2024 Survey of Floridians' Support for Public Education

In December 2023, Ipsos conducted a survey of 1,127 Floridians, including parents and the general adult population, on behalf of the Southern Poverty Law Center. The survey found that most Floridians believe quality K–12 education is a right and that the state should increase its investment in public education and allow professional educators to guide curriculum free from political influence.

Key Findings

- **About four in five** Floridians (83% of the general adult population and 85% of parents) say K-12 education is a right

- **Ninety-two percent** of Florida parents and 90% of the general adult population want public school curriculum created by education professionals

- **Eighty-seven percent** of Florida parents and 85% of the general adult population support increasing funding to public schools

- More than half (53%) of the general adult population and 43% of parents say they “do not know” whether Florida charter and private schools have to offer the same accommodations to children with disabilities as traditional public schools

Findings on School Curricula, Standards and Parent Involvement

- **Eighty-seven percent** of Florida parents and 81% of the general adult population in Florida say it is very important to ensure all young people in Florida have a chance to get a good education

- **Sixty percent** of Florida parents and 58% of the general adult population say it is very important that K-12 education be guided by established best practices, and that educators should have at least a college degree and a teaching credential (60% and 63%, respectively)

- **Sixty-six percent** of the Florida general adult population and 64% of parents say it is very important that K–12 education has clear guidelines and standards

- **Forty-two percent** of the general adult population and 37% of parents ranked young people being unprepared after graduation as their chief concern regarding public education, followed by restrictions or bans on what is taught in the classroom at 35% and 31% respectively

  - Gun violence ranked third among their concerns (35% — general adult population; 31% — parents)

- Most of the respondents, **65% overall**, say it is very important that K–12 education is transparent to parents and guardians about what is being taught in schools

- Just **twenty-two percent** of Florida parents and 14% of the general adult population support appointing political figures with little educational background to set education policy in Florida
Findings on Access to Schools, Books and Other Materials

- **Nine in ten** Floridians say that they support free access to high-quality K–12 education in Florida
- **Ninety-two percent** of parents and 90% of the general adult population support having public school curriculum created by education professionals
- **Only 16%** of the general adult population and 19% of parents support allowing any parent to remove books from a school for any reason
- **About seventy-five percent** say it is more important that children have access to books and information that challenges their thinking or their personal experiences; only **one in five** say it is more important that children only have access to books that all parents in the district deem acceptable
- **About seventy percent** of Floridians say that teaching critical thinking skills requires diverse perspectives — even those that make some uncomfortable — to be done well