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Wednesday, August 30th

Education: A Guide for Advocates







Key Takeaways:

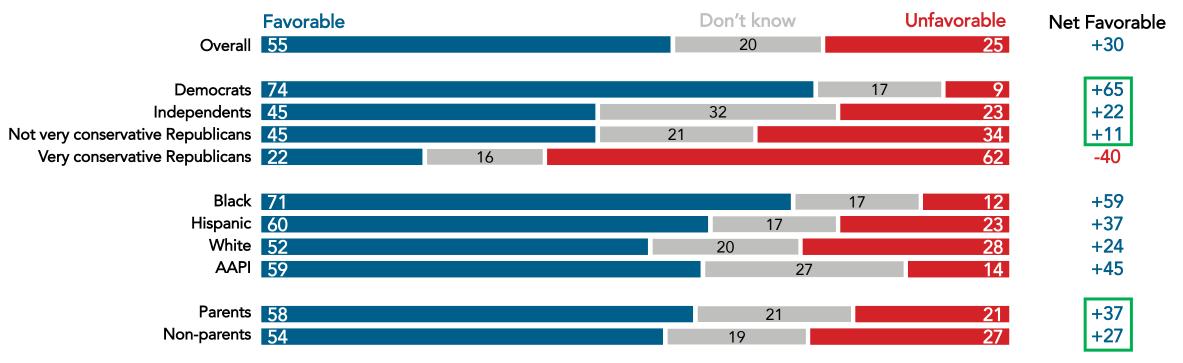
- More than half of Americans view teachers unions favorably including majorities
 of parents and non-parents, and a plurality of Republicans who do not identify as
 "very conservative."
- Keeping students safe from gun violence and making sure they learn the things they need to know to be successful are Americans' top priorities for our children; on education specifically, again, student success is number one.
- Republican education policies like bans of books like 1984 or To Kill a
 Mockingbird, inspecting the genitals of kids before they're allowed to play on
 sports teams, and defunding public education are deeply unpopular across party
 lines.



More Than Half of Americans View Teachers Unions Favorably, Including Majorities of Parents and Non-Parents Alike

Parents (net +37 favorable), non-parents (net +27), independents (net +22), and not very conservative Republicans (+11) all hold favorable views of teachers unions; only very conservative Republicans stand alone in their negative views (net -40).

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: Teachers unions.





Biden and Democrats Trusted Most on Funding Schools, Teacher Pay, and Teaching Issues Like Race & Gender

Below is a list of issues. Please indicate who you trust more to handle each one.

		Net Biden and Democrats					
emocratic Party DK	Party	Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	Parents	
8 21	31	+17	+77	+32	-56	+11	
.5 22	33	+12	+72	+18	-58	+5	
.4 27	29	+15	+77	+18	-55	+9	
.4 22	34	+10	+72	+13	-61	-2	
.4 20	36	+8	+77	+2	-67	+3	
4 19	37	+7	+73	+7	-67	+4	
3 19	38	+5	+69	+2	-67	-1	
21	37	+5	+66	+15	-67	+1	
20	39	+2	+67	+4	-71	-1	
25	37	+1	+68	0	-73	-6	
24	41	-6	+49	-4	-69	-4	
32	34	0	+55	-2	-61	-2	
-8 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4	21 22 27 22 20 19 19 21 20 25 24	21 31 22 33 27 29 22 34 20 36 19 37 19 38 21 37 20 39 25 37 24 41	21 31 +17 1 22 33 +12 27 29 +15 15 +10 +10 20 36 +8 19 37 +7 19 38 +5 21 37 +5 20 39 +2 25 37 +1 24 41 -6	21 31 +17 +77 22 33 +12 +72 27 29 +15 +77 +10 +72 +72 +72 20 36 +8 +77 19 37 +7 +73 19 38 +5 +69 21 37 +5 +66 20 39 +2 +67 25 37 +1 +68 24 41 -6 +49	21 31 +17 +77 +32 22 33 +12 +72 +18 27 29 +15 +77 +18 +10 +72 +13 22 34 +10 +72 +13 20 36 +8 +77 +2 19 37 +7 +73 +7 19 38 +5 +69 +2 21 37 +5 +66 +15 20 39 +2 +67 +4 25 37 +1 +68 0 24 41 -6 +49 -4	21 31 +17 +77 +32 -56 22 33 +12 +72 +18 -58 27 29 +15 +77 +18 -55 22 34 +10 +72 +13 -61 20 36 +8 +77 +2 -67 19 37 +7 +73 +7 -67 19 38 +5 +69 +2 -67 21 37 +5 +66 +15 -67 20 39 +2 +67 +4 -71 25 37 +1 +68 0 -73 24 41 -6 +49 -4 -69	



Protecting Children From Gun Violence, Making Sure They Learn What They Need to, Mental Health Care Are Top Priorities

"Keeping them safe from gun violence" is the top priority for Democrats (68%) and parents (56%), followed by "making sure they learn the things they need to know to be successful" (47% and 54%) and "protecting children's mental health (38% and 39%)

• Republicans drive the share who say "preventing them from being exposed to woke ideas about race and gender" is a priority (50%).

What are your top priorities when it comes to America's children?

	% top three priority
Keeping them safe from gun violence and mass shootings in schools and other public places	58%
Making sure they learn the things they need to know to be successful in school and life	55
Protecting children's mental health and providing mental health treatment	35
Teaching America's children how to be good citizens	28
Preventing them from being exposed to woke ideas about race and gender in school	28
Protecting affordable health insurance for children	24
Ensuring affordable childcare options for working families	19
Reducing pollution and curbing climate change that threatens their future	18

Dem	Ind	Rep	Р	arent	:S	
68	53	48		56		
47	54	64		54		
38	44	28		39		
25	24	33		29		
8	24	50		28		
32	21	14	14			
23	19	14		19		
29	13	6		15		
	ns	wias	1	Or	l	

Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted August 17-August 21, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Democrats Concerned About Gun Violence, Safety, Teaching, and Learning While Republicans Cite Teaching, Learning, "Woke"

Americans across party lines mention "teaching" and "learning." Democrats and independents are more likely to mention "gun violence," while Republicans stand alone in citing "woke" or "wokeness."

Independents

Thinking broadly about education in America... what is your top concern for America's students?





<u>Republicans</u>





Making Sure Children Learn What They Need to Is the Most Important School Concern

"Children not learning the material they need to know to be successful" is the top concern across party lines and among parents.

• At the same time, Biden and Democrats are essentially tied with Republicans on which party Americans trust when it comes to "making sure public schools teach children the things they need to learn in order to succeed" (net +2 Biden and Democrats).

What are your biggest concerns when it comes to education specifically for America's children?

	% top three biggest concern	Dem	Ind	Rep	Parents
Children not learning the material they need to know to be successful in the future		52	61	65	57
Teachers not getting paid enough for the job they do	37	47	28	28	34
Mental health issues in students	35	42	33	29	39
Teacher burnout and shortages	33	41	29	26	35
Lack of funding for public schools	31	44	28	18	35
Parents not having a say in what their kids are learning	28	11	28	48	26
Lack of preparation of children for high-tech jobs of the future	25	23	29	25	26
Pandemic learning loss	14	12	14	17	12



Republican Policies Like Book Bans With Specific Titles/Subjects, Genital Inspection, and Funding Cuts Are Most Concerning

Americans overall (92% concerning) – including independents (94%), Republicans (87%), and parents (91%) – are most likely to say that efforts to ban "books about Anne Frank and MLK, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *1984* from public schools" are concerning.

Below is a list of policies that some lawmakers have recently passed or tried to pass around the country. Please indicate how concerning you find each one.

+/++ C !!		NOT		rotal Concerning				
*/** Split sample	Very concerning	concerning	concerning	Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	Parents
*Banning books including books about Anne Frank and MLK, <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , and <i>1984</i> from public schools	71		20 8	92	95	94	87	91
Inspecting the genitals of kids before they're allowed to play on sports teams	61	2	16	84	93	82	74	83
Defunding public education and moving the money to private schools instead	60	2	4 16	84	95	84	70	84
Censoring how teachers can teach students the accurate history of the American Civil War, the Revolutionary War, and the Civil Rights movement	59	2	7 14	86	91	85	80	84
Changing the teaching of slavery to promote the idea that there were benefits for the slaves	57	24	. 19	81	92	82	68	82
**Banning books that partisan politicians decide they don't like or agree with	56	28	16	84	93	85	74	79
Giving right-wing media outlets and conspiracy theory promoters special access to classrooms to share their content	53	25	21	79	93	80	63	80
Banning the teaching of AP African-American history in high schools	51	28	20	80	93	82	64	83
Suing or suspending teachers if they show support for LGBTQ+ students	46	25	29	71	87	74	53	70
Prohibiting teachers from teaching age-appropriate lessons about sexual orientation or gender identity in schools, including history involving LGBTQ+ figures	39	27	34	66	84	63	46	63



Total Concerning

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About Navigator

In a world where the news cycle is the length of a tweet, our leaders often lack the real-time public-sentiment analysis to shape the best approaches to talking about the issues that matter the most. Navigator is designed to act as a consistent, flexible, responsive tool to inform policy debates by conducting research and reliable guidance to inform allies, elected leaders, and the press. Navigator is a project led by pollsters from Global Strategy Group and GBAO along with an advisory committee, including: Jessica Floyd, The Hub Project; Christina Reynolds, EMILY's List; Mike Podhorzer, AFL-CIO; Jesse Ferguson, progressive strategist; Navin Nayak, Center for American Progress Action Fund; Stephanie Valencia, EquisLabs; and Melanie Newman, Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

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To learn more about Navigator:

http://navigatorresearch.org

@NavigatorSurvey on Twitter

About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted public opinion surveys among a sample of 1,000 registered voters from August 17-August 21, 2023. 105 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 75 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 103 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among independent voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among union households. The survey was conducted online, recruiting respondents from an opt-in online panel vendor. Respondents were verified against a voter file and special care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of our sample matched that of the national registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables.