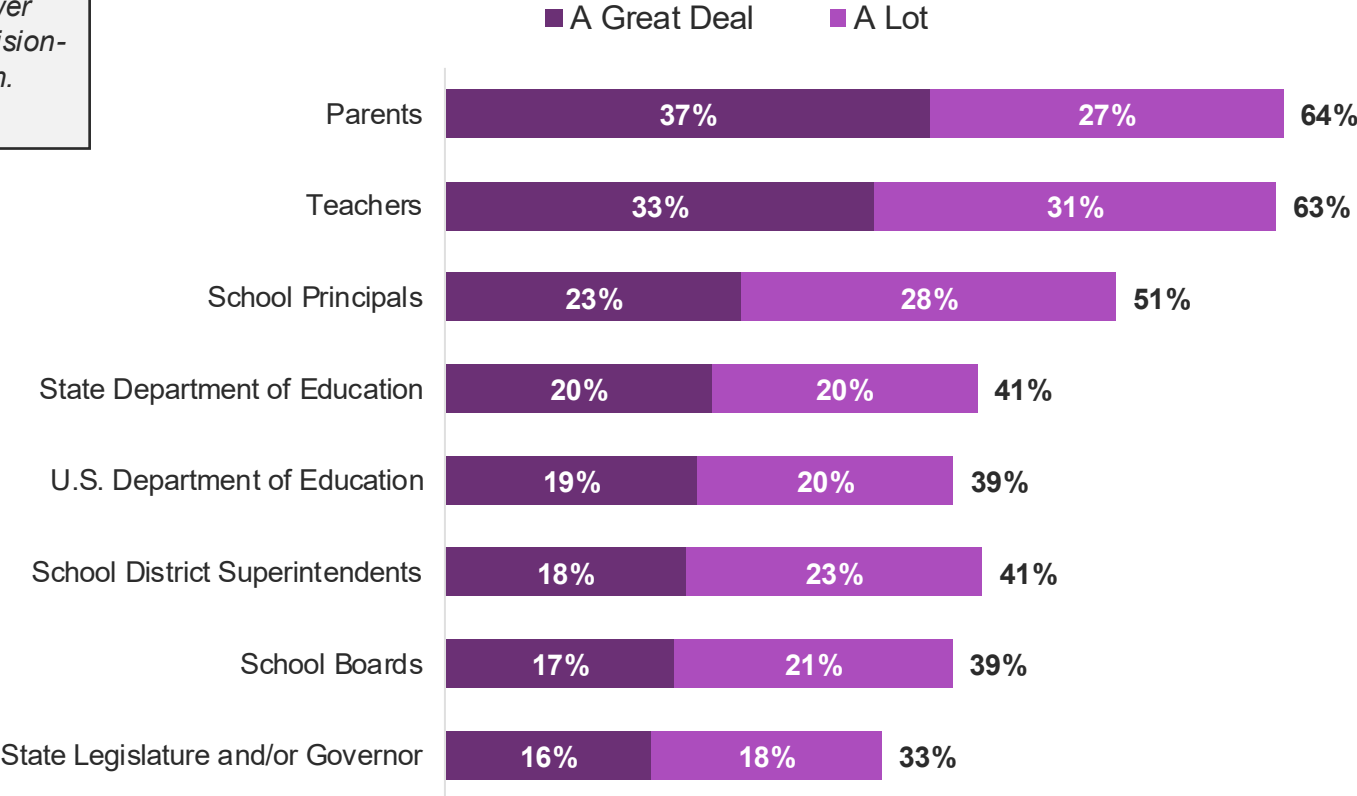
# Nearly two-thirds of parents trust other parents and teachers to make good decisions about K-12 education.

How much, if at all, do you trust the following to make good decisions about K-12 education?

## School Parents

*The general public has lower levels of trust in all listed decision-makers in K-12 education.*

**% Selected "A great deal" or "A lot"**



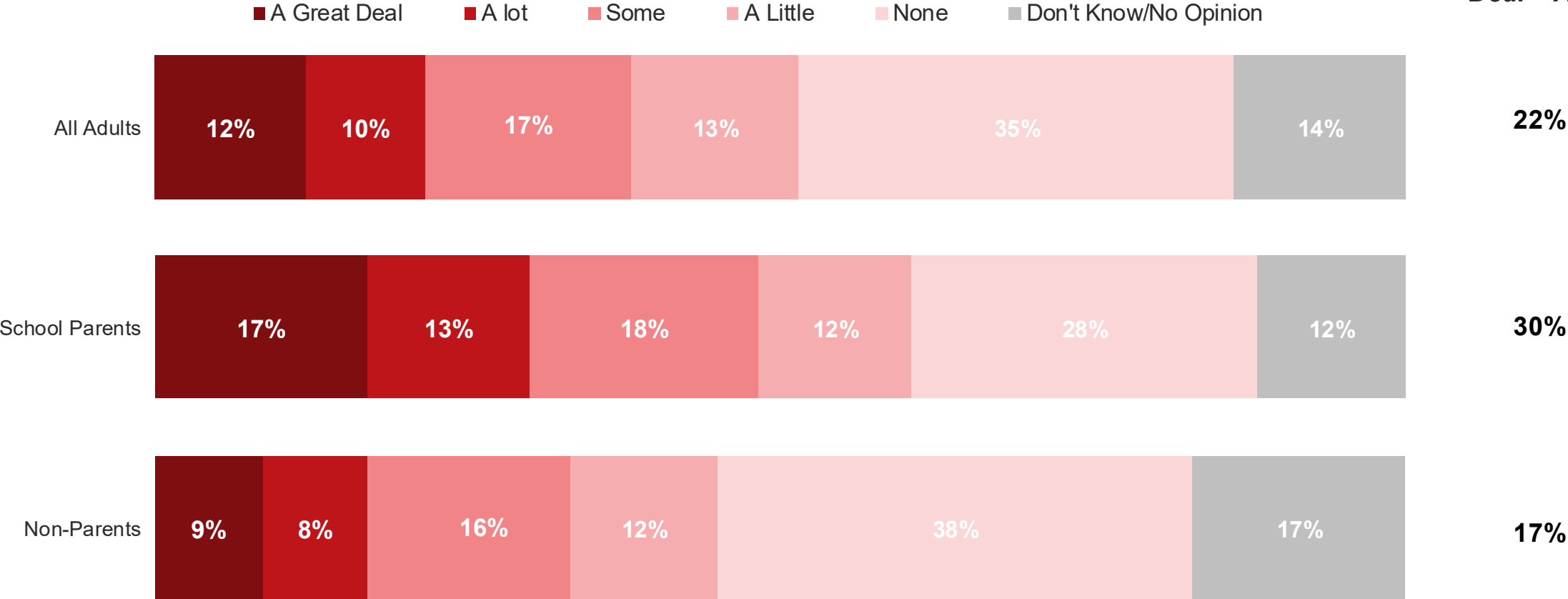
Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# Trust in the Republican party to make good decisions about K-12 education is low. School parents (30%) tend to have more trust in the party compared to non-parents (17%).

How much, if at all, do you trust the political parties to make good decisions about K-12 education?

## Trust in The Republican Party

*Trust A Great Deal + A lot*



Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# Demographic Breakdown: Trust in Republican Party

How much, if at all, do you trust the political parties to make good decisions about K-12 education?

**Trust in the Republican Party, Among All Adults**  
 Combined Responses from December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026

Public Trust	23%
--------------	-----

Groups most trusting		Groups least trusting	
Republican	54%	Small Town	18%
MAGA Supporter	50%	Jewish	17%
Conservative	46%	Moderate	16%
Muslim	38%	Black	16%
High Income \$100k+	31%	Independent	12%
Protestant	29%	Liberal/Progressive	12%
Male	27%	Democrat	8%
Catholic	27%	MAGA Opposer	4%

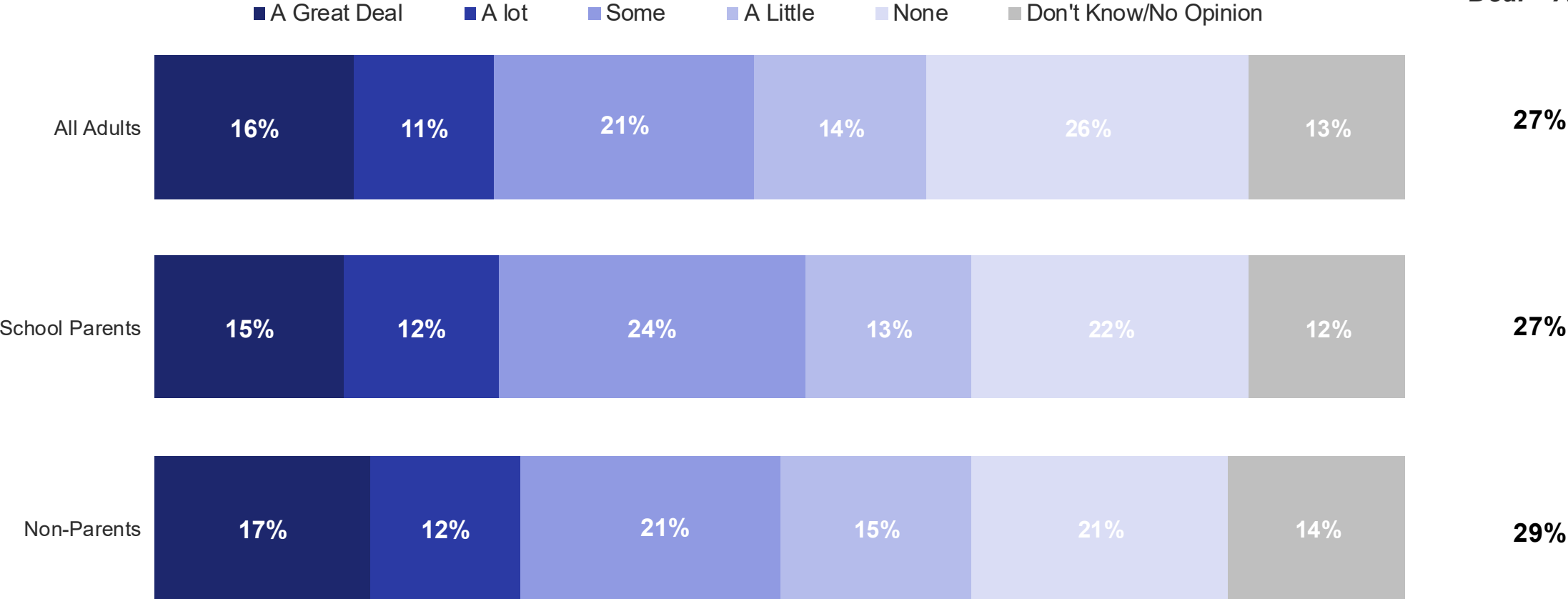
Source: Surveys conducted December 12, 2025 – February 12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# Trust in the Democratic party to make good decisions about K-12 education is low, with similar levels of trust among both parents (27%) and non-parents (29%).

How much, if at all, do you trust the political parties to make good decisions about K-12 education?

## Trust in The Democratic Party

**Trust A Great Deal + A lot**



Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# Demographic Breakdown: Trust in Democratic Party

How much, if at all, do you trust the political parties to make good decisions about K-12 education?

**Trust in the Democratic Party, Among All Adults**  
 Combined Responses from December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026

Public Trust	27%
--------------	-----

Groups most trusting		Groups least trusting	
Democrat	56%	Non-Hispanic White	23%
Liberal/Progressive	54%	Protestant	21%
Muslim	44%	Small Town	21%
MAGA Opposer	42%	Rural Area	20%
Black	38%	MAGA Supporter	18%
Ethnicity: Asian	36%	Independent	16%
Urban Area	36%	Conservative	13%
Ethnicity: Hispanic	35%	Republican	10%

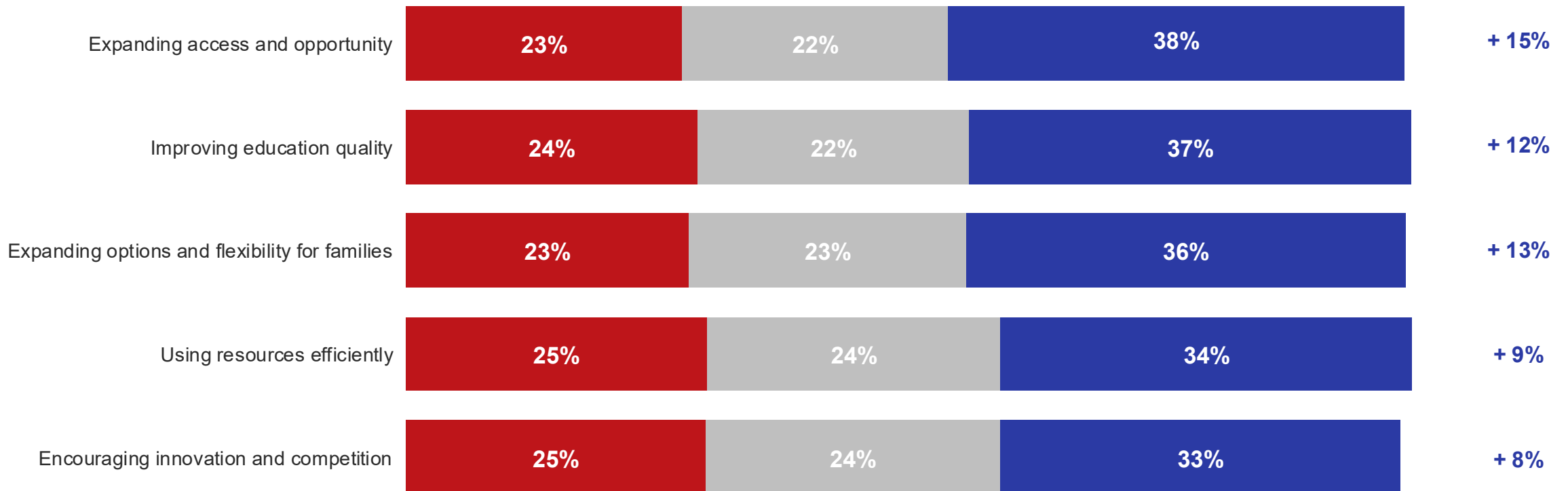
Source: Surveys conducted December 12, 2025 – February 12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# The public is more likely to view the Democratic party as more trustworthy across measures.

Thinking about K–12 education, how much more trustworthy, if at all, is one political party over the other regarding the following?

■ Republican - more trustworthy
 ■ Neither is more trustworthy than the other
 ■ Democratic - more trustworthy

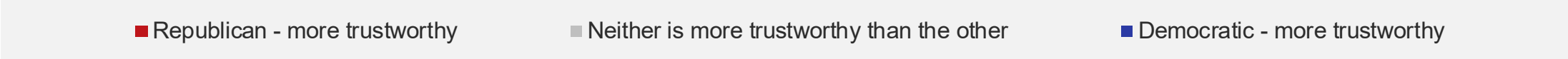
## All Adults



\* Don't know/no opinion responses are hidden  
 Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# School parents are generally divided in their trust of the political parties regarding specific areas of K-12 education.

Thinking about K–12 education, how much more trustworthy, if at all, is one political party over the other regarding the following?



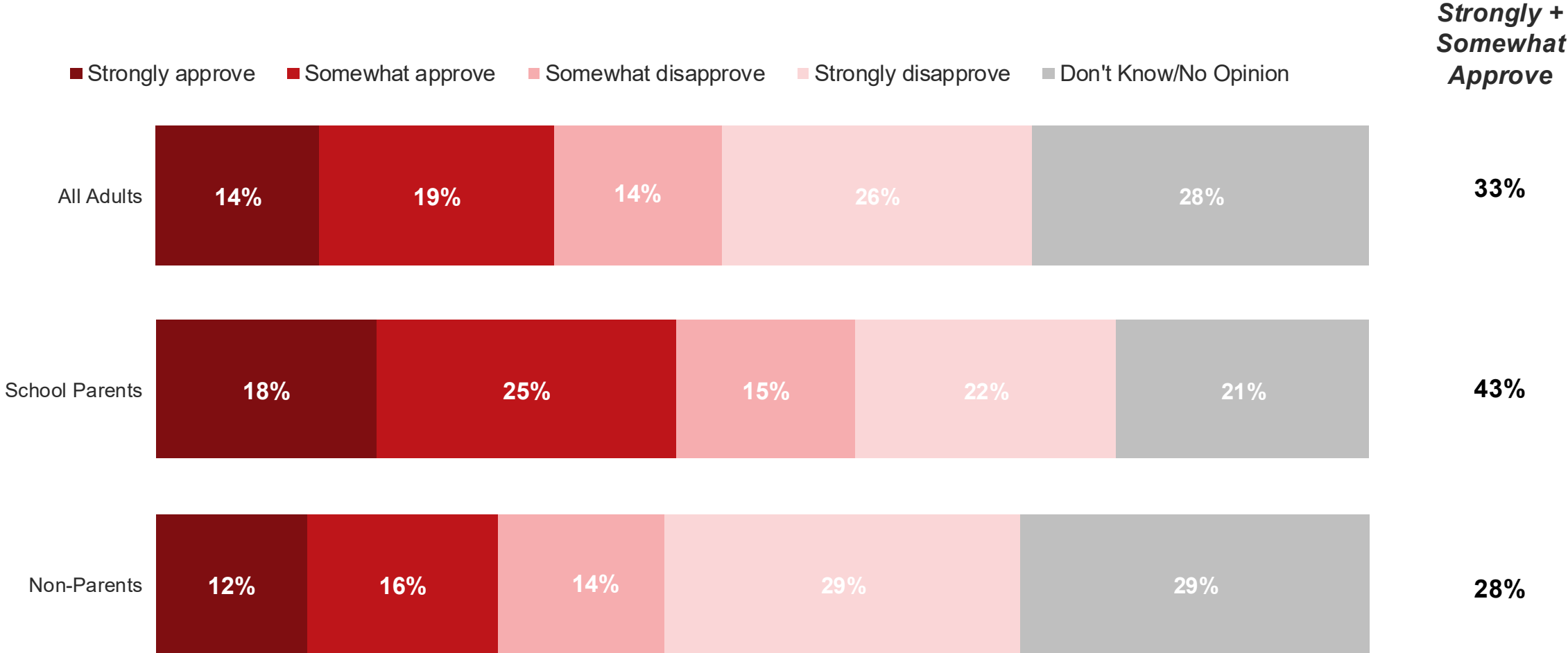
## School Parents



\* Don't know/no opinion responses are hidden  
 Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# Less than half (42%) of school parents approve of the way the Republican Party handles K-12 education issues. More than one-third (37%) of parents disapprove.

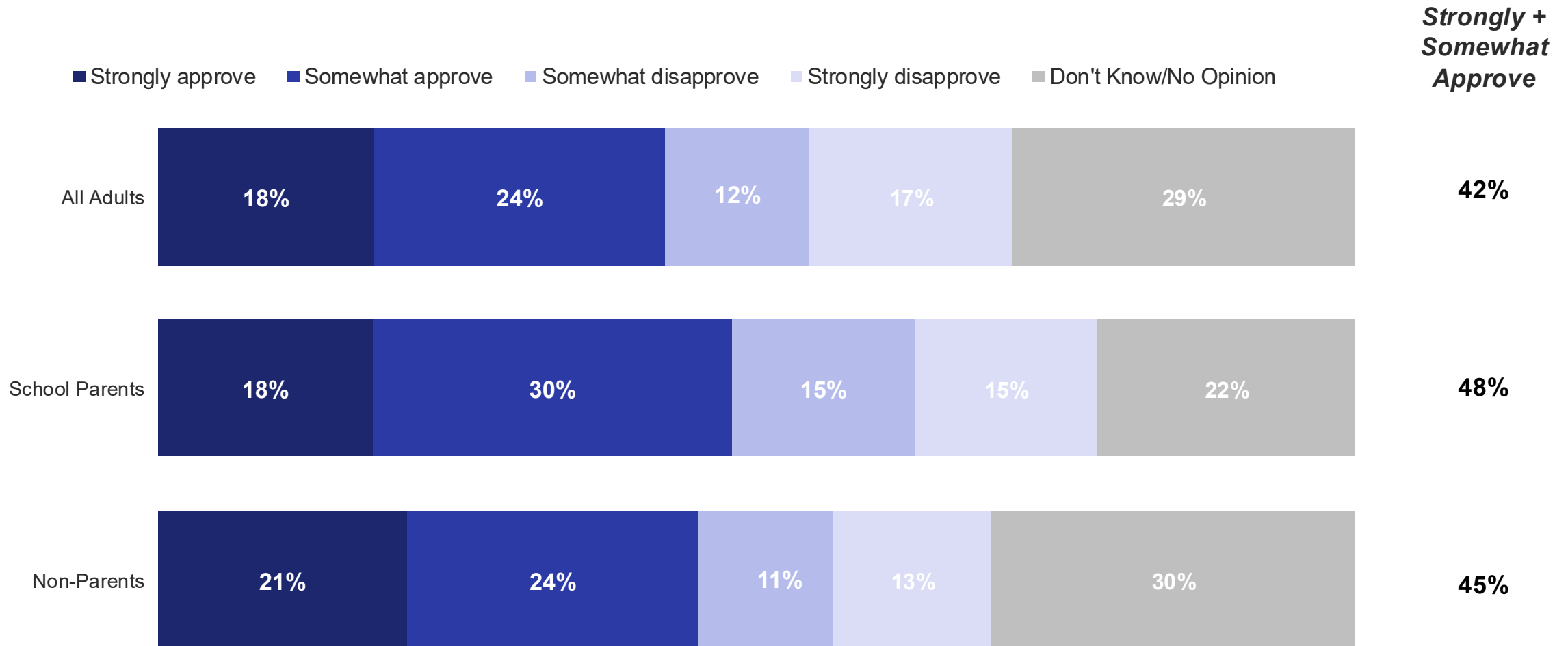
*In your state, do you approve or disapprove of the way the Republican Party handles K-12 education issues?*



Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# About half (48%) of school parents approve of the way the Democratic Party handles issues in K-12 education. Nearly one-third (30%) of parents disapprove.

*In your state, do you approve or disapprove of the way the Democratic Party handles K-12 education issues?*





## Views on K-12 Education



## Schooling and Experiences



## Trust and Political Parties



## K-12 Choice Policies



## Federal Education Tax Credit



## Survey Profile and Demographics

# KEY FINDINGS

## K-12 School Choice Policies

1. Support for ESAs, school vouchers, charter schools, and open enrollment is higher when a brief description of each policy is provided. There is a slight dip in support for school vouchers and charter schools since November 2025.
2. In February, over three-fourths of school parents supported ESAs. Just under 1-in-10 parents oppose ESAs. The public shows a similar level of support for ESAs (68%). High-income respondents (\$100K+), more educated respondents (bachelor's or postgrad), and Muslim respondents are the demographic groups most likely to support ESAs. Respondents that identify as Independent, as well as respondents from small towns and rural areas are the least likely to support the policy, though support even among these groups is around 60%.
3. Three-fourths of school parents believe ESAs should be available to all families regardless of income or special needs. That is 19-points higher than the percentage of parents who want ESA eligibility to be determined by financial need.
4. In February, over 7-in-10 parents expressed support for school vouchers. Opposition has remained steady since this time last year. The public also shows high levels of support for school vouchers, as they are three times as likely to support school vouchers than oppose them. Muslim respondents, as well as respondents that identify as Republican, are the most supportive of the policy. Respondents age 65+ are the least supportive of school vouchers.
5. Support for refundable tax credits in K-12 education is strong, especially among parents. Opposition to K-12 refundable tax credits is low.
6. Parents are nearly six times as likely to support charter schools than oppose them. Overall support for charter schools remains elevated since November. The public also support charter schools at a high level (62%). Muslim respondents and respondents that identify as conservative are most supportive of charter schools, while respondents from rural areas and respondents that identify as Independent are the least supportive.

### Methodology:

These polls were conducted between December 12 - 15, 2025, January 13 - 15, 2026, and February 9 - 12, 2026 among a sample of 2,251, 2,251, and 2,255 adults, respectively. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Adults based on gender, educational attainment, age, race, and region. Results based on the full surveys have a measure of precision plus or minus 2.07 percentage points.

# Policy Descriptions Used

## Education Savings Accounts

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.

## School Vouchers

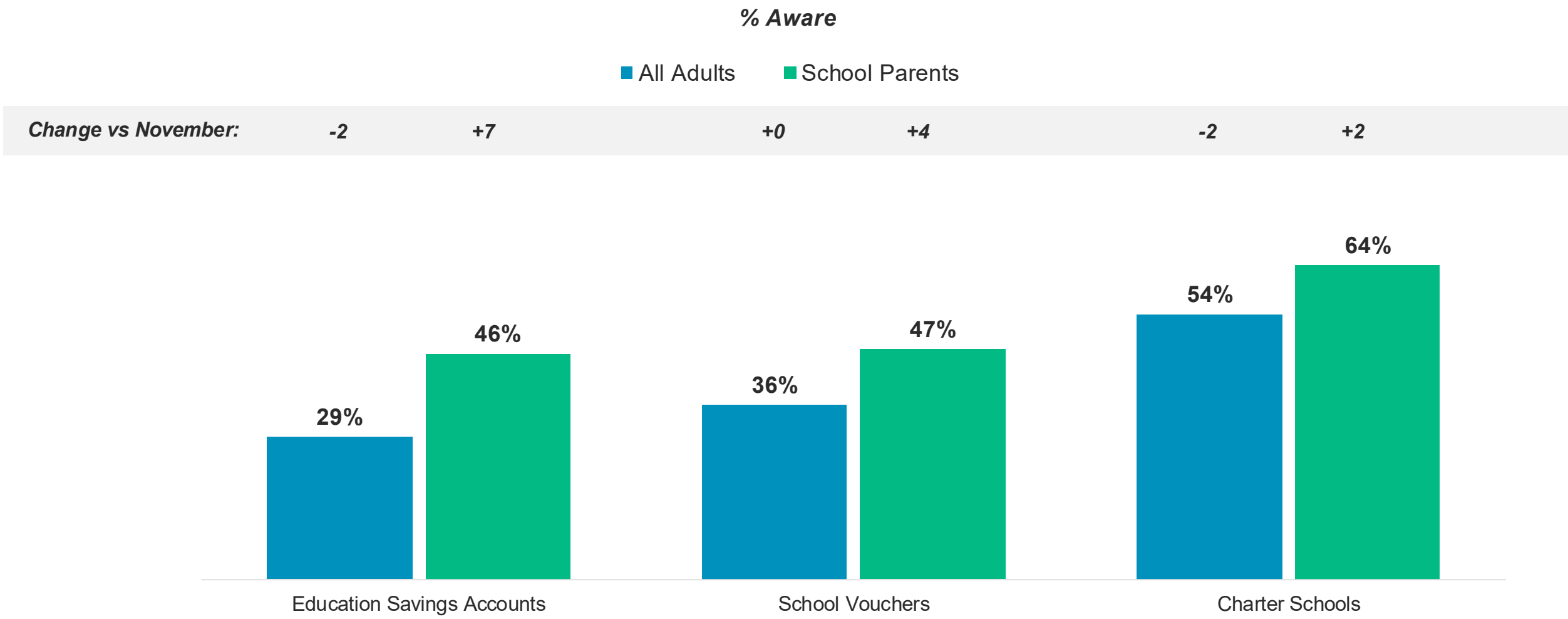
A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to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

## Charter Schools

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.

# Over half of adults and school parents say they are aware of charter schools in their states. Awareness of school vouchers and ESAs among parents is higher than in November.

Reflecting on the previous questions about school choice policies, are you aware of any of the following types of programs in your state?



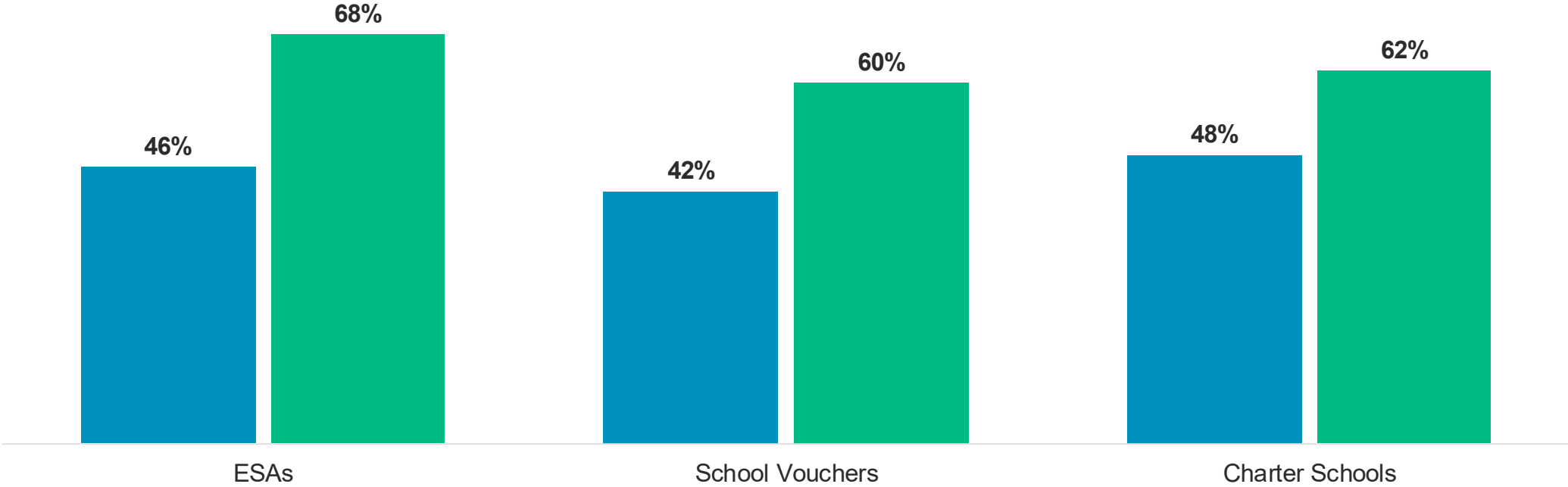
Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

**Support for ESAs, school vouchers, charter schools, and open enrollment is higher when a brief description of each policy is provided. There is a slight dip in support for school vouchers and charter schools since November 2025.**

*All Adults*

**Total Support**  
 (Strongly Support + Somewhat Support)  
 ■ No Description   ■ With Description

<b>Change vs November:</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>+0</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-2</b>
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Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# Demographic Breakdown: ESA Support

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. In general, what is your opinion of an ESA system?

**ESA Support, Among All Adults**  
 Combined Responses from December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026

Public Support	68%
----------------	-----

Groups <b>most</b> supportive	
High Income \$100k+	<b>79%</b>
Educ: Bachelors or Postgrad	<b>76%</b>
Muslim	<b>74%</b>
Republican	<b>73%</b>
Protestant	<b>73%</b>
Catholic	<b>73%</b>
Liberal/Progressive	<b>73%</b>
Middle Income \$50k to \$100k	<b>72%</b>

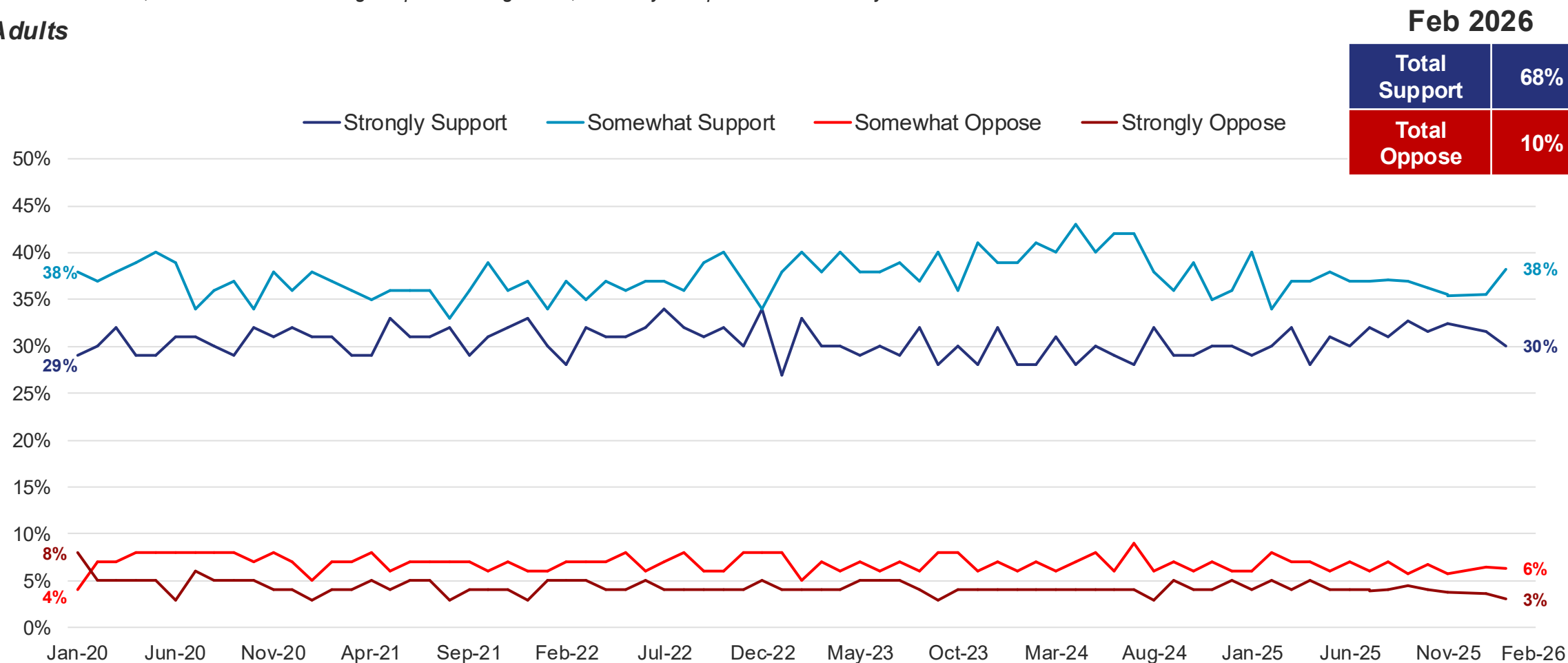
Groups <b>least</b> supportive	
Baby Boomers: 1946-1964	<b>65%</b>
Age: 55+	<b>65%</b>
Age: 65+	<b>64%</b>
Educ: < College	<b>64%</b>
Low Income <\$50k	<b>63%</b>
Independent	<b>63%</b>
Rural Area	<b>62%</b>
Small Town	<b>62%</b>

Source: Surveys conducted December 12, 2025 – February 12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# The public is nearly seven times as likely to support ESAs than to oppose them. Opposition remains low over time.

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. In general, what is your opinion of an ESA system?

## All Adults



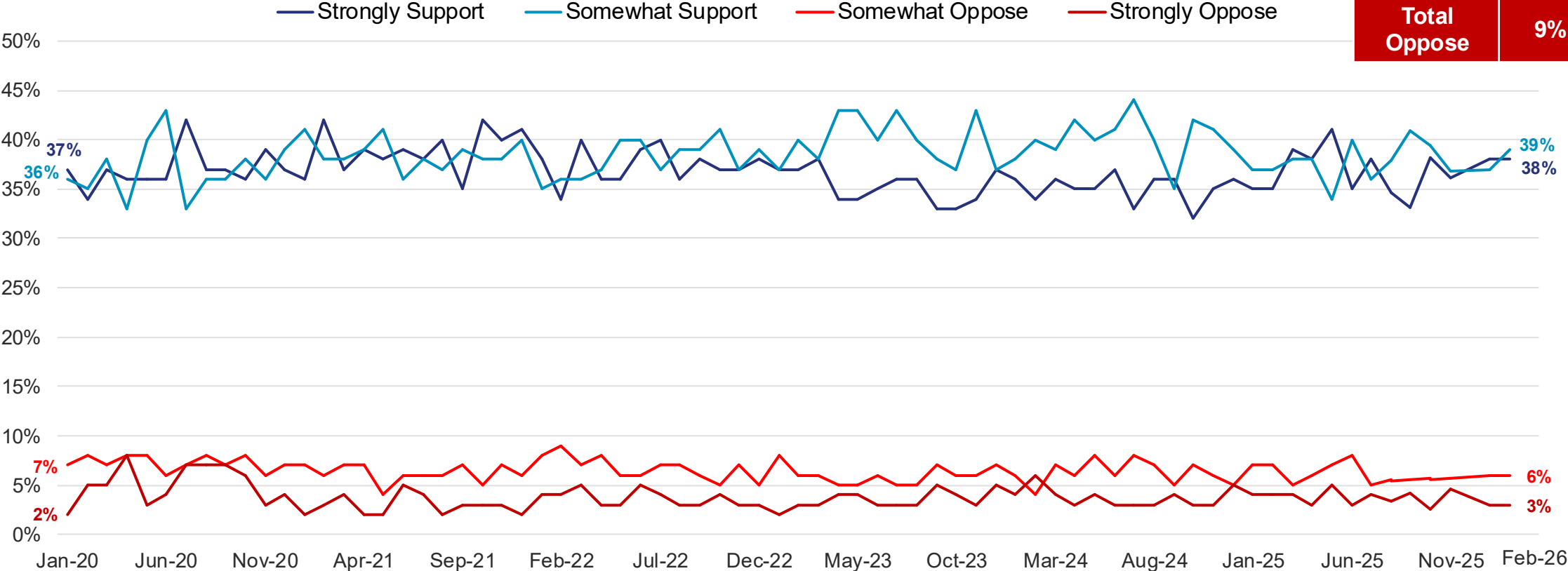
Note: Don't know/No opinion responses are not shown.

# In February, over three-fourths of school parents supported ESAs. Just under 1-in-10 parents oppose ESAs.

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. In general, what is your opinion of an ESA system?

## School Parents

Feb 2026	
Total Support	77%
Total Oppose	9%



Note: Don't know/No opinion responses are not shown.

**Three-fourths of school parents believe ESAs should be available to all families regardless of income or special needs. That is 19-points higher than the percentage of parents who want ESA eligibility to be determined by financial need.**

*Some people believe that ESAs should...*

■ Strongly Agree  
 ■ Somewhat Agree  
 ■ Somewhat Disagree  
 ■ Strongly Disagree  
 ■ Don't Know/No Opinion

**Total Agree**  
(Strongly + Somewhat Agree)

***Be available to all families, regardless of incomes and special needs.***



***Only be available to families based on financial need.***



Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# Demographic Breakdown: Voucher Support

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. In general, what is your opinion of school voucher systems?

## School Voucher Support, Among All Adults Combined Responses from December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026

Public Support	60%
----------------	-----

Groups <b>most</b> supportive		Groups <b>least</b> supportive	
Muslim	77%	Small Town	57%
Conservative	72%	Independent	57%
Republican	72%	Female	56%
Age: 18-34	66%	Democrat	56%
Black	65%	Liberal/Progressive	55%
Catholic	65%	Age: 55+	54%
Millennials: 1981-1996	65%	Baby Boomers: 1946-1964	52%
Protestant	65%	Age: 65+	51%

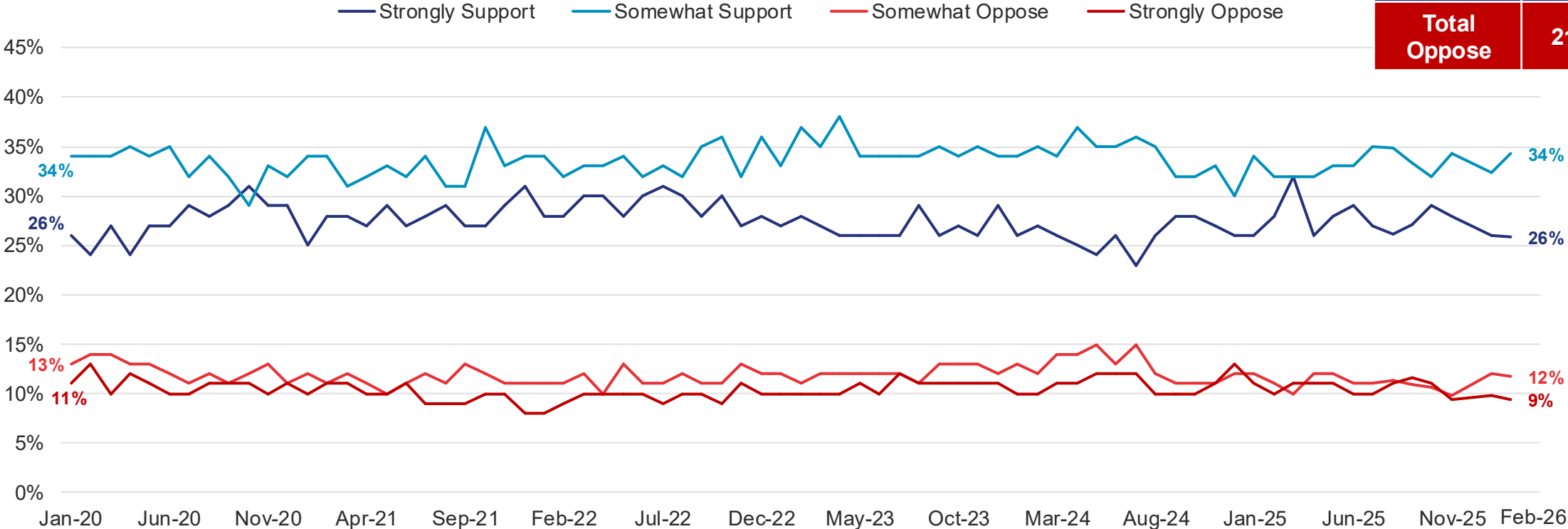
Source: Surveys conducted December 12, 2025 – February 12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# Americans are three times as likely to support school vouchers than oppose them. The public's overall support remains stable since November.

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. In general, what is your opinion of school voucher systems?

## All Adults

Feb 2026	
Total Support	60%
Total Oppose	21%



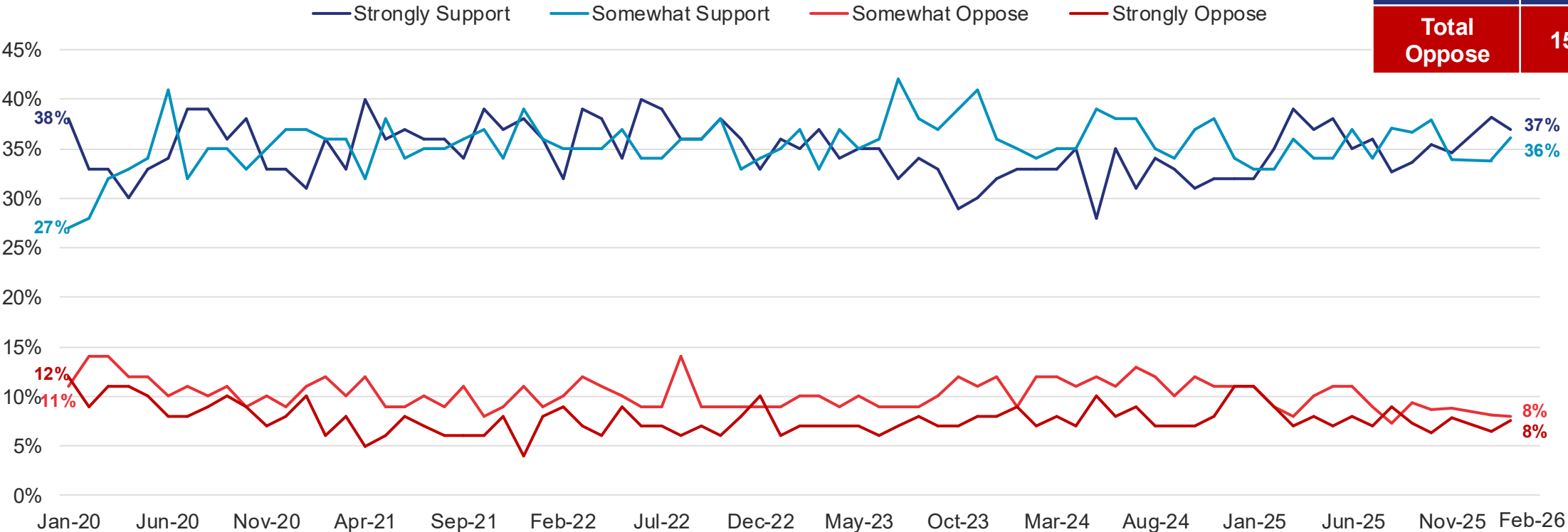
Note: Don't know/No opinion responses are not shown.

# In February, over 7-in-10 parents expressed support for school vouchers. Opposition has remained steady since this time last year.

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. In general, what is your opinion of school voucher systems?

## School Parents

Feb 2026	
Total Support	73%
Total Oppose	15%



Note: Don't know/No opinion responses are not shown.

# Demographic Breakdown: Charter School Support

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. In general, what is your opinion of public charter schools?

**Charter School Support, Among All Adults**  
 Combined Responses from December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026

Public Support 63%

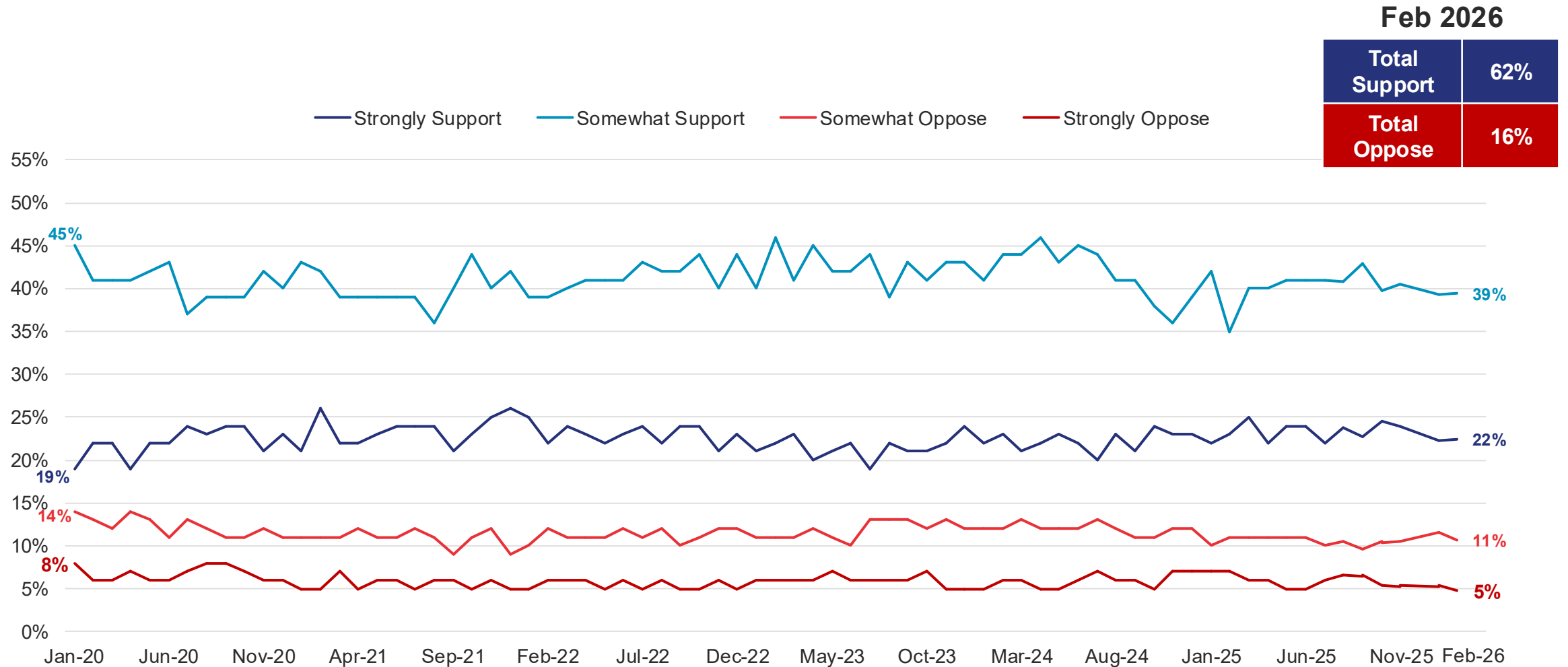
Groups most supportive		Groups least supportive	
Muslim	75%	Ethnicity: Asian	60%
Conservative	74%	Low Income <\$50k	59%
Republican	73%	Small Town	59%
High Income \$100k+	71%	Non-Parents	59%
Catholic	70%	Liberal/Progressive	59%
Protestant	70%	4-Region: Midwest	59%
Ethnicity: Hispanic	67%	Independent	58%
Educ: Bachelors or Postgrad	67%	Rural Area	56%

Source: Surveys conducted December 12, 2025 – February 12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# Americans are nearly four times as likely to support charter schools than oppose them.

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. In general, what is your opinion of public charter schools?

## All Adults



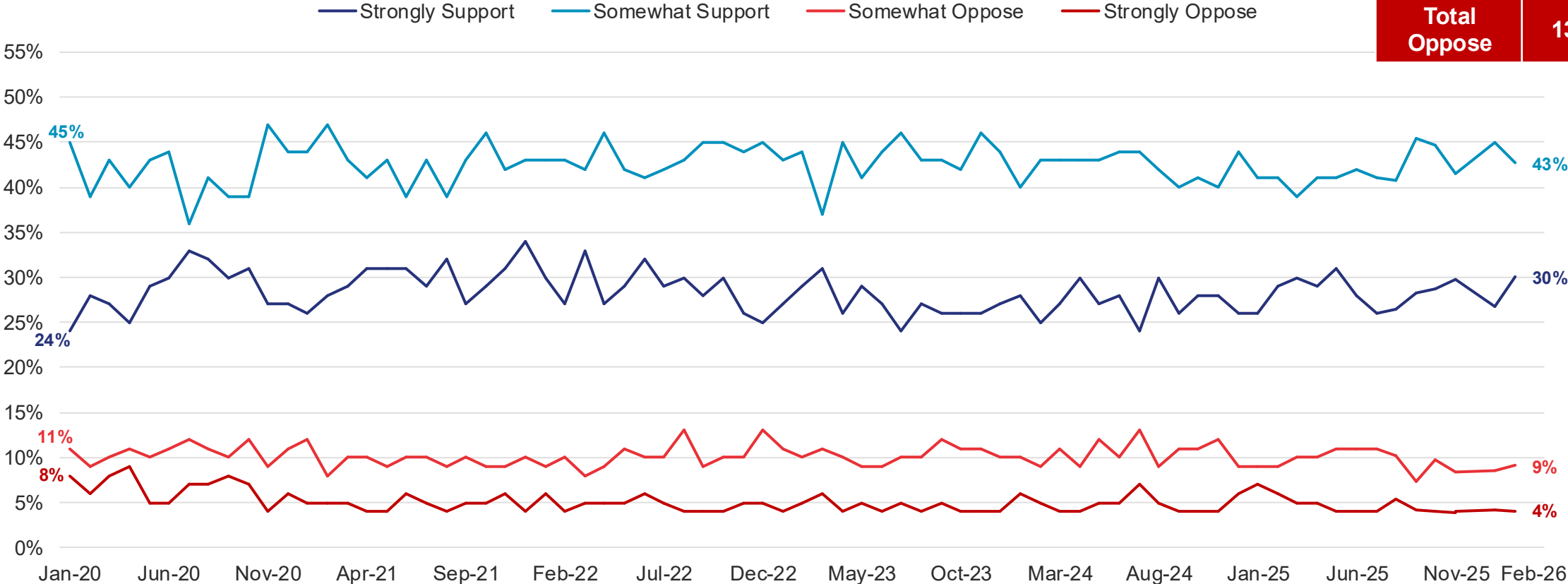
Note: Don't know/No opinion responses are not shown.

# Parents are nearly six times as likely to support charter schools than oppose them. Overall support for charter schools remains elevated since November.

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. In general, what is your opinion of public charter schools?

## School Parents

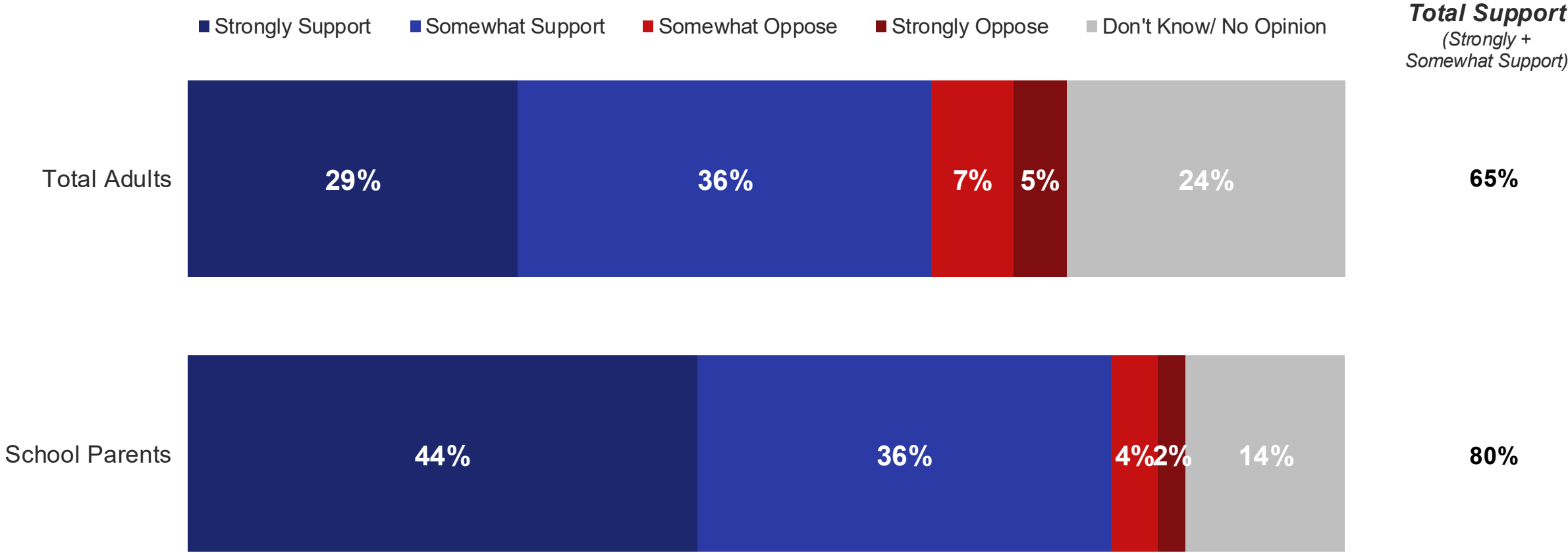
Feb 2026	
Total Support	73%
Total Oppose	13%



Note: Don't know/No opinion responses are not shown.

# Support for refundable tax credits in K-12 education is strong, especially among parents. Opposition to K-12 refundable tax credits is low.

A “refundable tax credit” is a refund payment to taxpayers from the government for qualifying expenses, even if taxes owed are less than the refund amount. A refundable tax credit in K-12 education would allow families to cover qualifying education expenses, such as private school tuition and fees, tutoring, textbooks, standardized assessments, or homeschooling costs. In general, what is your opinion of refundable tax credits in K-12 education?



Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults



## Views on K-12 Education



## Schooling and Experiences



## Trust and Political Parties



## K-12 Choice Policies



## Federal Education Tax Credit



## Survey Profile and Demographics

# KEY FINDINGS

## Federal Education Tax Credit

1. Over half of school parents are aware of the new federal tax credit, and 27% of school parents have heard about it “a great deal” or “a lot”. Muslim respondents, Black respondents, and high-income respondents (\$100K+) are the groups most likely to have heard about the new federal tax credit. Respondents age 65+ are the least likely group to have heard about the new federal tax credit.
2. About 7-in-10 parents support the federal tax credit for K-12 education scholarships. High-income respondents (\$100K+), respondents that identify as MAGA supporters, and Muslim respondents are the most supportive of the new federal tax credit. Low-income respondents (<\$50K) and respondents that identify as Independents are the least supportive of the new federal tax credit.
3. Over one-third of parents would be likely to donate to a scholarship-granting organization in exchange for a tax credit, compared to one-fifth of the public.
4. One-fourth of school parents would be likely to donate to a scholarship-granting organization out-of-state if their state does not participate in the new tax credit.
5. About half of school parents have claimed the child tax credit this year so far, compared to 17% of the public.

### Methodology:

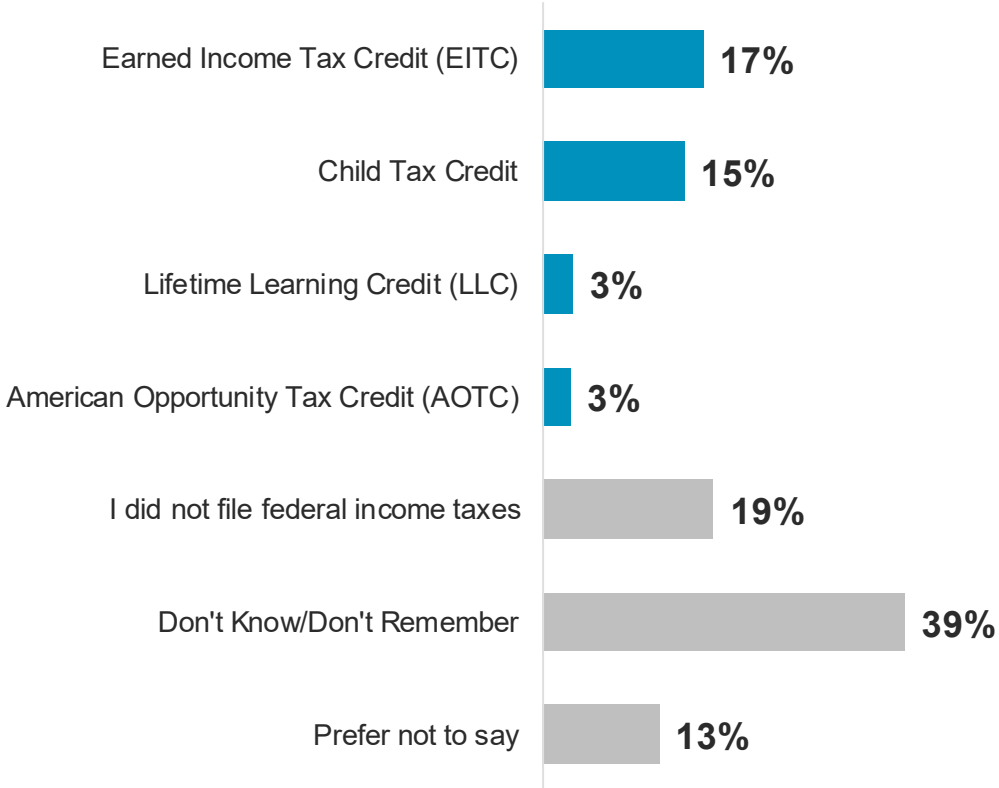
These polls were conducted between December 12 - 15, 2025, January 13 - 15, 2026, and February 9 - 12, 2026 among a sample of 2,251, 2,251, and 2,255 adults, respectively. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Adults based on gender, educational attainment, age, race, and region. Results based on the full surveys have a measure of precision plus or minus 2.07 percentage points.

# About half of school parents have claimed the child tax credit this year so far, compared to 17% of the public.

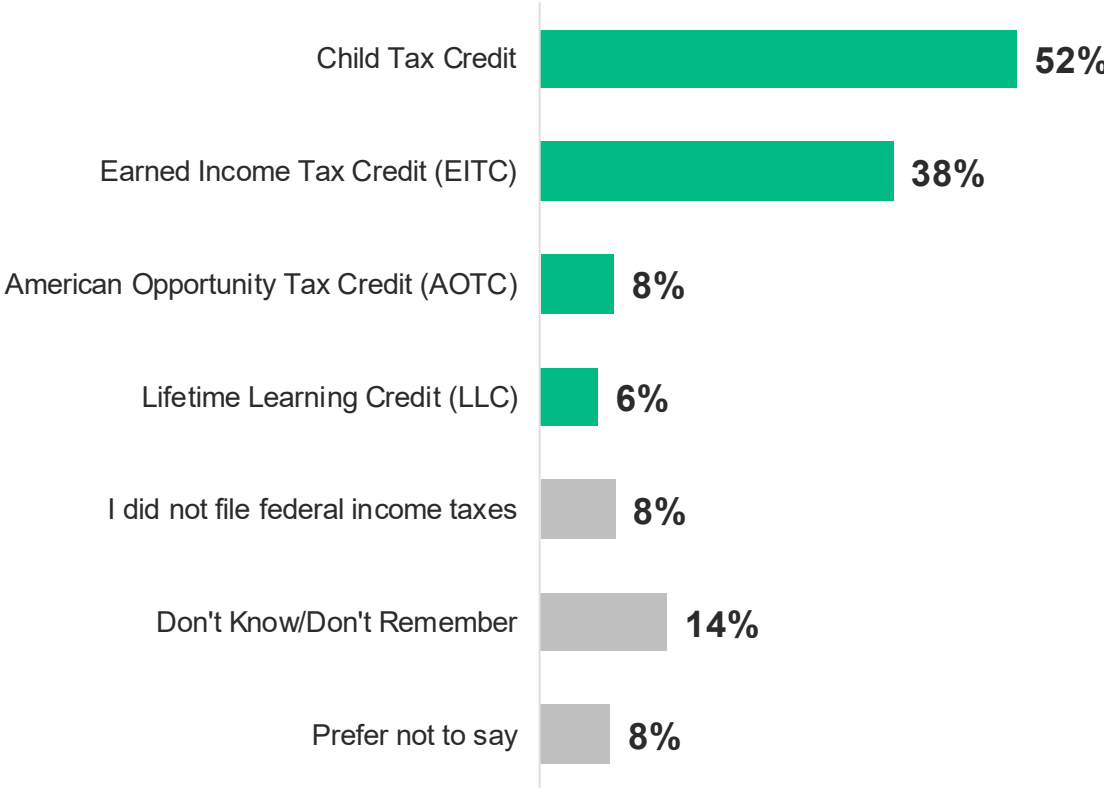
When you filed your federal income taxes for the most recent tax year, did you (or someone in your household) claim any of the following federal tax credits? Please select all that apply.

**% Selected**

**All Adults**



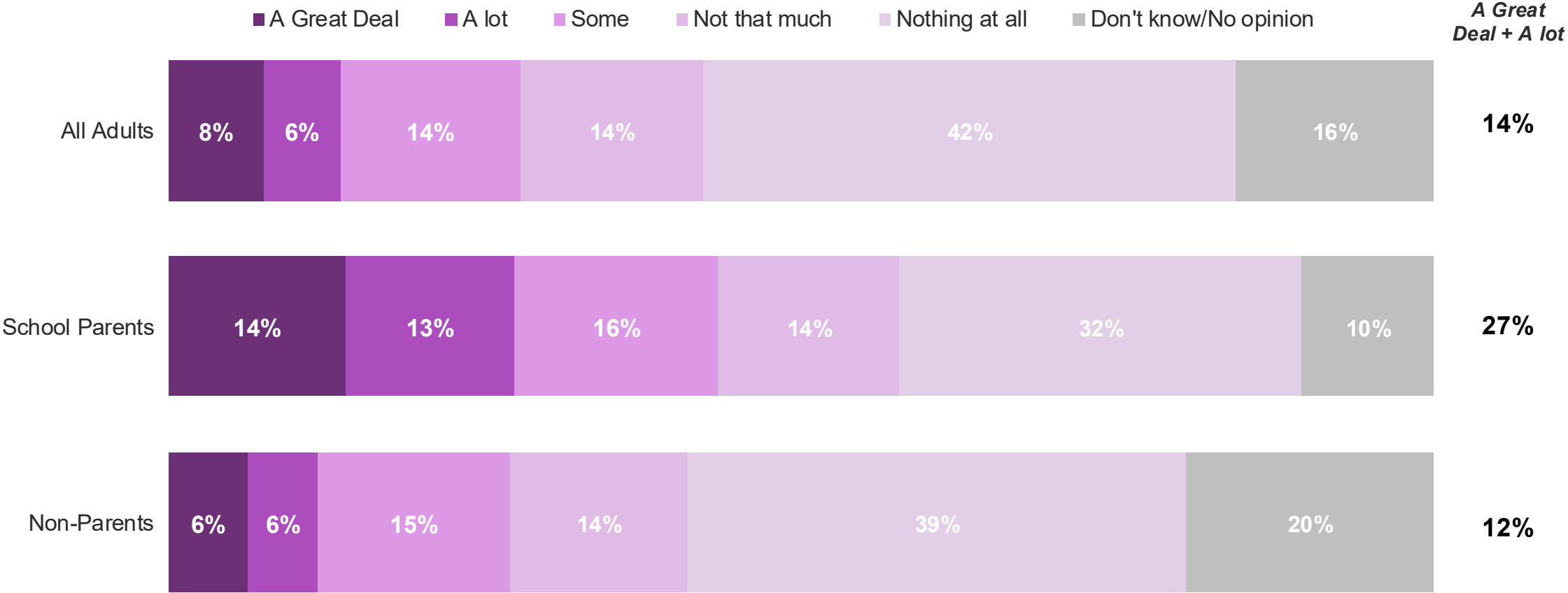
**School Parents**



Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# Over half of school parents are aware of the new federal tax credit, and 27% of school parents have heard about it “a great deal” or “a lot”.

Before today, how much had you heard about the new federal tax credit for education that allows individuals to receive up to a \$1,700 credit for donating to scholarship-granting organizations, which provide education scholarships to eligible K-12 students?



Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# Demographic Breakdown: Federal Tax Credit Awareness

Before today, how much had you heard about the new federal tax credit for education that allows individuals to receive up to a \$1,700 credit for donating to scholarship-granting organizations, which provide education scholarships to eligible K-12 students?

**Federal Tax Credit Awareness\*, Among All Adults**  
 Combined Responses from December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026

Public Awareness 28%

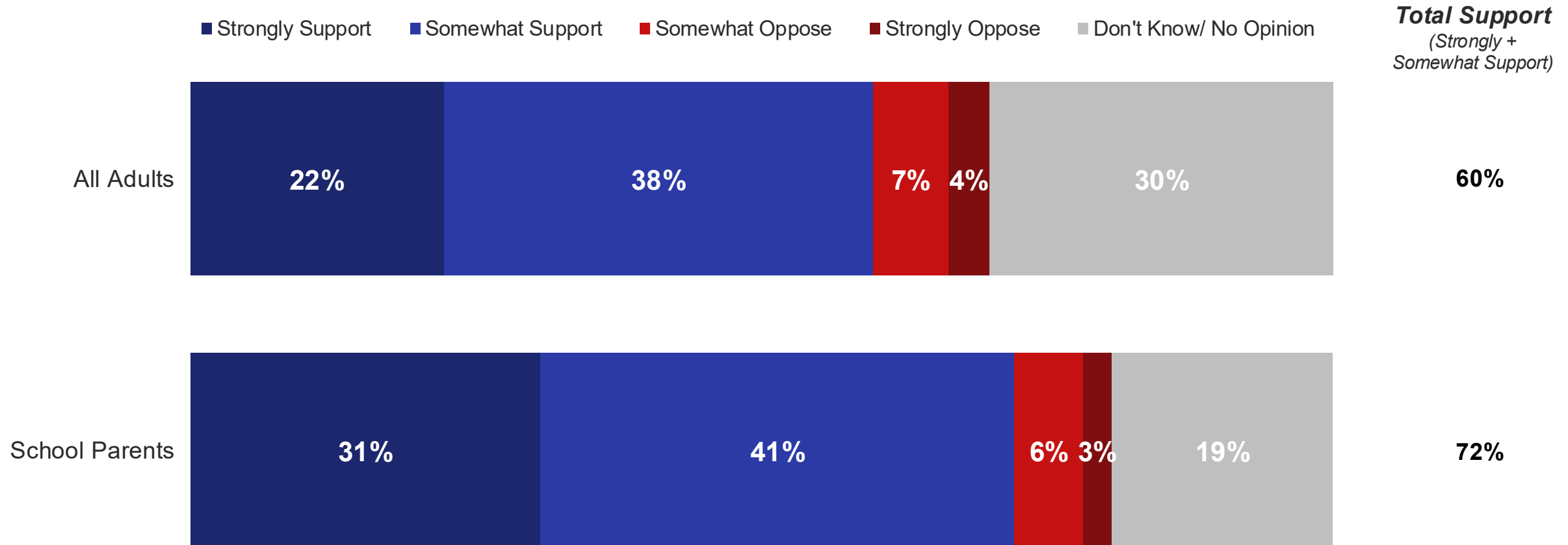
Groups most aware		Groups least aware	
Progressive	43%	Age: 65+	14%
Black	41%	Boomers	14%
Union Member	39%	Former School Parents	18%
Age: 18-34	38%	Small Town	21%
Millennial	37%	Non-Voter	21%
Catholic	37%	Female	22%
GenZ	36%	Independent	24%
Hispanic	36%	Suburban Area	26%

\* Heard about "A great deal + A lot + Some"

Source: Surveys conducted December 12, 2025 – February 12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# About 7-in-10 parents support the federal tax credit for K-12 education scholarships.

States may choose to opt in to participate in a new federal tax credit for education that allows individuals to donate to eligible K-12 scholarship-granting organizations in exchange for a federal tax credit of up to \$1,700. These organizations provide scholarships or education-related assistance to eligible K-12 students. Overall, do you support or oppose your state participating in this federal tax credit?



# Demographic Breakdown: Federal Tax Credit Support

States may choose to opt in to participate in a new federal tax credit for education that allows individuals to donate to eligible K–12 scholarship-granting organizations in exchange for a federal tax credit of up to \$1,700. These organizations provide scholarships or education-related assistance to eligible K–12 students. Overall, do you support or oppose your state participating in this federal tax credit?

**Federal Tax Credit Support, Among All Adults**  
 Combined Responses from December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026

Public Support 60%

Groups most supportive		Groups least supportive	
High Income \$100k+	73%	Female	57%
MAGA Supporter	72%	Jewish	57%
Muslim	70%	Small Town	57%
Conservative	68%	Age: 55+	57%
Middle Income \$50k to \$100k	68%	Baby Boomers: 1946-1964	56%
Educ: Bachelors or Postgrad	68%	Age: 65+	56%
Republican	68%	Independent	56%
Protestant	66%	Low Income <\$50k	55%

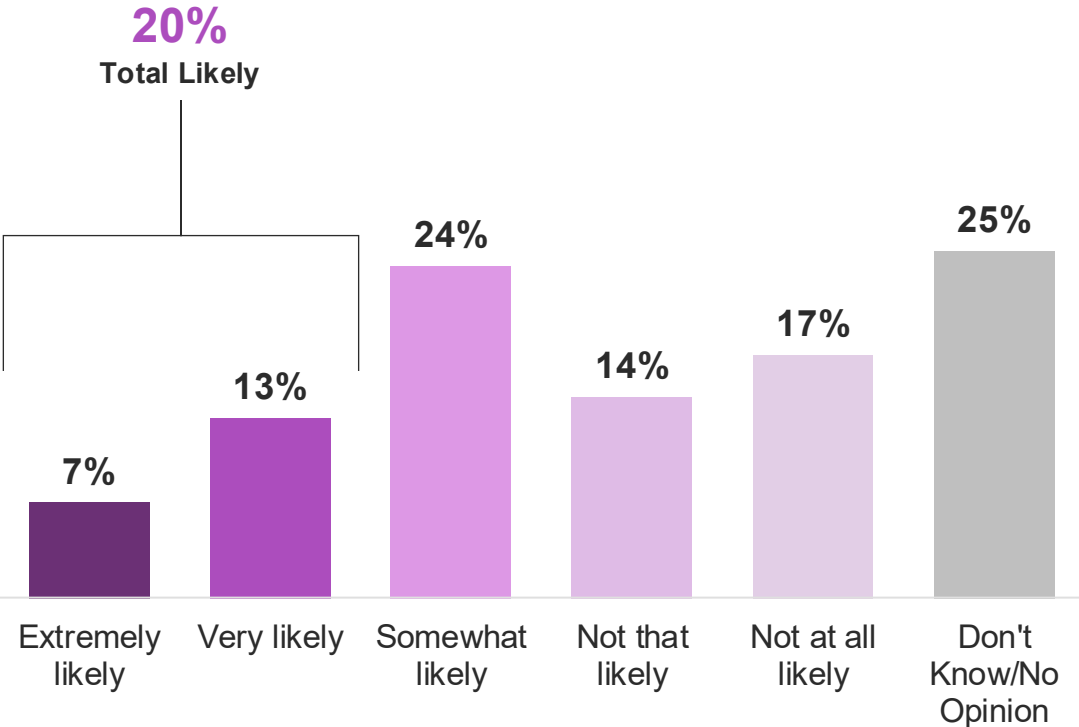
Source: Surveys conducted December 12, 2025 – February 12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# Over one-third of parents would be likely to donate to a scholarship-granting organization in exchange for a tax credit, compared to one-fifth of the public.

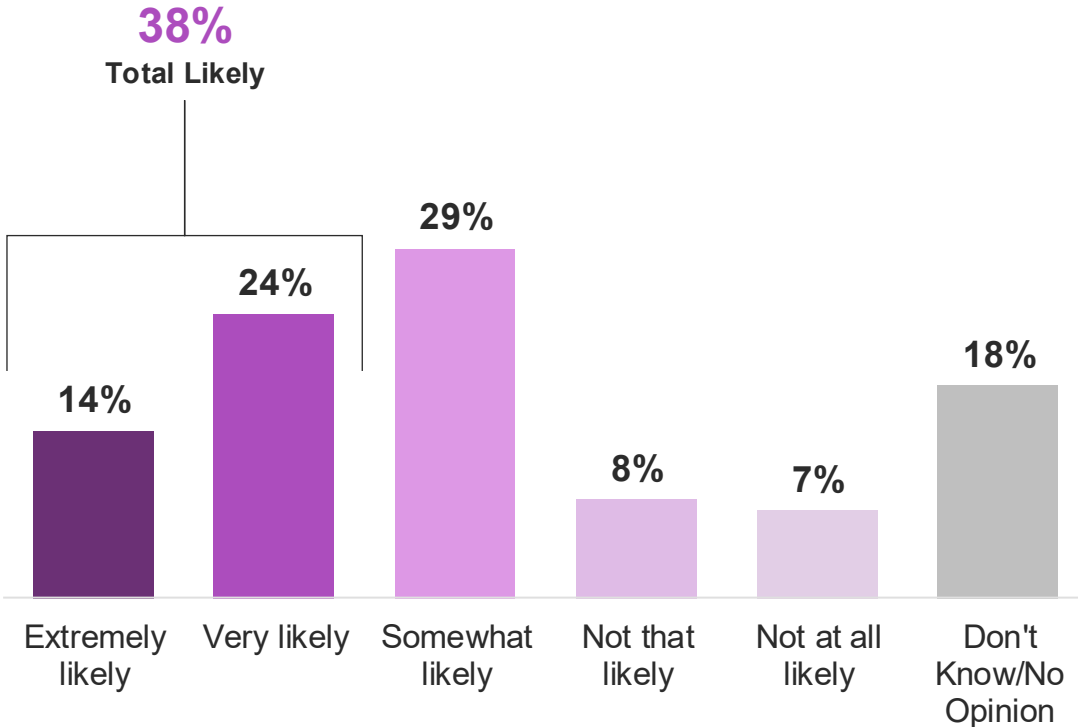
If your state participates in the new federal K-12 tax credit, how likely would you be to donate to a scholarship-granting organization in exchange for a tax credit?

## In-State Donation Likelihood

### All Adults



### School Parents



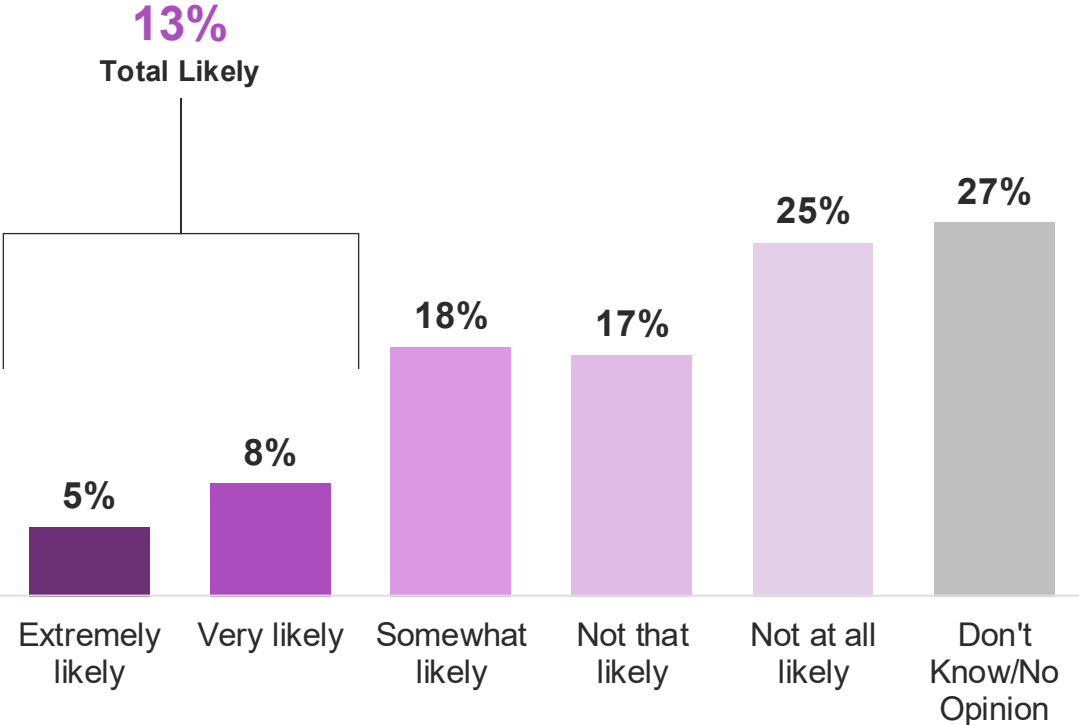
Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults

# One-fourth of school parents would be likely to donate to a scholarship-granting organization out-of-state if their state does not participate in the new tax credit.

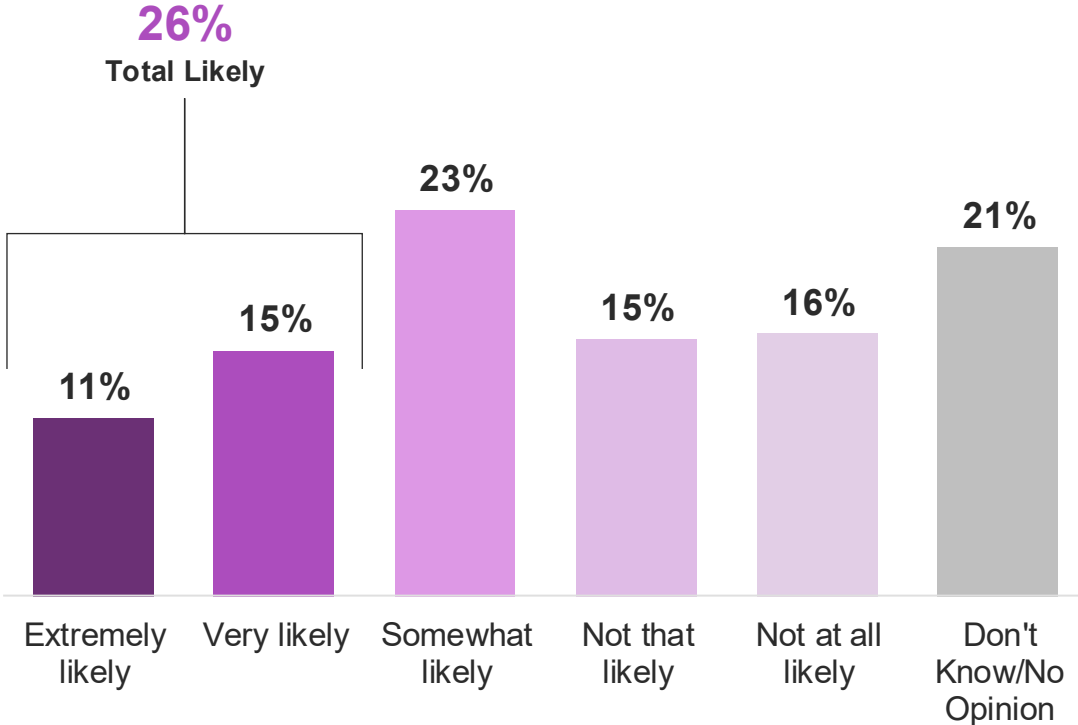
If your state does not participate in the new federal K–12 tax credit, how likely would you be to donate to a scholarship-granting organization in a different state in exchange for the same federal tax credit? (Scholarships or other assistance would be given to students in that state.)

## Out-of-State Donation Likelihood

### All Adults



### School Parents



Source: Survey conducted February 9-12, 2026, among U.S. adults



## Views on K-12 Education



## Schooling and Experiences



## Trust and Political Parties



## K-12 Choice Policies



## Federal Education Tax Credit



## Survey Profile and Demographics

# Survey Profile

<b>Dates</b>	December 2025 Survey: December 12-15, 2025 January 2026 Survey: January 13-15, 2026 February 2026 Survey: February 9-12, 2026
<b>Survey Data Collection &amp; Quality Control</b>	Morning Consult
<b>Survey Sponsor</b>	EdChoice
<b>Population</b>	General Population (Adults, Age 18+)
<b>Sampling Frame</b>	National sample of adults (age 18+) living in the United States, including the District of Columbia, with an oversample of school parents
<b>Sampling Method</b>	Non-Probability, Stratified (based on Age, Gender)
<b>Mode</b>	Online Survey
<b>Language</b>	English

## Survey Profile – December 2025

<b>Survey Time</b>	Gen Pop Median = 11.7 minutes Oversample Median = 13.5 minutes
<b>Sample Size</b>	N = 2,250 General Population N= 1,649 Total School Parents
<b>Oversampling</b>	N = 1,157 School Parents
<b>Quotas</b>	Age, Gender
<b>Weighting</b>	Age, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Education, Census Region
<b>Measure of Precision (adjusted for weighting)</b>	± 2.07 percentage points (Gen Pop), ± 2.41 percentage points (Oversample)
<b>Participation Rate</b>	37% (Gen Pop), 42% (Oversample)
<b>Methods Page</b>	<a href="https://edchoice.morningconsultintelligence.com/methodology">https://edchoice.morningconsultintelligence.com/methodology</a>
<b>Project Contact</b>	Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

# Survey Profile – January 2026

<b>Survey Time</b>	Gen Pop Median = 11.4 minutes Oversample Median = 13.9 minutes
<b>Sample Size</b>	N = 2,250 General Population N= 1,299 Total School Parents
<b>Oversampling</b>	N = 850 School Parents
<b>Quotas</b>	Age, Gender
<b>Weighting</b>	Age, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Education, Census Region
<b>Measure of Precision (adjusted for weighting)</b>	± 2.07 percentage points (Gen Pop), ± 2.72 percentage points (Oversample)
<b>Participation Rate</b>	44% (Gen Pop), 51% (Oversample)
<b>Methods Page</b>	<a href="https://edchoice.morningconsultintelligence.com/methodology">https://edchoice.morningconsultintelligence.com/methodology</a>
<b>Project Contact</b>	Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

# Survey Profile – February 2026

<b>Survey Time</b>	Gen Pop Median = 11.7 minutes Oversample Median = 13.2 minutes
<b>Sample Size</b>	N = 2,253 General Population N= 1,311 Total School Parents
<b>Oversampling</b>	N = 855 School Parents
<b>Quotas</b>	Age, Gender
<b>Weighting</b>	Age, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Education, Census Region
<b>Measure of Precision (adjusted for weighting)</b>	± 2.06 percentage points (Gen Pop), ± 2.71 percentage points (Oversample)
<b>Participation Rate</b>	41% (Gen Pop), 52% (Oversample)
<b>Methods Page</b>	<a href="https://edchoice.morningconsultintelligence.com/methodology">https://edchoice.morningconsultintelligence.com/methodology</a>
<b>Project Contact</b>	Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

# Total Sample Demographics

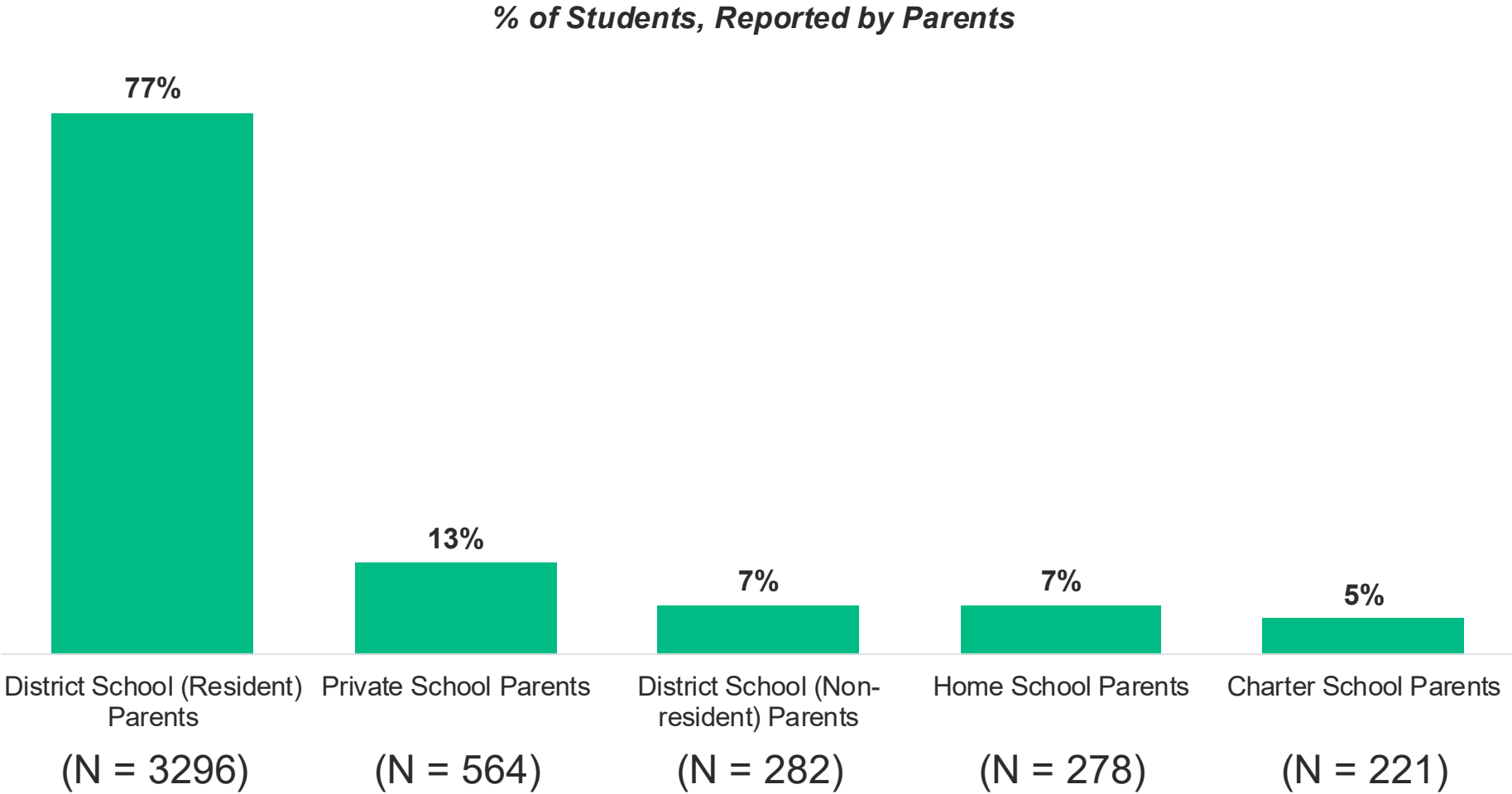
Demographics	Unweighted (N = )
Hispanic	1,016
Non-Hispanic White	3,927
Black	1,603
Other	296
Generation Z	1,121
Millennial	2,052
Generation X	1,757
Boomers	1,709
Male	3,283
Female	3,474
< College	4,395
College +	2,362
Northeast	1,236
Midwest	1,386
South	3,021
West	1,114

Demographics	Unweighted (N = )
Total School Parents*	4,259
K-4 Parents*	2,257
5-8 Parents*	1,842
9-12 Parents*	1,708
Non-Parents	2,926
Liberal/Progressive	1,683
Moderate	2,314
Conservative	1,983
Democrat	2,494
Independent	1,866
Republican	1,992
Urban	2,194
Suburban	2,798
Small Town	580
Rural	1,185
Low Income <\$50K	3,839
Middle Income \$50K to <\$100K	1,951
High Income \$100K+	967

\* Denotes the sample came from school parents  
 Source: Surveys conducted December 12, 2025 – February 12, 2026, among U.S. adults

Demographics	Unweighted	Weighted	Target (%)
Hispanic	1,016	1,233	16%
Non-Hispanic White	3,927	4,067	78%
Black	1,603	878	12%
Other	296	556	9%
Age: 18-34	1,885	1,950	30%
Age: 35-54	2,290	2,210	31%
Age: 55+	2,582	2,597	40%
Age: 65+	1,484	1,560	20%
Male	3,283	3,300	48%
Female	3,474	3,457	52%
< College	4,395	4,316	69%
College +	2,362	2,441	31%
Northeast	1,236	1,162	18%
Midwest	1,386	1,378	21%
South	3,021	2,612	37%
West	1,114	1,604	24%

# Estimated school type attendance for the 2025-2026 school year



**Note:** Parent groups are not necessarily exclusive, there are cases where a parent could have children enrolled in different school types.  
Source: Surveys conducted December 12, 2025 – February 12, 2026, among U.S. adults

## Methodology Update

In addition to the monthly general population polling, Morning Consult oversamples K-12 school parents, among a national sample of parents living in the United States (including the District of Columbia). The sample is collected via stratified sampling based on race and ethnicity quota targets derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019-2024 American Community Survey.

Approximately 800 additional K-12 school parents are interviewed in English each month comprising the oversample. The completed K-12 school parent interviews are weighted to population totals obtained from the 2019-2024 American Community Survey on the following demographic variables: age, gender, region, race/ethnicity, and educational attainment.

Total School Parents	Have at least one child enrolled in grades K-12 for the 2025-2026 school year
Charter School Parents	Have at least one child enrolled in a charter school for the 2025-2026 school year
District/Public School Parents	Have at least one child enrolled in a district/public school for the 2025-2026 school year
Private School Parents	Have at least one child enrolled in a private school for the 2025-2026 school year
Home School Parents	Have at least one child enrolled in home school for the 2025-2026 school year

## WHO WE ARE



Morning Consult is a global data intelligence company delivering insights on what people think in real time.

By surveying tens of thousands across the globe every day, Morning Consult is unmatched in scale and speed: It determines the true measure of what people think and how their decisions impact business, politics and the economy.

Industry leaders rely on Morning Consult's proprietary technology and analysis for real-time intelligence to transform information into a competitive advantage.

[MORNINGCONSULT.COM](https://www.morningconsult.com)



EdChoice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. Our mission is to advance educational freedom and choice for all as a pathway to successful lives and a stronger society. We are committed to understanding and pursuing a K–12 education ecosystem that empowers every family to choose the learning environment that fits their children's needs best.

[EDCHOICE.ORG](https://www.edchoice.org)

