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.

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%.

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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.

Read more about school safety

Key points from 2018 PDK poll

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Source: pdkpoll.org

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