

LANGER RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

SURVEY RESEARCH DESIGN • MANAGEMENT • ANALYSIS

2020 PDK Poll

Appendix B: Topline data report

Topline results of the 2020 PDK Poll follow. “Parents” and “PS” refer to K-12 public school parents. Unless noted, * = <0.5 percent. Results from 2015 and earlier are PDK/Gallup polls.

1. What do you think are the biggest problems facing the public schools in your community? [OPEN-END, ALLOW UP TO 3 RESPONSES]

	-- 3/23/20 --		-- 4/26/19 --	
	All	Parents	All	Parents
Lack of money/financial support	19	14	25	27
Bullying/cyberbullying	7	11	7	12
Concerns about standards/ quality of education	7	7	7	5
Overcrowded schools/classrooms	7	6	7	8
Poor curriculum	6	6	5	5
Lack of discipline/ behavior of the children	6	3	6	5
Teacher salaries	6	2	7	4
Coronavirus	5	6	NA	NA
Difficulty getting good/quality teachers	5	5	8	8
Family/home life/parenting	4	3	4	1
Integration/segregation/ discrimination problems	3	3	1	2
Smoking/vaping/drugs	3	8	3	4
Not enough teachers/staff	3	3	4	3
Parent/community lack of support	3	1	4	2
Testing/regulations	2	5	3	3
Safety/security	2	3	3	4
Fighting/violence/gangs	2	3	2	2
Political correctness/liberal ideology	2	2	3	1
Food (lack of/poor quality/ poor nutrition)	2	1	*	*
Leadership/administration	2	1	1	2
Lack of respect/support for teachers	2	*	2	1
Germs/disease/cleanliness	1	2	NA	NA
Special education	1	2	*	1
Mismanagement of funds	1	1	2	1
Online/remote learning	1	1	NA	NA
Government interference	1	1	1	1
Shootings/gun violence/weapons	1	1	1	1
Teacher unions	1	1	1	*
Student apathy/lack of interest	1	0	1	*
Student stress/mental health	*	1	1	2
Privatization/charter schools	*	*	*	*
Technology/social media	*	*	2	3
Lack of religion	*	0	1	*
Language barrier/ non-English speaking students	*	0	1	*
Everything	*	*	*	*

No problems	2	3	1	3
Other	8	15	6	6
No opinion (vol.)	4	2	3	1
Skipped	15	11	7	6

Trend among all adults:

	Funding	Stdnds.	Discip.	Viol.	Teach. qual.	Drugs	Parents	Crowding	Testing	Racial
3/23/20	19	7	6	2	5	3	3	7	2	3
4/26/19	25	7	6	2	8	3	4	7	3	1
5/21/18	26	5	10	3	5	4	5	7	2	2
5/21/17†	23	10	7	6	8	6	5	5	3	2
5/10/16	19	9	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
5/2015	23	7	6	0	0	0	2	5	3	0
6/20/14	32	*	9	0	8	0	*	0	*	*
5/31/13	35	*	8	3	3	3	5	7	4	*
6/10/12	35	*	8	4	*	2	*	5	*	*
6/13/11	36	*	6	4	*	2	*	6	*	*
6/28/10	36	*	10	*	*	4	*	*	*	*
6/24/09	32	3	10	4	3	5	*	9	*	*
7/3/08	17	3	10	6	4	4	*	6	*	*
6/29/07	22	4	10	5	5	4	*	7	*	*
7/5/06	24	4	11	5	4	8	*	13	*	*
6/26/05	20	4	10	*	*	9	*	11	*	*
6/18/04	21	4	10	6	*	7	*	10	*	*
6/18/03	25	*	16	4	5	9	*	14	*	*
6/26/02	23	*	17	9	8	13	*	17	*	*
6/6/01	15	*	15	10	6	9	*	10	*	*
6/29/00	18	*	15	11	4	9	*	12	*	*
6/11/99	9	*	18	11	4	8	*	8	*	*
6/23/98	12	*	14	15	5	10	*	8	*	*
6/22/97	15	*	15	12	3	14	*	8	*	*
5/22/96	13	*	15	14	3	16	*	8	*	2
6/15/95	11	*	15	9	2	7	*	3	*	2
6/8/94	13	*	18	18	3	11	*	7	*	3
6/9/93	21	*	15	13	5	16	*	8	*	4
5/14/92	22	*	17	9	5	22	*	9	*	4
5/17/91	18	*	20	3	11	22	*	9	*	5
5/22/90	13	*	19	2	7	38	*	7	*	4
6/11/89	13	*	19	1	7	34	*	8	*	4
4/10/88	12	*	19	1	11	32	*	6	*	4
4/13/87	14	*	22	1	9	30	*	8	*	4
4/20/86	11	*	24	2	6	28	*	5	*	3
5/26/85	9	*	25	1	10	18	*	5	*	4
5/27/84	14	*	27	1	14	18	*	4	*	6
5/22/83	13	*	25	1	8	18	*	3	*	5
5/23/82	22	*	27	1	10	20	*	4	*	6
5/17/81	12	*	23	*	11	15	*	5	*	11
5/8/80	10	*	26	*	6	14	*	7	*	10
5/7/79	12	*	24	*	10	13	*	4	*	9
5/1/78	13	*	25	*	9	13	*	5	*	13
5/2/77	12	*	26	*	11	7	*	5	*	13
4/25/76	14	*	22	*	11	11	*	5	*	15
6/30/75	14	*	23	*	11	9	*	10	*	15
5/12/74	13	*	23	*	11	13	*	6	*	16
1973	16	*	22	*	13	10	*	9	*	18
1972	19	*	23	*	*	4	*	10	*	18
1971	23	*	14	*	*	12	*	*	*	21
1970	17	*	18	*	12	11	*	*	*	17
2/20/69	14	*	26	*	17	*	*	*	*	13

*Issue not identified or results not published.

†Results adjusted from 2017 report due to coding inconsistencies.

2. In your opinion, is there too much emphasis on achievement testing in the public schools in your community, not enough emphasis on testing, or about the right amount?

Skipped

	Too much emphasis	Right amount	Not enough emphasis	or DK/Ref.
3/23/20	41	36	21	1
3/23/20 PS	38	39	23	0
7/3/08	37	34	23	6
7/3/08 PS	44	42	12	2
6/29/07	43	40	15	2
6/29/07 PS	52	38	10	*
7/5/06	39	33	25	3
7/5/06 PS	45	37	17	1
6/26/05	36	40	17	7
6/26/05 PS	39	43	17	2
6/18/04	32	40	22	6
6/18/04 PS	36	43	19	2
6/26/02	31	47	19	3
6/26/02 PS	32	54	14	*
6/6/01	31	44	22	3
6/6/01 PS	36	43	20	1
6/29/00	30	43	23	4
6/29/00 PS	34	46	19	1
6/22/97	20	48	28	4
6/22/97 PS	19	54	26	1

3. Do you think these are appropriate or inappropriate ways to use students' test results?

a. To use as the main factor in determining how well one school compares with others

	---- Appropriate ----			--- Inappropriate ---			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	Skipped
3/23/20							
All	61	15	46	38	26	13	1
Parents	68	21	48	31	23	8	1

b. To determine whether a student should be promoted to the next grade or graduate from high school

	---- Appropriate ----			--- Inappropriate ---			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	Skipped
3/23/20							
All	77	33	44	23	17	6	*
Parents	78	32	46	21	17	4	*

c. To determine whether a student should be eligible to enroll in a special academic program

	---- Appropriate ----			--- Inappropriate ---			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	Skipped
3/23/20							
All	83	31	51	17	12	4	*
Parents	84	32	52	16	12	4	*

d. To use as an important factor in teacher evaluations

	---- Appropriate ----			--- Inappropriate ---			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	Skipped
3/23/20							
All	64	20	43	36	25	11	*
Parents	68	27	42	31	23	9	*

e. To use as an important factor in determining how much financial support the district receives from the state

	---- Appropriate ----			--- Inappropriate ---			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	Skipped
3/23/20							
All	45	14	31	55	32	22	1
Parents	52	17	35	47	31	15	1

4. Do you approve or disapprove of how Donald Trump is handling education policy?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	Skipped
3/23/20							
All	45	18	27	53	20	34	2
Parents	46	16	30	53	24	29	2

5. Thinking ahead to the presidential election in November, how important is the issue of public education in your vote for president?

	--- More important ---			-- Less important --			
	NET	Extremely	Very	NET	Somewhat	Not	Skipped
3/23/20							
All	59	24	35	41	31	10	1
Parents	70	32	38	30	24	6	0

6. Regardless of who wins the presidential election, compared with the current level of focus would you like to see the administration in Washington focus more or focus less on each of these?

a. College affordability

	----- Focus more -----			Same focus	----- Focus less -----			
	NET	Much more	More	as now	NET	Less	Much less	Skipped
3/23/20								
All	77	44	33	18	5	3	2	*
Parents	80	49	31	15	5	4	1	0

b. Expansion of charter schools, which are public schools that are run without many of the state regulations placed on other public schools

	----- Focus more -----			Same focus	----- Focus less -----			
	NET	Much more	More	as now	NET	Less	Much less	Skipped
3/23/20								
All	38	16	22	33	29	17	12	*
Parents	46	24	23	29	25	18	7	0

c. Efforts to attract and retain good teachers

	----- Focus more -----			Same focus	----- Focus less -----			
	NET	Much more	More	as now	NET	Less	Much less	Skipped
3/23/20								
All	85	44	41	13	2	1	*	*
Parents	86	45	41	12	1	1	0	0

d. The availability of public school pre-K programs

	----- Focus more -----			Same focus	----- Focus less -----			
	NET	Much more	More	as now	NET	Less	Much less	Skipped
3/23/20								
All	61	25	35	32	7	4	3	*
Parents	68	28	40	27	5	2	3	0

e. Protecting students from discrimination in their schools

	-----	Focus more	-----	Same focus	-----	Focus less	-----	
	NET	Much more	More	as now	NET	Less	Much less	Skipped
3/23/20								
All	68	36	32	25	7	5	2	*
Parents	65	35	31	29	6	3	3	0

7. If you could send your oldest child to any school and cost was not a factor, would you send them to the school they now attend or to a different school?

	The school they now attend	A different school	Skipped/don't know/ref.
3/23/20 PS	59	41	0
6/28/10 PS	54	45	*
5/22/96 PS	55	44	1

8. Would you support or oppose establishing or adding charter schools in your community if that meant reducing the amount of funds available for the traditional public schools?

	-----	Support	-----	-----	Oppose	-----	
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	Skipped
3/23/20							
All	40	13	27	59	33	26	1
Parents	45	20	25	55	35	20	*

Compare to:

Would you favor charter schools in your community if funding them meant reducing the amount of funds for the regular public schools - or not?

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion/refused
6/26/05	28	65	7
6/26/05 PS	26	69	5
6/26/02	30	65	5
6/26/02 PS	25	70	5

9. Do you support or oppose each of these?

a. A voucher program in which parents can use tax money that now goes to their local public schools to partly pay for private school tuition

	-----	Support	-----	-----	Oppose	-----	
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	Skipped
3/23/20							
All	53	18	35	46	22	24	1
Parents	56	20	36	44	22	22	0

b. A voucher program in which parents can use tax money that now goes to their local public schools to partly pay for religious school tuition

	-----	Support	-----	-----	Oppose	-----	
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	Skipped
3/23/20							
All	48	17	30	52	24	28	1
Parents	50	19	31	50	24	27	0

10. Say a school district uses test scores to select students for a special academic program, and, as a result, many black and Hispanic students don't qualify. Would you...

	Support offering this program, even though it reduces racial and ethnic diversity in the regular school program	Oppose offering this program, because it reduces racial and ethnic diversity in the regular school program	Skipped
3/23/20			
All	46	53	2
Parents	48	51	*

11. Say a school district uses test scores to select students for a special academic program, and, as a result, many lower-income students don't qualify. Would you...

	Support offering this program, even though it reduces economic diversity in the regular school program	Oppose offering this program, because it reduces economic diversity in the regular school program	Skipped
3/23/20			
All	44	54	2
Parents	47	52	2

12. As far as you are aware, how big a problem is each of these among students in your community's public schools?

a. Use of e-cigarettes/vaping

	NET	----- More of a problem ----- A crisis A serious problem, but not a crisis	NET	----- Less of a problem ----- A problem, but not a serious one	NET	----- Not a prob. -----	Skip.
3/23/20							
All	65	22	43	33	24	9	1
Parents	66	22	43	34	23	11	*

b. Use of marijuana

	NET	----- More of a problem ----- A crisis A serious problem, but not a crisis	NET	----- Less of a problem ----- A problem, but not a serious one	NET	----- Not a prob. -----	Skip.
3/23/20							
All	49	15	33	50	34	16	1
Parents	50	15	35	50	33	17	0

c. Use of alcohol

	NET	----- More of a problem ----- A crisis A serious problem, but not a crisis	NET	----- Less of a problem ----- A problem, but not a serious one	NET	----- Not a prob. -----	Skip.
3/23/20							
All	52	13	40	46	35	11	2
Parents	52	12	39	48	33	15	0

d. Use of opioids

	NET	----- More of a problem ----- A crisis A serious problem, but not a crisis	NET	----- Less of a problem ----- A problem, but not a serious one	NET	----- Not a prob. -----	Skip.
3/23/20							
All	54	24	30	44	27	17	2
Parents	54	21	33	46	26	19	0

13. How confident are you that your community's public schools are doing a good job teaching students about these?

a. The risks of e-cigarettes/vaping

	-- More confident ---			----- Less confident ----			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	Skipped
3/23/20							
All	48	12	35	51	38	14	1
Parents	55	15	40	44	33	12	*

b. The risks of using marijuana

	-- More confident ---			----- Less confident ----			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	Skipped
3/23/20							
All	48	10	38	51	37	14	1
Parents	52	13	39	48	33	15	0

c. The risks of using alcohol

	-- More confident ---			----- Less confident ----			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	Skipped
3/23/20							
All	53	11	42	46	36	10	1
Parents	56	13	43	44	35	9	0

d. The risks of using opioids

	-- More confident ---			----- Less confident ----			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	Skipped
3/23/20							
All	52	12	39	47	36	12	1
Parents	58	13	46	42	32	10	0

14. If a child is caught with vaping equipment at school, what should be the school's priority?

	Disciplining the student for violating school policy		Referring the student for health counseling		Skipped
3/23/20					
All		48		52	*
Parents		50		50	0

15. "Phonics" teaches reading by showing students how to recognize sounds within words. "Whole language instruction" teaches reading by showing students how to recognize words in the context of sentences and stories that they can understand. The "balanced approach" is a combination of both. Which do you think is most effective in teaching young students how to read?

	Phonics	Whole language instruction	Balanced approach	Skipped
3/23/20				
All	15	13	72	1
Parents	15	16	68	1

16. Which do you think is most effective in teaching literacy, which is not just reading but a more comprehensive use of language in writing, speaking, and learning?

Whole language Balanced

	Phonics	instruction	approach	Skipped
3/23/20				
All	15	18	66	1
Parents	14	19	66	1

17. Thinking about any reading you do on your own, not for work, would you say you're:

	-----	More	-----	-----	Less	-----	
	NET	Avid reader	Regular reader	NET	Occasional reader	Not much of a reader	Skipped
3/23/20							
All	60	23	37	39	26	13	1
Parents	55	17	38	45	31	15	0