Quantitative – Online Survey
Lake Research Partners designed and administered this online survey conducted August 30 - September 12, 2022. The survey reached a total of 1,320 likely 2022 voters, which includes a base sample of 818 likely voters and oversamples of 101 African American likely voters, 100 Asian American Pacific Islander likely voters, 100 Latinx likely voters, 100 Native American likely voters, and 101 likely voters who are parents of school-aged children.

Survey respondents were drawn from online panels and screened to be likely 2022 voters. The base sample of likely voters was weighted slightly by gender within region, age, party ID, gender within party ID, and age within race to reflect attributes of the actual population. Additionally, the African American and AAPI likely voter samples were weighted slightly by age, education, and party ID; the Latinx likely voter sample was weighted by region, education, and party ID; the Native American likely voter sample was weighted slightly by region, age, education, and party ID; and the parent likely voter sample was weighted slightly by gender, region, age, education, and party ID. All oversamples were then weighted down into the base to reflect their actual proportion of likely 2022 voters nationwide.

The margin of error is +/- 2.7%. The margin of error for subgroups is higher.
Voters and parents alike have a clear vision of their priorities for education and schools, school funding, and parental involvement.

- Plurals of voters nationwide say their confidence in the public school system has decreased since the start of the pandemic (48%) and over the last year (47%). Unlike voters overall, pluralities of parents say their confidence levels in the public school system has remained about the same since the start of the pandemic or over the last year.

- Over half of voters nationwide say their state spends too little on public school funding (52%) and a quarter say funding levels in their state is about the right amount (26%). At the local level, a plurality of voters say public school funding in their community is too little (40%) and 29% say it is about the right amount.

- A solid majority of voters and parents alike say parents should be included in their child’s education and what they are taught. This is a core value across partisan lines.

- Ensuring schools are free of guns and other physical violence or bullying, hiring quality teachers, teaching real-world skills, ensuring students are reading at grade level, and supports for children with disabilities are top tier issues voters find both important to address and that they see as very big problems in public education today.

- Teaching critical skills, increasing job skills and workforce training opportunities, and training educators and other school personnel to identify warning signs and intervention techniques related to mental health are strongly favored. Proposals to implement literacy programs, strengthen school emergency response plans, increasing teacher salaries, and school funding transparency round out the top tier of education proposals strongly favored by voters nationwide.

- Voters think individualized learning plans, additional counseling or social, emotional, and mental health support, and offering afterschool and/or summer learning opportunities would be very helpful for students moving forward.

- Voters will reward elected officials who support increased funding for public schools, but they are tax sensitive.
Pluralities of voters nationwide say their confidence in the public school system has decreased since the start of the pandemic and over the last year, with few saying their confidence has increased. About a third say their confidence has remained about the same. Unlike voters overall, pluralities of parents with school-age children say their confidence levels in the public school system has remained about the same since the start of the pandemic (43%) or over the last year (39%).

The following subgroups are most likely to say their confidence has decreased in either question (combined results):
- Those who believe school district officials (87%), teachers/educators (83%), state education leaders (79%), school board members (75%), federal education officials (72%), and state elected officials (70%) have not handled COVID-19 well at all; Gen Z voters (73%); widowed voters (65%), Indigenous voters (62%) and self-employed voters (62%).
Current State of Public Education

- Only a quarter of parents believe school district officials (26%), state education leaders (26%), and school board members (24%) handled the impacts of COVID-19 very well.
- Among parents who decided to move from a traditional public school to an alternative school environment (charter, magnet, parochial/religious, private, or other type), a plurality of respondents noted through open-ended responses that “higher quality education” was the primary reason for changing schools, indicating overall dissatisfaction with student learning in traditional public schools.

In a few words, please explain why you and your family decided to enroll your child in a charter, magnet, private, parochial/religious, or another type of school environment.

- Higher quality education: 44
- Better classroom environment: 12
- Speciality school or more ideal curriculum: 11
- Safety in schools such as gun violence: 10
- COVID safety: 9
- Relocation or ideal location: 5
- Better teachers: 5
- Improved mental health/previous bullying: 4
- Taking advantage of enrollment opportunities: 3
- Other: 10
- No reason: 2
Thinking of public school funding in your state, do you think your state spends too much, too little, or about the right amount?*

Over half of voters nationwide say their state spends too little on public school funding (52%) and a quarter say funding levels in their state is about the right amount (26%). Pluralities across most demographic subgroups say public school funding in their state is too little. The exception is Republicans, who split between saying it is too little (35%) and the right amount (36%).

Over time, the following subgroups of voters show the greatest increase thinking state public school funding is “too little”:
- Independents (+22 since 2021)
- K-5th grade parents (+20)
- Indigenous voters (+20)
- Voters in the West (+17)

*split sampled
At the local level, a plurality of voters say public school funding in their community is too little (40%) and 29% say it is about the right amount. At least half of younger voters, Democrats, and Black voters say public school funding in their community is too little.

Thinking of public school funding in your community, do you think your community spends [ROTATE] too much, too little, or about the right amount?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>November 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Too much</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too little</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right Amount</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*split sampled
A strong majority of voters say parents should be included in their child’s education and what they are taught and parents agree at even higher numbers. This is a core value across partisan lines.

Do you agree or disagree that parents should be included in their child's education and what they are taught?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Voters</th>
<th>Parents</th>
<th>Democrats</th>
<th>Independents</th>
<th>Republicans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>84</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not so strongly agree</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*split sampled
A plurality of voters want states and school districts to use their one-time COVID relief funds to address both immediate challenges and make longer term investments. Older voters, Republicans, voters in the South Atlantic, and voters in rural areas tend to align with addressing immediate challenges. Younger voters, parents of children under 12, and subgroups of voters in the Northeast and West tend to align with longer term investments.

Which of the following statements comes closer to your own view?

- States and school districts should use their one-time COVID relief funds to address immediate challenges, like learning loss
- States and school districts should make longer term investments with their one-time COVID relief funds
- Both

Survey results:
- 27% of respondents favor immediate challenges
- 19% favor longer term investments
- 42% favor both
- 3% neither
- 9% not sure
Ensuring schools are free of guns and other physical violence or bullying, hiring quality teachers, teaching real-world skills, ensuring students are reading at grade level, and supports for children with disabilities are top tier issues voters find both important to address and that they see as very big problems in public education today (highlighted in blue below).
Parents are even more likely than voters overall to say ensuring schools are free of guns and other physical violence or bullying, teaching real-world skills, ensuring students are reading at grade level, and supports for children with disabilities are top tier issues both important to address and very big problems in public education today.

*All split sampled questions*
Reactions to policy proposals align with what voters want education leaders to address – job skills, mental health, emergency plans, teacher pay, and transparency. None of the tested proposals receive majority-opposition.

- Teaching critical skills, increasing job skills and workforce training opportunities, and training educators and other school personnel to identify warning signs and intervention techniques related to mental health are strongly favored proposals. Proposals to implement literacy programs, strengthen school emergency response plans, increasing teacher salaries, and school funding transparency round out the top tier of proposals.
  - *Teaching critical skills for the workplace in schools, such as problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and professional etiquette.* - 65% strongly favor (88% favor)
  - *Increase job skills and workforce training opportunities in high school, like apprenticeships and internship opportunities.* - 64% strongly favor (90% favor)
  - *Train educators and other school personnel to identify warning signs and intervention techniques related to mental health.* - 63% strongly favor (86% favor)
  - *Implement evidence-based literacy programs in classrooms to improve student reading levels.* - 59% strongly favor (86% favor)
  - *Reevaluate and strengthen school emergency response plans, including updating school building infrastructure and security technology.* - 57% strongly favor (86% favor)
  - *Increasing teacher salaries to be more competitive with industries that require a similar level of education and skillset.* - 57% strongly favor (81% favor)
  - *Increase school funding transparency by providing easy-to-understand resources on how school funding is spent to the public.* - 56% strongly favor (86% favor)

*split sampled*
Student mental health and social and emotional leader continue to be important for voters and parents. 63 percent of voters and a similar proportion of parents (64 percent) favor training educators and other school personnel to identify warning signs and intervention techniques related to mental health. In general, including social and emotional learning needs increased support.

Now you will see a list of different proposals people say could improve public schools if our public officials and education leaders prioritized them. For each, indicate whether you would favor or oppose the proposal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Strongly Favor</th>
<th>All Voters</th>
<th>Parent</th>
<th>Non-Parent</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Latinx</th>
<th>AAPI</th>
<th>Indig.</th>
<th>Dem</th>
<th>Ind</th>
<th>Rep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invest in personalized learning focused on each student’s individual needs, including their social and emotional learning needs.*</td>
<td></td>
<td>51</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invest in personalized learning focused on each student’s individual learning needs.*</td>
<td></td>
<td>43</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*split sampled
Voters think individualized learning plans, additional counseling or social, emotional, and mental health support, and offering afterschool and/or summer learning opportunities would be very helpful for students moving forward. Though a plurality thinks longer school years would be helpful, intensity is on the side of those who say this wouldn’t be helpful at all. Voters are least likely to think additional school days would be helpful.

**How helpful do you think each of the following would be in helping students moving forward?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Not helpful</th>
<th>Helpful</th>
<th>NS</th>
<th>Net</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individualized learning plans based on each student’s needs</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>+81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional counseling or social, emotional, and mental health support</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>+75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offering afterschool and/or summer learning opportunities</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>+82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longer school years to provide more time for instruction*</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional school days over weekends or school breaks to provide more time for instruction</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longer school days to provide more time for instruction*</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*split sampled*
Voting the Issue

Voters will reward elected officials who support increased funding for public schools, but they are tax sensitive. While pluralities will still support an elected official who supports increased funding for public schools even if it increases their taxes, nearly a quarter say they are less likely to do so. Majorities across demographic subgroups, including half of Republicans, would be more likely to support an elected official who supported increased funding for public schools.

If an elected official supported increased funding for public schools, would that make you more or less likely to vote for him or her or would it not make a difference?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>November 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More likely</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less likely</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difference</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If an elected official supported increased funding for public schools, even if it increases your taxes, would that make you more or less likely to vote for him or her or would it not make a difference?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>November 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More likely</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less likely</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difference</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*split sampled

November 2021

More likely 72%
Less likely 8%
No difference 16%

More likely 57%
Less likely 20%
No difference 18%
Across partisan lines, Democrats are much more likely to vote for an elected official if they support increased funding for public schools, regardless of whether the prospect of increased taxes is included. However, even Democrats are tax sensitive. Pluralities of Independents and Republicans are also more likely to vote for a candidate who supports increased funding for public schools, but when increased taxes is referenced Republicans turn-net unlikely to vote for this candidate.

If an elected official supported increased funding for public schools, would that make you more or less likely to vote for him or her or would it not make a difference?*

If an elected official supported increased funding for public schools, even if it increases your taxes, would that make you more or less likely to vote for him or her or would it not make a difference?*
For more information about our stakeholder engagement initiative and resources from The Hunt Institute, follow our webpage and social media:

https://hunt-institute.org/covid-19-resources/the-covid-constituency/