



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

4 in 5

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

92%

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

87%

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

53%

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

42%

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

3rd

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

Findings on School Curricula, Standards and Parent Involvement



87%

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

60%

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**)

66%

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

65%

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

22%

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

92%

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

16%

Only 16% of the general adult population and **19%** of parents support allowing any parent to remove books from a school for any reason

75%

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

70%

About seventy percent of Floridians say that teaching critical thinking skills requires diverse perspectives — even those that make some uncomfortable — to be done well