

LANGER RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

SURVEY RESEARCH DESIGN • MANAGEMENT • ANALYSIS

2023 Texas Education Poll Topline Data Report

The 2023 Texas Education Poll was conducted for the Charles Butt Foundation from Sept. 9-19, 2022, in English and Spanish, among a random statewide sample of 1,211 Texans via the probability-based Ipsos KnowledgePanel®, in which participants are randomly recruited via address-based sampling to participate in survey research projects by responding to questionnaires online.

Full questions and topline results from the 2023 Charles Butt Foundation poll follow. “All” refers to the general public in Texas including pre-K-12 public school parents and non-parents alike. “PS parents” refers to results among pre-K-12 public school parents only. “Skipped” refers to respondents who did not answer the question, when there were no “prefer not to answer” or “no opinion” response options provided on screen. Asterisks indicate results <0.5%.

Appendix B: Topline data report

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

Summary table:

	School safety	Ideology	Educ. quality	Teacher workforce	School funding	Student well-being	Teaching profession	Leaders & admin
9/19/22								
All	23	18	16	16	12	11	9	6
PS parents	32	10	15	15	13	8	6	4
10/4/21								
All	7	11	16	10	12	9	5	4
PS parents	13	5	16	12	12	5	4	2
10/20/20								
All	8	6	15	8	16	6	7	5
PS parents	9	4	12	8	19	5	7	4
12/4/19								
All	21	5	19	11	18	17	7	3
PS parents	17	5	18	6	17	19	8	4

Full responses:

	--- 9/19/22 ---		--- 10/4/21 ---	
	All	PS parents	All	PS parents
School safety NET	23	32	7	13
Safety/security (general)	12	13	3	3
Bullying/cyberbullying	6	15	3	8
Shootings/gun violence/weapons	6	7	1	2
Fighting/violence/gangs	2	2	1	1
Ideology NET	18	10	11	5
Political correctness/liberal ideology/critical race theory	6	5	5	2

Political bias (unspecified)	7	3	4	2
Government interference	2	1	2	1
Conservative/Republican bias	2	1	*	*
Lack of religion	1	1	1	*
Educational quality NET	16	15	16	16
Poor curriculum	8	4	10	5
Concerns about standards/quality of education	6	7	5	6
Overcrowded schools/classrooms	3	6	3	5
Teacher workforce NET	16	15	10	12
Not enough teachers/staff	11	9	6	7
Difficulty getting good/quality teachers	6	7	4	6
School funding	12	13	12	12
Student well-being NET	11	8	9	5
Lack of discipline/behavior of the children	7	4	5	1
Drugs in school	2	3	2	2
Student mental health/pressure/too much load	2	1	1	1
Student apathy/lack of interest	1	1	2	1
Teaching profession NET	9	6	5	4
Teacher salaries	6	5	3	2
Lack of respect/support for teachers	3	1	2	2
Overworked teachers	1	1	-	-
Political leadership & school administration NET	6	4	4	2
Leadership/administration	4	2	3	*
Mismanagement of funds	2	2	2	2
Family involvement NET	5	2	6	5
Family/home life/parenting	3	1	2	2
Parents' lack of support/ interest in child's education	2	1	4	3
Pandemic NET	3	1	23	28
Coronavirus	2	1	17	23
Masks/vaccines/mandates	0	0	6	4
Online/remote learning	1	*	3	2
Testing/accountability	3	2	3	5
Equity issues/racism	2	2	2	2
Too much technology/social media use	1	2	1	1
Everything	*	0	0	0
No problems	3	4	3	1
Other	8	9	10	9
No opinion (vol.)	4	1	5	5
Skipped	9	12	10	9

2. Students are often given the grades of A, B, C, D, and Fail to denote the quality of their work. Using the same scale, what grade would you give the public schools in your community?

	A-B	A	B	C	D	Fail	No opinion
9/19/22	NET						
All	47	11	36	34	11	6	2

PS parents	64	22	42	27	6	3	0
10/4/21							
All	52	9	43	34	8	5	1
PS parents	68	16	52	28	3	2	0
10/20/20							
All	56	12	44	31	9	3	*
PS parents	61	23	38	26	11	2	0
12/4/19							
All	48	12	36	36	10	5	1
PS parents	56	18	38	31	7	6	0

3. Thinking about public schools in the state as a whole, how satisfied are you with the quality of education students receive in kindergarten through grade 12 statewide?

	----- Satisfied -----			--- Dissatisfied ---			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	Skipped
9/19/22							
All	56	11	46	42	30	12	2
PS parents	77	20	57	22	20	3	*

4. [IF PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT] How satisfied are you with the quality of education your (oldest) child is receiving?

	----- Satisfied -----			--- Dissatisfied ---			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	Skipped
9/19/22	89	37	52	11	8	3	*

5. Thinking about public school teachers in your community, using the A, B, C, D, Fail scale, what grade would you give them as a group?

	A-B						
	NET	A	B	C	D	Fail	No opinion
9/19/22							
All	63	17	46	25	6	4	1
PS parents	76	27	49	19	4	1	0
10/4/21							
All	67	20	47	25	5	2	1
PS parents	76	28	48	20	2	2	0
10/20/20							
All	68	20	48	24	6	2	*
PS parents	71	25	47	20	6	3	*
12/4/19^							
All	66	17	49	27	4	2	1
PS parents	71	22	49	23	4	3	0

^"What grade would you give the public school teachers in your own community?"

6. Do you feel that public school teachers are undervalued, overvalued or valued appropriately in society today?^

	Undervalued	Valued appropriately	Overvalued	Skipped
9/19/22				
All	74	17	8	2
PS parents	67	23	9	*
10/4/21				
All	69	22	7	1
PS parents	69	24	5	2
12/4/19				
All	71	22	6	1
PS parents	64	25	11	*

^ half sample asked Q6, other half asked Q7

7. Do you think public school teachers generally receive too much respect, too little respect or about the right amount of respect in society today?

	Too much respect	The right amount of respect	Too little respect
9/19/22			
All	7	18	74
PS parents	12	15	73

8. Would you like to have a child of yours take up teaching in the public schools as a career?

	Yes	No	No opinion
9/19/22			
All	39	60	1
PS parents	49	51	1
10/4/21			
All	49	50	1
PS parents	57	42	1
12/4/19			
All	48	52	1
PS parents	50	50	*

9. Do you think public school teachers in your community are overworked, underworked or have an appropriate workload?

	Overworked	Have an appropriate workload	Underworked	Skipped
9/19/22				
All	66	26	6	2
PS parents	63	30	7	*

10. How much of a factor, if at all, should each of these be in determining how much a teacher's salary increases over time?

a. How their students perform on state standardized tests

	---- More of a factor ----			----- Less of a factor -----			
	NET	Major factor	Factor	NET	Minor factor	Not a factor	Skip.
9/19/22							
All	60	26	34	39	27	12	1
PS parents	68	31	37	31	21	10	1

b. Classroom observations and other performance assessments by school administrators

	---- More of a factor ----			----- Less of a factor -----			
	NET	Major factor	Factor	NET	Minor factor	Not a factor	Skip.
9/19/22							
All	83	34	49	16	14	2	1
PS parents	87	41	46	12	11	1	1

c. Years of teaching experience

	---- More of a factor ----			----- Less of a factor -----			
	NET	Major factor	Factor	NET	Minor factor	Not a factor	Skip.
9/19/22							
All	87	41	46	12	10	2	1
PS parents	87	47	40	11	10	1	2

d. Their level of education and certification

---- More of a factor ---- ----- Less of a factor -----

9/19/22	NET	Major factor	Factor	NET	Minor factor	Not a factor	Skip.
All	89	48	41	11	9	1	1
PS parents	91	55	36	8	7	1	1

e. The cost of living (i.e., inflation)

		---- More of a factor ----		----- Less of a factor -----			
9/19/22	NET	Major factor	Factor	NET	Minor factor	Not a factor	Skip.
All	88	44	44	11	8	3	1
PS parents	91	45	46	8	8	1	1

f. Local housing costs

		---- More of a factor ----		----- Less of a factor -----			
9/19/22	NET	Major factor	Factor	NET	Minor factor	Not a factor	Skip.
All	73	34	40	26	16	10	1
PS parents	80	30	51	19	13	6	*

11. As far as you are aware, how big a problem are teacher shortages in your community's public schools?

		---- More of a problem ----		-- Less or not a problem --			
		A serious problem, but not a crisis		A problem, but not a serious one		Not a problem	Skipped
	NET	A crisis	not a crisis	NET	serious one	problem	
9/19/22							
All	59	16	43	39	29	10	2
PS parents	56	13	43	42	33	9	2

12. Thinking back on your K-12 education, did you have a teacher or coach who positively impacted your life in any of the following ways?

9/19/22 Summary Table:

		Yes	No	Skipped
a. Helped me during a difficult time				
All		48	52	1
PS parents		49	49	2
b. Boosted my self-esteem and made me feel valuable				
All		65	34	1
PS parents		69	30	1
c. Inspired me to dream big and reach for goals I didn't think were possible				
All		55	44	1
PS parents		57	42	1
d. Motivated me to work hard and be self-disciplined				
All		70	29	1
PS parents		74	25	1
e. Taught me how to think critically				
All		68	32	1
PS parents		72	27	1
f. Intervened or advocated on my behalf				
All		43	55	2
PS parents		45	53	2
g. Sparked my interest in my current line of work				
All		35	64	1
PS parents		33	65	2

13. [IF PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT] When you send your (oldest) child to school, how confident are you in the following?

a. He/She/They can be his/her/their genuine self

	--- More confident ---				-- Less/not confident ---			
	NET	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	Skipped
9/19/22	60	20	40	31	9	8	1	*

b. He feels/She feels/They feel supported by teachers

	--- More confident ---				-- Less/not confident ---			
	NET	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	Skipped
9/19/22	55	17	38	35	9	7	3	*

c. He is/She is/They are encouraged to share ideas and participate in class

	--- More confident ---				-- Less/not confident ---			
	NET	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	Skipped
9/19/22	62	22	40	30	8	7	1	*

d. He has/She has/They have good relationships with other students

	--- More confident ---				-- Less/not confident ---			
	NET	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	Skipped
9/19/22	62	20	42	30	8	7	1	*

14. How big of a risk do you think there is that the public school students in your community might experience any of the following while at school?

9/19/22 Summary Table:

	----- Larger risk -----			- Smaller or no -			
	NET	Large	Moderate	NET	Small	None	Skip.
a. Infection from COVID-19							
All	58	24	35	40	30	10	2
PS parents	62	21	40	37	29	8	1
b. A mass shooting event							
All	53	23	30	45	37	8	2
PS parents	53	21	32	46	40	6	1
c. Physical bullying or fights							
All	68	30	38	31	28	3	1
PS parents	68	24	44	32	30	1	*
d. Cyberbullying							
All	74	38	36	24	19	5	1
PS parents	72	27	45	28	20	8	1
e. Sexual harassment from other students							
All	59	21	38	40	34	5	2
PS parents	49	15	35	50	40	10	1
f. Discrimination based on their racial or ethnic background							
All	54	23	31	44	33	12	1
PS parents	51	16	35	49	33	16	*
g. Discrimination based on their gender identity or sexual orientation							
All	57	23	33	42	28	14	1
PS parents	48	13	35	51	29	22	1
h. Discrimination based on their economic status							
All	55	20	35	43	33	10	1
PS parents	49	11	38	51	34	16	*
i. Discrimination based on their English-language capabilities							

All	52	19	32	47	33	14	2
PS parents	39	10	28	60	34	26	1
j. Discrimination based on their learning abilities							
All	58	20	38	41	32	9	1
PS parents	49	16	33	51	33	18	*

15. [IF PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT] Now thinking about your (oldest) child in public school, how big of a risk do you think there is that (he/she/they) might experience any of the following while at school?

9/19/22 Summary Table:

	----- Larger risk -----			- Smaller or no --			
	NET	Large	Moderate	NET	Small	None	Skip.
a. Infection from COVID-19	59	18	41	39	28	11	2
b. A mass shooting event	41	18	23	57	47	10	2
c. Physical bullying or fights	48	18	31	50	39	11	2
d. Cyberbullying	53	14	39	45	31	14	1
e. Sexual harassment from other students	38	10	27	60	43	18	2
f. Discrimination based on their racial or ethnic background	37	13	25	61	31	30	2
g. Discrimination based on their gender identity or sexual orientation	29	9	20	69	30	39	2
h. Discrimination based on their economic status	35	13	22	63	31	32	2
i. Discrimination based on his/her/their English-language capabilities^	26	6	20	74	37	37	0

^Asked among public school parents whose child speaks a language other than English

16. The state grades all public schools on an A, B, C, D, Fail scale. Do you happen to know the A-F grades for any of your community's public schools?

	Aware of the grade	Not aware of the grade	Skipped
9/19/22			
All	32	67	1
PS parents	50	49	*
12/4/19			
All	39	60	1
PS parents	51	47	2

17. [IF AWARE OF THE GRADE] Do you find the letter grade for your local public schools helpful or not helpful in understanding the school's quality?

	---- More helpful ---			----- Less helpful -----			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	Skipped
9/19/22							
All	83	34	48	17	14	3	0
PS parents	81	33	47	19	17	2	0
12/4/19							
All	88	35	53	12	10	2	*
PS parents	87	38	49	13	9	3	0

18. The state letter grades for local public schools are based primarily on the state standardized test known as STAAR. How confident are you that the state letter grades on the quality of local public schools accurately represent the quality of those schools?

	--- More confident ---			----- Less confident -----			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	Skipped
9/19/22							
All	47	7	41	51	37	14	1
PS parents	57	12	44	43	33	9	1
12/4/19^							
All	49	8	41	50	38	12	1
PS parents	60	15	45	38	28	9	2

^"The state letter grades for local public schools are based primarily on standardized test scores."

19. Again thinking about the state standardized test known as STAAR, how confident are you that the STAAR test effectively measures how well a student is learning?

	--- More confident ---			----- Less confident -----			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	Skipped
9/19/22							
All	42	8	34	56	37	19	2
PS parents	53	10	43	45	32	13	2
10/4/21							
All	44	8	36	56	35	21	1
PS parents	52	20	32	48	30	18	*
10/20/20							
All	43	7	36	56	35	21	1
PS parents	45	10	36	55	35	20	0
12/4/19^							
All	37	6	31	60	40	21	2
PS parents	50	9	41	48	28	20	2

^"Now thinking about state standardized tests, how confident are you that state standardized tests effectively measure how well a student is learning?"

20. Would you support or oppose increasing state funding for K-12 public schools to do the following?

a. Provide free meals during school hours to any students who want it

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	Skipped
9/19/22							
All	83	55	27	16	11	6	1
PS parents	89	62	27	10	8	2	1

b. Increase teacher salaries

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	Skipped
9/19/22							
All	89	58	31	10	7	3	1
PS parents	91	58	32	9	7	2	*

c. Assist students with mental health needs

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	Skipped
9/19/22							
All	90	64	27	8	6	2	2
PS parents	94	66	28	6	4	1	*

d. Assist students with physical health needs

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	Skipped
9/19/22							
All	89	53	35	10	8	2	1
PS parents	90	59	31	9	7	2	1

e. Assist students with material needs (clothing, school supplies)

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	Skipped
9/19/22							
All	82	44	37	17	12	5	1
PS parents	84	49	35	16	13	2	*

f. Address pandemic-related learning gaps

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	Skipped
9/19/22							
All	85	49	36	14	9	5	1
PS parents	86	54	32	14	10	3	*

g. Improve building security in schools

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	Skipped
9/19/22							
All	91	62	29	8	6	2	1
PS parents	93	71	22	7	6	1	*

h. Expand career and technical (CTE) training

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	Skipped
9/19/22							
All	95	66	29	4	2	2	1
PS parents	95	62	33	5	3	2	*

i. Offer pre-kindergarten classes for any student whose family wants it

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	Skipped
9/19/22							
All	85	53	32	14	10	5	1
PS parents	88	60	28	12	9	3	*

21. Do you or any of your close friends or relatives work in the public schools? Check all that apply.

	--- 9/19/22 ---	
	All	PS parents
Any (NET)	46	47
Personally:		
Currently a p.s. teacher	1	3
Past p.s. teacher	5	3
Current other p.s. employee	2	4
Past other p.s. employee	4	4
Any of these (NET)	12	14
Family works in p.s.	27	25
Close friend works in p.s.	23	26
None of the above	54	53
Skipped	1	1

22. In the past year, have you done any of the following related to your local public schools? Check all that apply.

	--- 9/19/22 ----	
	All	PS parents
Any (NET)	37	71
Volunteer at events	9	26
Attend a school board meeting	7	17
Donate money or supplies	17	34
Join a parent organization, such as the school's PTA	6	22
Mentor a student	5	7
Work at an organization or non-profit in the field of public education	3	3
Attend a school event (i.e., sports, performing arts, ceremonies)	28	60
Other (See Appendix C)	2	2
None of the above	62	28
Skipped	1	1

23. [IF PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT] If you could send your (oldest) child to any public school, would you send them to the school they now attend or to a different public school?

	Keep your (oldest) child in his/her/their current PS	Send your (oldest) child to a different PS	Skipped
9/19/22	82	18	*

Compare to:

[IF PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT] If other options were available, which of these would be your preference:

	Keep your (oldest) child in (his/her/their) current school	Send your (oldest) child to a diff. school	Other	Skipped
10/4/21	80	17	1	1

24. [IF PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT, PREFERS A DIFFERENT SCHOOL] What aspects of your (oldest) child's current public school would need to change for you to prefer to keep them there?

See Appendix C.

25. In their first year on the job, the average annual salary for a public school teacher in Texas is \$51,628. Do you think this salary is too high, too low or about right for a first-year teacher?

	Too high	About right	Too low	Skipped
9/19/22				
All	5	50	44	1
PS parents	7	45	48	*

26. After 10 years on the job, the average annual salary for a public school teacher in Texas is \$57,676. Do you think this salary is too high, too low or about right for a teacher with 10 years of experience?

Too high	About right	Too low	Skipped
----------	-------------	---------	---------

9/19/22
 All 1 16 80 3
 PS parents 3 16 78 3

27. After 20 years on the job, the average annual salary for a public school teacher in Texas is \$63,093. Do you think this salary is too high, too low or about right for a teacher with 20 years of experience?

	Too high	About right	Too low	Skipped
9/19/22				
All	2	21	74	3
PS parents	3	21	73	4

28. Currently, Texas public schools are required to do the following things. If private schools were to receive state funding, do you think they also should be required to do these things, or not?

9/19/22 Summary Table:

	Should be required	Should not be required	Skipped
a. Publicly report all school finances			
All	88	10	2
PS parents	92	7	1
b. Accept students with a discipline record			
All	60	38	2
PS parents	60	39	1
c. Accept students with special education needs			
All	83	15	2
PS parents	90	9	1
d. Provide special education services			
All	84	14	2
PS parents	91	8	1
e. Administer state standardized tests			
All	70	28	2
PS parents	75	25	1
f. Follow state curriculum guidelines			
All	73	25	2
PS parents	84	14	2

29. Voucher programs allow parents to use tax money to partly pay for tuition at private and religious schools, with no state educational oversight. Would you support or oppose a voucher program in your community if that meant reducing the amount of funds distributed to your local school?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			Skipped
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/19/22							
All	44	16	28	54	27	26	2
PS parents	49	14	35	49	26	23	2
10/20/20							
All	43	14	29	55	28	26	2
PS parents	43	8	35	56	29	26	1