

MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: ROBERT BLIZZARD, UpONE INSIGHTS (R)
BRIAN STRYKER, IMPACT RESEARCH (D)
RE: NATIONAL POLLING



A recent bipartisan national survey provides insights into American attitudes towards K-12 public education. Voters indicate concern as less than half of students are not at grade level in reading and math and are not being adequately prepared for the future workforce. Frustrated by these challenges, Americans want bold changes in K-12 education. The results below can help policymakers, school leaders, educators, and parents understand and prioritize the changes American voters want to see.

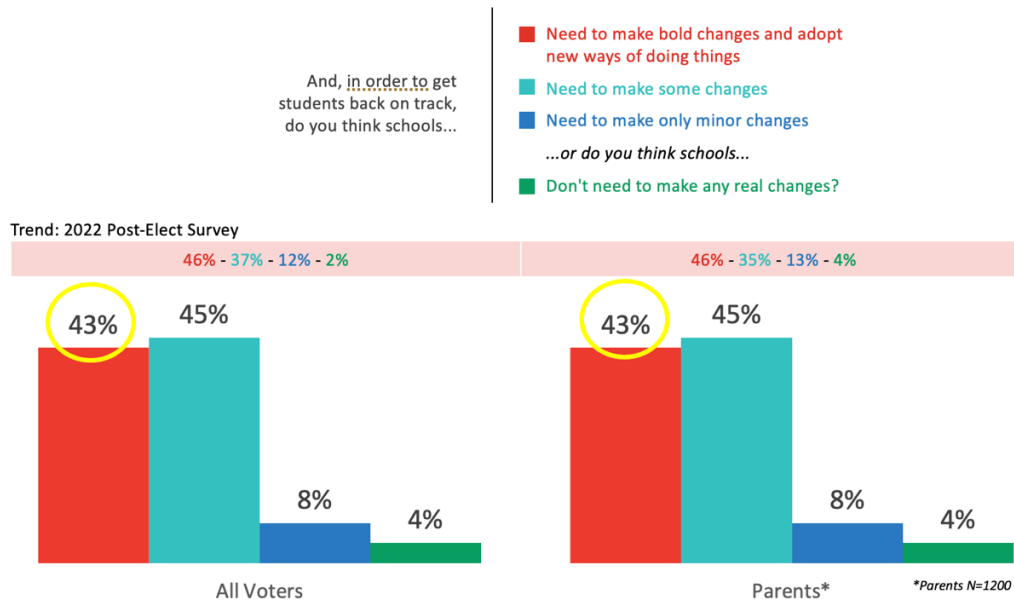
Survey conducted August 14-25, 2024. 2,000 voters and 1,200 parents were interviewed via online sample, yielding an overall credibility interval of ± 2.5 percentage points.

KEY FINDINGS

- Both voters and parents point to children being well behind previous generations when it comes to reading and math.
 - 61% of voters say we are worse off in reading than previous generations. 55% of parents say we are worse off.
 - 61% of voters says we are worse off in math than previous generations. 58% of parents believe the same.
- There is significant concern that students are not being adequately prepared for the future:

% Agree - % Disagree	Voters	Parents
K-12 public schools are not adequately preparing students for the demands of the modern workforce.	82% - 18%	78% - 22%
K-12 public schools are not preparing students to be adaptable and resilient in a rapidly changing world.	81% - 19%	82% - 18%
K-12 public schools are not providing sufficient career guidance and exploration opportunities.	78% - 22%	79% - 21%
K-12 public schools are not effectively preparing students for future technological advancements and the digital economy.	75% - 25%	72% - 28%

- **There continues to be considerable appetite for BOLD change in education.** More than 40% of both voters and parents still express the need for bold changes and adopting new ways of doing things to get schools back on track. In 2022, this number was 46% suggesting that the demand for bold change remains high.



- **Voters and parents want every student on track and at grade level in reading and math, more career education and real-world learning opportunities, and more high-quality teachers. The top 5 changes they want to see are:**
 - **Ensuring every child is on track** and at grade level in reading, writing, and math (voters 48%, parents 47%).
 - **Offering more career education and real-world learning opportunities** such as internships or apprenticeships funding (46% voters, 46% parents).
 - **Addressing teacher shortages and large class sizes** by hiring and retaining more high-quality teachers (43% voters, 44% parents).
 - **Improving security and safety** on school grounds to protect students and teachers (40% voters, 38% parents).
 - **Providing more counseling and mental health services** for students (40% voters, 39% parents).
- **Democrats have re-taken a modest advantage over Republicans on being most trusted on the issue of education. Yet, Democrats have not fully regained their partisan advantage post-COVID.** Fully 55% of voters say they trust “the Democratic Party” and 45% say they trust “the Republican Party” on handling issues related to K-12 education. In our post-election research following the 2022 Election, it was 45%-45%. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Democrats enjoyed a much stronger advantage on the issue than ten points.

- **Voters indicate they will cross party lines on the education issue alone.** By a 57%-43% margin, Americans agree that, *“In the future, I would be willing to cross party lines to vote for a political party I have not supported in the past as a result of their positions on education.”* This includes nearly three-quarters of independent voters (72%).