

PDK Poll

50 YEARS OF AMERICAN VOICES

The pulse of America: School safety

When Americans look for answers about how to improve student safety at school, arming teachers is not the solution they prefer. Instead, parents overwhelmingly support mental health screening for students, armed police in schools, and metal detectors at school entrances.

The 2018 PDK poll asked Americans to choose between spending money on armed guards in school or on mental health services for students. Parents and the general public overwhelmingly prioritize mental health services – 76% to 23% among all Americans and 71% to 28% among public school parents.

Read more about
school safety

Key points from 2018 PDK poll

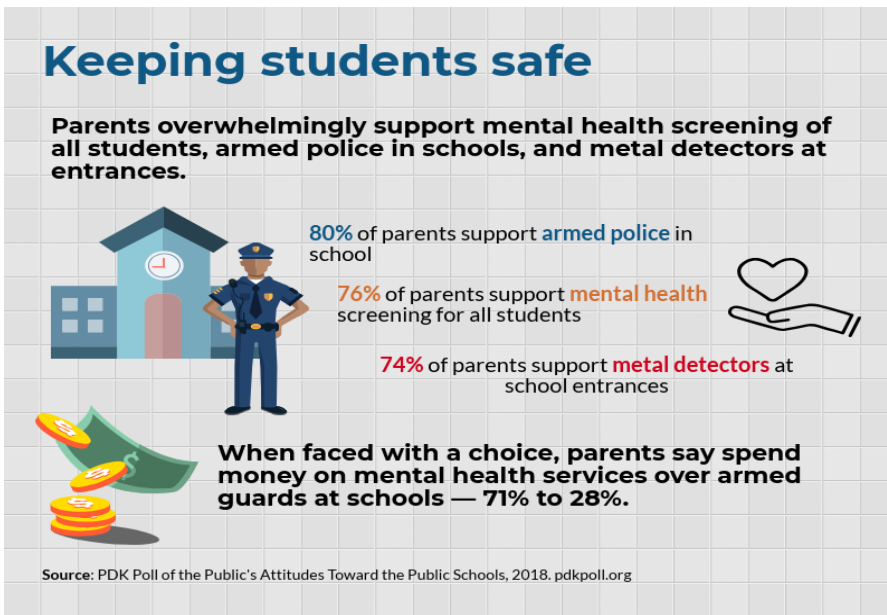
34% of parents fear for their child's physical safety at school. That's a steep increase from 2013 when just 12% said they were fearful.

Fears for a child's safety are twice as high among parents with less than \$50,000 annual household income compared to those making \$100,000 or more – 48% vs. 24%.

57% of Republicans support allowing teachers or other school employees to carry guns at school vs. just 17% of Democrats.

82% of blacks and 83% of Hispanic parents would prefer that their child be in a classroom with a teacher who is *not* carrying a gun. A majority of white parents – 57% – also prefer non-gun-carrying teachers.

Source: pdkpoll.org



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