

Education in the United States: Choice, Control, and Quality

**Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research
With funding from The Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago**

Interviews: 4/20-23/2017

1,036 adults

Margin of error: +/- 4.0 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

Q1. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling education?

If don't know, skipped, or refused in Q1

Q1A. If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Donald Trump is handling education?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Approve/lean toward approve NET	40
Approve	39
Lean toward approving	1
Do not lean either way	1
Lean toward disapprove/disapprove NET	58
Lean toward disapproving	1
Disapprove	57
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,036</i>

Q2. Which level of government should have the largest role in deciding how public schools are run?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Federal government	16
State government	47
Local government	36
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,036</i>

Q3. How confident are you that increased funding would improve the public schools in your community?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Extremely/very confident NET	34
Extremely confident	14
Very confident	20
Somewhat confident	38
Not so confident/not confident at all NET	27
Not so confident	17
Not confident at all	10
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N= 1,036

DPARENT. Are you the parent or guardian of a child under 18 years of age, or not?

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Yes	34
No	66
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N= 1,036

If yes in DPARENT

DP1. How many children do you have who are currently in kindergarten through 12th grade?

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
0	19
1	39
2	26
3	11
4	3
5 or more	1
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N= 328

Q4. How would you rate the quality of education in...

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER; ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017	Excellent/ good NET	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor/ very poor NET	Poor	Very poor	Don't know	SKP/ REF
<i>If at least one child in DP1 The school your [If more than one child in DP1 insert "oldest"] child attends (N=273)</i>	67	26	41	27	5	3	2	1	-
Your local public schools	45	12	33	31	18	13	6	5	1
Public schools in the U.S. generally	26	3	23	43	22	16	7	9	*
Private schools in your area	59	21	38	14	4	3	1	23	1
Private schools in the U.S. generally	55	14	42	15	5	4	1	24	*
Charter schools in your area	34	8	26	24	8	5	3	34	1
Charter schools in the U.S. generally	34	7	27	26	7	5	2	34	*

N=1,036

Q5. How good a job do your local public schools do in...

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER; ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017	Excellent/ good NET	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor/ very poor NET	Poor	Very poor	DK	SKP/ REF
Preparing students for college	41	9	32	33	19	14	6	6	*
Preparing students to be good citizens	34	9	25	33	27	18	9	6	*
Preparing students for the workforce	33	7	26	33	27	19	8	6	*

N=1,036

Q6. How much have you heard or read about...

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER; ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017	A lot/ Some NET	A lot	Some	Only a little/Nothing at all NET	Only a little	Nothing at all	DK	SKP/ REF
Charter schools	42	11	31	58	30	28	*	*
School voucher programs	33	9	25	66	31	35	*	*

N=1,036

Q7. Would you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose...

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER; ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017	Strongly/ somewhat favor NET	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Somewhat/ strongly oppose NET	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK	SKP/ REF
A. Opening more public charter schools, that is, public schools that function independently of local school district control as long as they maintain certain standards set by the state government	47	16	31	30	23	12	10	1	*
B. Giving low income parents tax-funded vouchers they can use to help pay for tuition for their children to attend private or religious schools of their choice instead of public schools	43	19	24	21	35	16	19	1	1

N=1,036

If strongly or somewhat favor in Q7B

Q8A. What if that meant the public schools in your community would receive less money, then would you favor or oppose giving low income parents tax-funded vouchers they can use to help pay for tuition for their children to attend private or religious schools of their choice instead of public schools?

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Strongly/somewhat favor NET	51
Strongly favor	21
Somewhat favor	30
Neither favor nor oppose	19
Somewhat/strongly oppose NET	29
Somewhat oppose	18
Strongly oppose	12
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

451

If somewhat or strongly oppose in Q7B

Q8B. What if that meant that children from less well-off families in your community might not be able to attend schools of their choice, then would you favor or oppose giving low income parents tax-funded vouchers they can use to help pay for tuition for their children to attend private or religious schools of their choice instead of public schools?

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Strongly/somewhat favor NET	13
Strongly favor	3
Somewhat favor	10
Neither favor nor oppose	13
Somewhat/strongly oppose NET	74
Somewhat oppose	36
Strongly oppose	38
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	-

N=

380

Q7B/Q8A/Q8B COMBINED

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Strongly/somewhat favor vouchers NET	43
<i>What if public schools would receive less money?</i>	
Still favor	22
Neither favor nor oppose	8
Now oppose	13
Neither favor nor oppose	21
Somewhat/strongly oppose vouchers NET	35
<i>What if less well-off children don't have choice of school?</i>	
Still oppose	26
Neither favor nor oppose	5
Now favor	4
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,036

Q9. Which of the following comes closest to your opinion on school vouchers?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Private schools that accept tax-funded vouchers should be required to meet the same educational standards as public schools	70
Private schools that accept tax-funded vouchers should be allowed to set their own educational standards	27
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N= 1,036

Q10. Which of the following comes closest to your opinion on charter schools?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Charter schools should be required to meet the same educational standards as other public schools	69
Charter schools should be allowed to set their own educational standards	29
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N= 1,036

Q11. Would you say parents in [INSERT ITEM] currently have too much, too little, or just about the right amount of choice when deciding where their children should attend school?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017	Too much	Just about right	Too little	DK	SKP/REF
Your community	4	55	39	1	1
Your state	4	56	37	2	1
The United States	8	49	40	2	1

N=1,036

Q12. Which of the following systems would you prefer public schools use to determine which school children attend?

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Preference is given to children living within the boundaries of their neighborhood school, and those who would prefer to attend a different public school have a lower chance of getting a spot	67
Lotteries are used to determine which public school each child attends, and children are not necessarily guaranteed a spot in their own neighborhood school	8
Admission to each public school is determined by academic performance, specific skills or other criteria set by the school, and children are not necessarily guaranteed a spot in their own neighborhood school	23
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,036

Q13. In general, do you think African-American, Latino, and other minority children get a better education than white children in your community, a worse education, or is it about the same?

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Better	3
Worse	25
About the same	70
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,036

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent or none of these?

If Democrat in PID1

PIDa. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or a moderate Democrat?

If Republican in PID1

PIDb. Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or a moderate Republican?

If Independent, None of these, or Don't Know/Skip/Refused in PID1

PIDi. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

	AP-NORC 3/23-27/2017
Democrat NET	47
Strong Democrat	16
Moderate Democrat	21
Lean Democrat	10
Independent/None – Don't lean	18
Republican NET	35
Lean Republican	12
Moderate Republican	14
Strong Republican	9
Unknown	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,036</i>

If at least one child in kindergarten through 12th grade in DP1

D4. Are any of your children attending a [INSERT ITEM], or not?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017	Yes	No	DK	SKP/REF
Traditional public school	79	21	*	*
Private or religious school	8	90	*	1
Charter school	9	90	*	1
<i>N=272</i>				

D5. Which one of the following best describes where you live?

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Urban area	27
Suburban area	46
Rural area	26
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N= 1,036

AGE

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
18-24	12
25-34	19
35-44	14
45-54	17
55-64	18
65-74	13
75+	7

N= 1,036

GENDER

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Male	48
Female	52

N= 1,036

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
White	64
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	8

N= 1,036

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Married	48
Widowed	5
Divorced	11
Separated	2
Never married	28
Living with partner	7
<i>N</i> =	1,036

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Employed	52
Not employed	48
<i>N</i> =	1,036

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Less than a high school diploma	12
High school graduate or equivalent	29
Some college	33
College graduate or above	26
<i>N</i> =	1,036

INCOME

	AP-NORC 4/20-23/2017
Under \$10,000	6
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	12
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	17
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	15
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	14
\$150,000 or more	7

N=

1,036

Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from The Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago. Data were collected using AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC at the University of Chicago's probability based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between April 20 and 23, 2017, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. All interviews were conducted in English by professional interviewers who were carefully trained on the specific survey for this study. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,036 completed the survey—852 via the web and 184 via telephone. The final stage completion rate is 30.6 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 34.4 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 94.7 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 10.0 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.0 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any non-coverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2016 Current Population Survey. The weighted data, which reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over, were used for all analyses.

For more information, email info@apnorc.org.

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is the world's essential news organization, bringing fast, unbiased news to all media platforms and formats.
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world.

Education in the United States: Choice, Control, and Quality

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

The founding principles of The AP-NORC Center include a mandate to carefully preserve and protect the scientific integrity and objectivity of NORC and the journalistic independence of AP. All work conducted by the Center conforms to the highest levels of scientific integrity to prevent any real or perceived bias in the research. All of the work of the Center is subject to review by its advisory committee to help ensure it meets these standards. The Center will publicize the results of all studies and make all datasets and study documentation available to scholars and the public.