

US Education Culture Poll

n=808 active voters

Margin of Sampling Error +/- 3.45%

April 9-19, 2021

Weighted on mode of contact, party affiliation, age, Latino ethnicity, level of education

Hello is ____ there? Hi this is ____ with Competitive Edge Research, a national polling firm and we're interviewing folks across the country to ask your opinion on education issues. We are not selling anything. Most people find it interesting, and all your answers will be kept strictly confidential. Please let me begin by asking...

- Q1. Do you believe things in the United States are heading in the right direction or has it gotten off on the wrong track?

	%
Right track, strongly	10.9
Right track, somewhat	21.9
Wrong track, somewhat	10.4
Wrong track, strongly	50.3
Mixed (<i>Not read</i>)	0.4
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	5.9
Refused (<i>Not read</i>)	0.1

- Q2. How much attention, if any, do you pay to what is being taught at kindergarten through 12th grade schools in your area?

	%
A lot	41.9
Only some	23.8
Not much	19.0
None at all	12.8
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	2.5

- Q3. And what grade -- A for excellent, B for good, C for only fair, D for poor or F for failing -- would you give the kindergarten through 12th grade schools in your area for the job they are doing educating students?

	%
A for excellent	8.6
B for good	31.2
C for only fair	25.9
D for poor	12.8
F for failing	8.4
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	13.2

Please tell me whether you have heard of the following and, if so, whether you have a favorable or unfavorable impression. If you haven't heard of them, or have no opinion, let me know because that's fine, too. (Q4-Q11 were randomized)

	Very Fav %	Some Fav %	Some Unfav %	Very Unfav %	Heard Uns %	Not Heard %
Q4. The Black Lives Matter movement	24.0	20.4	10.2	37.9	6.5	1.0
Q5. Local schoolteachers	36.1	38.0	10.5	5.9	8.8	0.7
Q6. Capitalism	35.9	25.9	14.8	13.4	8.3	1.8
Q7. Socialism	7.6	20.7	10.7	50.5	8.2	2.3
Q8. Cancel Culture	1.7	8.9	16.4	46.3	12.7	14.0
Q9. Abraham Lincoln	61.3	28.1	4.0	1.4	4.3	0.8
Q10. Martin Luther King	67.7	24.4	4.3	1.3	2.2	0.1
Q11. The Founding Fathers	56.3	25.4	6.3	4.0	5.7	2.2

Here are some things administrators at kindergarten through 12th grade schools in your area could do. Please tell me whether you know what each one is, and, if so, how important it is that administrators implement each of them. (Q12-Q19 were randomized)

	Ext Imp %	Very Imp %	Some Imp %	Not that Imp %	Not at all Imp %	Don't Know %	UNS %	REF %
Q12. Promote social equity in school	28.0	21.3	15.7	7.2	16.7	8.8	2.2	0.2
Q13. Prepare students for the 21st century workforce	58.2	29.8	7.9	1.3	0.5	1.8	0.5	0.0
Q14. Place more emphasis on race and gender	5.6	15.1	18.5	18.1	37.3	2.6	2.6	0.2
Q15. Teach students how to reason and think well	69.6	22.3	5.3	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.1
Q16. Institute changes based on Critical Race Theory	7.4	11.1	13.1	7.4	30.9	26.9	3.1	0.1
Q17. Teach students to engage in political activism and protest	7.5	17.3	25.4	16.4	30.1	1.1	2.0	0.2
Q18. Teach students that their race is the most important thing about them	2.7	7.0	15.0	19.1	50.6	3.3	2.0	0.2

- Q19. And here are the opinions of two people when it comes to how social studies should be taught in local kindergarten through 12th grade schools. Which comes closest to your own opinion? (*Opinions were rotated*)

Smith says: Because learning how to think through issues is important, students should be exposed to different opinions for and against an idea. Teachers should provide students with more than one perspective.

Jones says: Because social issues are so important and believing the wrong ideas is so harmful, students should only be exposed to ideas the teacher or the school believes are correct.

Does the opinion of Smith or Jones come closest to your own opinion?

	%
Smith, strongly	65.0
Smith, somewhat	22.0
Jones, somewhat	4.0
Jones, strongly	2.3
Neither (<i>Not read</i>)	0.9
Both (<i>Not read</i>)	0.6
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	5.1

- Q20. Are you the parent or guardian of at least one school-age child, a child that has graduated from high school, a child who will attend elementary school or are you not a parent?

	%
School-age child	16.3
High school graduate	36.6
Child who will attend elementary school	3.2
Not a parent or guardian	30.3
Both school-age and graduate (<i>Not read</i>)	7.3
Both school-age and future student (<i>Not read</i>)	2.7
Both graduate and future student (<i>Not read</i>)	1.0
All three (<i>Not read</i>)	2.5

- Q21. Does that/Will that/Did that child normally attend... (*n=563 parents*)

	%
A public school	77.8
A private school	10.2
Or are they homeschooled	10.0
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	2.0

(Q22-Q24 were randomized)

- Q22. Has the local kindergarten through 12th grade schools' emphasis on issues of race, gender, and activism increased, decreased or remained the same compared to two years ago?

	%
Increased a lot	31.1
Increased a little	20.9
Remained the same	19.3
Decreased a little	1.4
Decreased a lot	0.8
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	26.5

- Q23. Do you think the local kindergarten through 12th grade schools have generally become more political or less political in the past two years or has that not changed?

	%
A lot more political	36.8
A little more political	20.1
No change	21.1
A little less political	1.5
A lot less political	2.1
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	18.4

- Q24. Do you think teachers in local kindergarten through 12th grade classrooms generally present a liberal bias, a conservative bias or are they unbiased? (*Answer choices were rotated*)

	%
Liberal, very	21.7
Liberal, somewhat	21.7
Unbiased	21.6
Conservative, somewhat	10.9
Conservative, very	3.3
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	20.8

Some schools are changing the way they teach to incorporate more social, cultural and race-based topics. Please tell me whether schools in your area should... (*Q25-Q35 were randomized*)

- Q25. Teach that White people are inherently privileged, while Black and other people of color are inherently oppressed and victimized. Should schools in your area teach that or not? (*n=641*)

	%
Teach that, strongly	9.3
Teach that, somewhat	12.4
Not teach that, somewhat	10.1
Not teach that, strongly	63.6
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	4.6

Q26. Assign White students the status of “privileged” and assign non-white students the status of “oppressed.” Should schools in your area do that or not? (n=491)

	%
Teach that, strongly	3.4
Teach that, somewhat	2.3
Not teach that, somewhat	9.9
Not teach that, strongly	78.4
Unsure (Not read)	5.9

Q27. Teach students that America was founded on racism and remains structurally racist today, and that racism is the cause of all differences in outcomes and achievement between racial groups. Should schools in your area teach that or not? ? (n=528)

	%
Teach that, strongly	14.6
Teach that, somewhat	11.4
Not teach that, somewhat	10.4
Not teach that, strongly	58.3
Unsure (Not read)	5.4

Q28. Teach students with lighter skin color or who are boys or who are taller or slimmer that they are natural oppressors and teach students with darker skin color or who are girls or who are shorter or heavier that they are naturally oppressed. Should schools in your area teach that or not? (n=506)

	%
Teach that, strongly	1.8
Teach that, somewhat	4.2
Not teach that, somewhat	7.4
Not teach that, strongly	81.2
Unsure (Not read)	5.4

Q29. Teach students that achieving racial justice and equality between racial groups requires discriminating against people based on their Whiteness. Should schools in your area teach that or not? (n=508)

	%
Teach that, strongly	3.1
Teach that, somewhat	3.2
Not teach that, somewhat	7.0
Not teach that, strongly	77.0
Unsure (Not read)	9.6

Q30. Teach students that the United States was stolen from other people and inform them the school they attend and the houses they live in are built on stolen land. Should schools in your area teach that or not? (n=545)

	%
Teach that, strongly	22.8
Teach that, somewhat	13.4
Not teach that, somewhat	11.5
Not teach that, strongly	45.5
Unsure (Not read)	6.8

Q31. Teach students that there is no such thing as biological sex, only gender preference, and that concepts like male and female are outdated and people should choose whatever gender they prefer for themselves. Should schools in your area teach that or not? (n=522)

	%
Teach that, strongly	8.7
Teach that, somewhat	9.0
Not teach that, somewhat	11.5
Not teach that, strongly	63.9
Unsure (Not read)	6.9

Q32. Create student clubs based on race or ethnicity and encourage students to join them to explore their racial or ethnic identity and discuss racial issues among members of their own race. Should schools in your area create those student clubs or not? (n=500)

	%
Teach that, strongly	13.6
Teach that, somewhat	15.6
Not teach that, somewhat	14.4
Not teach that, strongly	49.0
Unsure (Not read)	7.4

Q33. Promote social justice political activism in the classroom by making protest signs and banners, conducting walkouts, and awarding course credit to students who engage in political protests and activism. Should schools in your area promote that or not? (n=480)

	%
Teach that, strongly	9.4
Teach that, somewhat	6.9
Not teach that, somewhat	15.2
Not teach that, strongly	64.4
Unsure (Not read)	4.1

Q34. Change US history classes so that they focus on race and power and promote social justice political issues. Should schools in your area change in that way or not? (n=531)

	%
Teach that, strongly	14.4
Teach that, somewhat	15.7
Not teach that, somewhat	8.5
Not teach that, strongly	50.6
Unsure (Not read)	10.8

Q35. Hire diversity, equity, and inclusion consultants or administrators to train teachers, school officials, and students in Critical Race Theory and social justice causes. Should schools in your area do that or not? (n=499)

	%
Teach that, strongly	21.9
Teach that, somewhat	14.9
Not teach that, somewhat	9.4
Not teach that, strongly	42.2
Unsure (Not read)	11.6

Thanks.

Q36p. Is your child attending a school that is teaching social, cultural and race-based topics in the ways we've discussed, is your child attending a school that is teaching those things in the traditional way or are you not sure? (n=233 parents of school children)

	%
Is being taught	12.2
Traditional way	45.0
Unsure (Not read)	42.8

Q37px. Do you generally feel your child's education has improved or worsened since the school began teaching in the ways we've discussed (n=29 parents of school children being taught in the new way)

	%
Improved, a lot	13.9
Improved, a little	14.5
Worsened, a little	1.6
Worsened, a lot	50.3
Unsure (Not read)	19.8

Q37py. Suppose your child was attending a school that began teaching social, cultural and race-based topics in the ways we've discussed. Would you generally feel your child's education was improving or worsening? (*n=205 parents of school children not being taught in the new way*)

	%
Improving, a lot	10.7
Improving, a little	12.1
Worsening, a little	9.5
Worsening, a lot	56.6
Mixed (<i>Not read</i>)	0.0
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	11.0

Q36np. Suppose you had a school-age child who was attending a school that began teaching social, cultural and race-based topics in the ways we've discussed. Would you generally feel your child's education was improving or worsening? (*n=575 non-parents of school children*)

	%
Improving, a lot	17.3
Improving, a little	19.5
Worsening, a little	8.1
Worsening, a lot	42.7
Mixed (<i>Not read</i>)	0.0
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	12.4

Q38. And would you consider or would you not consider removing that child from that school and finding an alternative either in homeschooling or at another school that taught social, cultural and race-based topics more traditionally? (*n=541 respondents who believe new way of teaching worsens education*)

	%
Would consider, definitely	50.8
Would consider, probably	19.5
Would not consider, probably	7.9
Would not consider, definitely	6.8
Depends (<i>Not read</i>)	2.0
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	12.9

Q39. And if a school board member in your area voted to shift from traditional social studies to teaching social, cultural and race-based topics in the ways we've discussed, would you be more inclined to reelect them, less inclined to reelect them or would shifting to teaching social, cultural and race-based topics in the ways we've discussed make no difference to your vote?

	%
More inclined, definitely	16.9
More inclined, probably	15.3
Less inclined, probably	12.4
Less inclined, definitely	45.3
Makes no difference	0.5
Depends (<i>Not read</i>)	0.9
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	8.7

Q40. The shift to teaching social, cultural, and race-based topics in the ways we've discussed may be debated in your state. In general, would you want your governor to support these changes or oppose these changes?

	%
Support, strongly	19.2
Support, somewhat	13.9
Oppose, somewhat	11.3
Oppose, strongly	45.6
Depends (<i>Not read</i>)	1.8
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	8.2

And I have a couple demographic questions to ensure we have a representative sample...

Q41. Of the national newscasts on cable channels, which do you watch most, if any? (*List was read and randomized only if asked*)

	%
Fox News	17.1
MSNBC	6.7
CNN	14.3
Headline News	2.0
One America News or OAN	4.3
Al Jazeera	0.1
BBC America	2.2
Other (<i>Not read</i>)	19.4
None (<i>Not read</i>)	29.8
Varies/Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	3.9
Refused (<i>Not read</i>)	0.2

Q41.5 And when it comes to partisan elections do you currently...

	%
Always vote for Republicans	15.3
Mostly Vote for Republicans, but sometimes vote for Democrats	20.2
Vote for both candidates of both parties equally	20.1
Mostly vote for Democrats, but sometimes vote for Republicans	15.6
Always Vote for Democrats	19.5
Vote for minor party candidates	3.6
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	5.6

Q42. When it comes to social issues and politics do you consider yourself to be...

	%
Very liberal	10.1
Somewhat liberal	22.6
Somewhat conservative	24.5
Very conservative	23.1
Somewhere in between (<i>Not read</i>)	14.9
Unsure (<i>Not read</i>)	4.5
Refused (<i>Not read</i>)	0.2

Q43. And what is the last level of education you have completed?

	%
Less than a high school diploma	2.3
High school	16.7
Some college	23.0
College degree	43.0
Advanced degree	15.0
Refused (<i>Not read</i>)	0.0

Q44. In what year were you born?

	%
18-24	6.6
25-34	13.1
35-44	20.3
45-54	13.5
55-64	24.5
65-74	11.1
75+	10.9
Average	51.4

Q45. And were you born in . . .

	%
In the US	95.8
In a foreign country	4.1
Refused (<i>Not read</i>)	0.1

Thanks for your time and your opinion counts, goodbye.

46. And is your ethnic heritage mainly...

	%
White	64.1
Latino	8.1
Asian-American	2.0
African-American	6.8
Native-American	1.7
Multi-ethnic	7.8
Something else	8.2
Refused (<i>Not read</i>)	1.4

47. Please stop me when I reach the category closest to your household's total annual income...

	%
less than \$20,000	5.3
\$20 to 40,000	15.8
\$40 to 60,000	11.7
\$60 to 80,000	13.8
\$80 to 100,000	15.0
\$100,000 to \$150,000	14.8
more than \$150,000	9.1
Refused (<i>Not read</i>)	14.4

Thanks for your time and your opinion counts, goodbye.

48. GENDER

	%
Male	46.9
Female	53.1

49. LATINO

	%
Yes	10.5
No	89.5

50.	TYPE OF RESIDENCE		%
	Home		64.0
	Apartment		17.5
51.	URBANICITY		%
	Urban		80.0
	Semi-Urban		16.1
	Rural		3.9
52.	TIME ZONE		%
	Eastern		44.4
	Central		29.7
	Mountain		9.6
	Pacific/Alaska/Hawaii		16.3
53.	US CENSUS REGION		%
	Region 1 (Northeast)		13.0
	Region 2 (Midwest)		26.3
	Region 3 (South)		34.8
	Region 4 (West)		25.9