

Parents Defending Education Poll: Parents Support Girls-Only Spaces in Schools, Oppose Parental Exclusion Policies and Grading for Equity

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PRESS RELEASES

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Parents Defending Education (PDE) released new polling on key issues facing schools in 2025 with questions on the role of the Department of Education, school choice, antisemitism, foreign funding in schools, critical race theory, gender ideology and school surveys. As policymakers across the country debate these issues, these numbers shed light on voters' views on these subjects.

The poll, conducted by CRC Research, sampled 1,000 parents with children 18 years old or younger in their household between Dec. 12-18, 2024 and has a margin of error of +/-3.10%.

The poll's topline are available [here](#).

The poll's crosstabs are available [here](#).

Key findings include:

(Q3) 90% of parents **agree that focusing on core subject areas, such as math, reading, writing, science and social studies, would improve the quality of public education**

- 92% of Republican parents, 88% of independent parents, and 91% of Democratic parents agree
- 87% of white parents, 91% of black parents, 100% of Asian parents, and 95% of Hispanic parents agree

(Q4) 52% of parents are in **support of reducing the size and influence of the U.S. Department of Education**

- 67% of Republican parents, 53% of independent parents, and 29% of Democratic parents support reducing the size and influence of the U.S. Department of Education
- 55% of white parents, 37% of black parents, 53% of Asian parents, and 55% of Hispanic parents support reducing the size and influence of the U.S. Department of Education

(Q5A) 77% of parents **support a U.S. Department of Education that allows states to have more flexibility** on how they run their school districts

- 85% of Republican parents, 77% independent parents, and 67% of Democratic parents support a U.S. Department of Education that allows states to have more flexibility on how they run their school districts
- 77% of white parents, 77% of black parents, 72% of Asian parents, and 79% of Hispanic parents support a U.S. Department of Education that allows states to have more flexibility on how they run their school districts

(Q5B) 48% of parents agree (and 50% **disagree**) that the **U.S. Department of Education is appropriately using their resources** to help advance the education of students across America

- 38% of Republican parents, 48% of independent parents, and 68% of Democratic parents agree

that the U.S. Department of Education is appropriately using their resources to help advance the education of students across America

- 43% of white parents, 58% of black parents, 65% of Asian parents, and 49% of Hispanic parents agree that the U.S. Department of Education is appropriately using their resources to help advance the education of students across America

(Q6) 91% of parents **agree that school districts should be required to disclose when they accept money from foreign governments**

- 94% of Republican parents, 90% of independent parents, and 90% of Democratic parents agree that school districts should be required to disclose when they accept money from foreign governments
- 93% of white parents, 91% of black parents, 84% of Asian parents, and 87% of Hispanic parents agree that school districts should be required to disclose when they accept money from foreign governments

(Q8) Only 21% of parents think **K-12 schools are doing a good job at addressing and preventing antisemitism** and Jewish discrimination

- 20% of Republican parents, 19% of independent parents, and 24% of Democratic parents think K-12 schools are doing a good job at addressing and preventing antisemitism and Jewish discrimination
- 18% of white parents, 28% of black parents, 15% of Asian parents, and 22% of Hispanic parents think K-12 schools are doing a good job at addressing and preventing antisemitism and Jewish discrimination

(Q10D) 72% of parents **oppose schools turning to “grading for equity” to address racial disparities in grading.** For example, Black or African American students are not getting as high of grades as White students or Asian students. Part of “grading for equity” is eliminating “zero” as a grade, even when a student assignment is not complete or turned in

- 82% of Republican parents, 72% of independent parents, 57% of Democratic parents oppose schools turning to “grading for equity” to address racial disparities in grading
- 73% of white parents, 74% of black parents, 71% of Asian parents, and 67% of Hispanic parents oppose schools turning to “grading for equity” to address racial disparities in grading

(Q12) 82% of parents **disagree that school administrators should factor in a student’s race when deciding how to discipline** after an offense

- 85% of Republican parents, 84% of independent parents, and 75% of Democratic parents disagree that school school administrators should factor in a student’s race when deciding how to discipline after an offense
- 85% of white parents, 77% of black parents, 69% of Asian parents, and 79% of Hispanic parents disagree that school school administrators should factor in a student’s race when deciding how to discipline after an offense

(Q15) 75% of parents **oppose teachers, counselors, school nurses, classroom aides, coaches or administration withholding information about a child’s gender identity from parents**

- 88% of Republican parents, 72% of independent parents, and 58% of Democratic parents oppose teachers, counselors, school nurses, classroom aides, coaches or administration withholding information about a child’s gender identity from parents
- 76% of white parents, 79% of black parents, 69% of Asian parents, and 73% of Hispanic parents oppose teachers, counselors, school nurses, classroom aides, coaches or administration

withholding information about a child's gender identity from parents

(Q21C) 78% of parents **oppose biological males, who identify as females, being allowed to participate on girls' sports teams**

- 86% of Republican parents, 80% of independent parents, and 60% of Democratic parents oppose biological males, who identify as females, being allowed to participate on girls' sports teams
- 75% of white parents, 82% of black parents, 88% of Asian parents, and 83 of Hispanic parents oppose biological males, who identify as females, being allowed to participate on girls' sports teams

(Q21D) 77% of parents **oppose biological males, who identify as females, being allowed to use female bathrooms and locker rooms** and vice versa

- 92% of Republican parents, 75% of independent parents, and 58% of Democratic parents oppose biological males, who identify as females, being allowed to use female bathrooms and locker rooms and vice versa
- 75% of white parents, 85% of black parents, 71% of Asian parents, and 78% of Hispanic parents oppose biological males, who identify as females, being allowed to use female bathrooms and locker rooms and vice versa

Statements from PDE Leadership

Nicole Neily, President of Parents Defending Education:

"These results highlight that parents are dissatisfied with a number of elements of the modern American education system – and that there is broad-based consensus that it's time for schools to get back to basics. For far too long, federal bureaucrats have sacrificed the needs of students and families in order to appease unions' and activists' insatiable demands for money and power. January 20th can't come soon enough."

Erika Sanzi, Director of Outreach at Parents Defending Education:

"This poll shows overwhelming opposition to school personnel withholding information from parents about their child's gender identity at school. This matters because the policies propagated by activist groups, the National School Boards Association and teachers' unions all allow for —and often require— the deliberate deception of parents by school staff if that is what the minor child wants. It's refreshing to see even more confirmation that people think this ubiquitous trend of facilitating gender transitions behind the backs of parents is complete madness and needs to stop."

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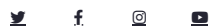
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