

**The MassINC Polling Group
The Education Trust
2023 Fall K-12 Parent Survey**

Topline Results
Statewide Survey of 1,539 K-12 Parents in Massachusetts
Field dates: April 10 – April 30, 2023

What grade(s) is/are your child(ren) currently in? **ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. PROBE IF NEEDED:** and your other children?

Kindergarten	20%
First	13%
Second	10%
Third	14%
Fourth	11%
Fifth	14%
Sixth	14%
Seventh	13%
Eighth	13%
Ninth	13%
Tenth	13%
Eleventh	10%
Twelfth	10%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

Which of the following best describes the school where your child(ren) is/are enrolled this year? **ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.**

A public school run by a school district	84%
A public charter school	8%
A parochial (pah-row-kee-ul) or Catholic school	6%
A non-Catholic private or independent school	6%
Home schooling	3%
Another format	2%
Don't Know / Refused	<1%

IF HAVE MORE THAN ONE CHILD READ THE FOLLOWING. OTHERWISE SKIP THIS DIRECTION AND DO NOT SPECIFY GRADE LEVEL IN THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. You mentioned you had a child in **SELECT GRADE LEVEL FOR RANDOM CHILD**. The next several questions will be about this child's school.

First, which of the following best describes the school where your **GRADE LEVEL** child is enrolled this year?

A public school run by a school district	81%
A public charter school	6%
A parochial (pah-row-kee-ul) or Catholic school	5%
A non-Catholic private or independent school	5%
Home school	2%
Another format	2%
Don't Know / Refused	<1%

Students are often graded on the quality of their work using the letters A, B, C, D, and F. Suppose your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school was graded in the same way. Considering all parts of the school experience, such as communications, academic support, curriculum, counselors, teachers, extracurriculars, and so on, how would you grade your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school?

A	38%
B	39%
C	16%
D	4%
F	1%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

Thinking about the letter grade you just gave to your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school, what were you thinking of in particular when you gave the grade you did? **OPEN-END, RECORD VERBATIM**

School resources (academic support, shortages, AP, extracurriculars, etc.)	21%
Teacher/Administration Performance	20%
General positive/negative comments	20%
Workload/Curriculum	13%
Communication/Support among Staff and Parents	12%
Grades/Student Performance	11%
Individualized Attention/Meeting child's needs	7%
School safety	4%
Other (N/A, IDK, lack of diversity, politics, location, environment etc.)	12%

Thinking about your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school this year, overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the quality of the education your child is receiving?

Very satisfied	50%
Somewhat satisfied	37%
Somewhat dissatisfied	8%
Very dissatisfied	5%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

Does your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school offer extracurricular activities outside of school hours, like music, sports, art, or other activities?

Yes	80%
No	16%
Don't Know / Refused	5%

ASK IF SCHOOL OFFERS EXTRACURRICULAR

Do you face any of the following barriers to accessing your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s extracurricular activities offered by the school? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. ROTATE ORDER**

Transportation	27%
Cost	24%
Time of day	28%
Other (specify):	18%
Don’t Know / Refused	27%

Thinking of the extracurricular activities at your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s school, would you say they offer more activities, fewer activities, or about the same amount compared to before COVID?

More	20%
Fewer	21%
Same amount	48%
Don’t Know / Refused	10%

In your view, should your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s school offer more activities, fewer activities, or about the same amount as they do today?

More	39%
Fewer	9%
Same amount	46%
Don’t Know / Refused	6%

Does your **GRADE LEVEL** child have an Individualized Education Plan, sometimes called an IEP?
PRONOUNCE ACRONYM I-E-P.

Yes	34%
No	58%
Don’t Know / Refused	8%

Does your **GRADE LEVEL** child receive services for English Language Learners, sometimes called ELL?
PRONOUNCE ACRONYM E-L-L

Yes	16%
No	77%
Don’t Know / Refused	6%

ASK IF CHILD RECEIVES ELL SERVICES

You mentioned that your child is an English Language Learner. What type of language program is your child in?

English Immersion, meaning your child learns only in English	69%
Bilingual, meaning your child learns both in English and in their first language, with other English learners only	21%
Dual language, meaning your child learns half in their first language and half in English with students whose first language is English	5%
Don't Know / Refused	5%

How satisfied have you been with the ELL services your child has received this school year?

Very satisfied	56%
Somewhat satisfied	32%
Not too satisfied	9%
Not at all satisfied	2%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

Would you say ELL services this school year have been better, worse, or about the same as last year?

Better	50%
Worse	13%
About the same	34%
Don't Know / Refused	4%

Has your child's language development improved this school year?

Yes, Significantly	45%
Yes, Moderately	34%
Somewhat	15%
Not at all	5%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

RESUME ASKING ALL

Thinking about your **GRADE LEVEL** child's mental and emotional health this year, would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	15%
Somewhat concerned	31%
Not too concerned	26%
Not at all concerned	28%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

Does your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s school have enough mental health resources to offer help to students who need it?

Yes they do	53%
No they do not	24%
Don’t Know / Refused	23%

How well would you say your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s grades represent their academic performance and abilities?

Very well	49%
Somewhat well	36%
Not too well	10%
Not well at all	3%
Don’t Know / Refused	2%

Thinking about your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s academics this year, would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	12%
Somewhat concerned	25%
Not too concerned	28%
Not at all concerned	34%
Don’t Know / Refused	2%

Do you think your **GRADE LEVEL** child is adequately academically prepared for the next school year?

Yes	78%
No	13%
Don’t Know / Refused	9%

Prior to the coronavirus crisis, do you think your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s academics were at grade level, behind grade level, or ahead of grade level? How about now?

	Prior to coronavirus	Now
At grade level	55%	53%
Behind grade level	18%	20%
Ahead of grade level	22%	24%
Don’t Know / Refused	5%	3%

Thinking about how your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s school operates today, would you say they are putting in major extra effort, minor extra effort, or no extra effort to help children catch up who fell behind during COVID?

Major	34%
Minor	34%
None	13%
Don’t Know / Refused	19%

Does your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school offer any of the following extra academic supports to support children who have fallen behind academically during COVID? **Select all that apply. ROTATE ORDER**

Tutoring	34%
Subject specific help	31%
Academic programs	31%
Mentorship programs	19%
Summer school	36%
Other (specify):	5%
Don't Know / Refused	28%

When your child is at school, how safe would you say they are from **READ FIRST**? How about **READ NEXT**?

ROTATE ORDER	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Not too safe	Not at all safe	Don't Know / Refused
Bullying	32%	45%	14%	6%	3%
Violence	48%	37%	10%	3%	3%

Thinking about this school year, has your **GRADE LEVEL** child experienced bullying in school?

Yes	28%
No	61%
Don't know / refused	10%

How familiar are you with the policies and procedures at your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school when it comes to bullying?

Very familiar	34%
Somewhat familiar	39%
Not too familiar	17%
Not at all familiar	5%
Don't know / refused	5%

How satisfied are you with your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school's protocol to deal with reported bullying incidents?

Very satisfied	33%
Somewhat satisfied	36%
Not too satisfied	12%
Not at all satisfied	5%
Don't know / refused	13%

Has there been an incident at your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school this school year requiring the school to be locked down or to evacuate staff and students, including threats, unauthorized intruders, or acts of violence?

Yes there has	26%
No there has not	68%
Don't know / refused	6%

How familiar are you with the emergency response protocol at your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school?

Very familiar	30%
Somewhat familiar	39%
Not too familiar	20%
Not at all familiar	8%
Don't know / refused	4%

How satisfied are you with the emergency response protocol at your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school?

Very satisfied	35%
Somewhat satisfied	37%
Not too satisfied	9%
Not at all satisfied	3%
Don't know / refused	15%

Would you say you agree or disagree with the following statement when it comes to your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school? School personnel maintain open communication with parents regarding safety at the school. And is that strongly (agree/disagree) or just somewhat?

Strongly agree	45%
Somewhat agree	35%
Somewhat disagree	12%
Strongly disagree	4%
Don't know/refused	4%

Are there police officers or student resource officers (SROs) stationed at your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school?

Yes there are	44%
No there are not	41%
Don't know / refused	15%

ASK IF POLICE OFFICER OR SRO STATIONED AT SCHOOL

Does the presence of police officers or student resource officers make your **GRADE LEVEL** child feel safer, less safe, or is there no difference?

More safe	63%
Less safe	7%
No difference	25%
Don't know / refused	5%

How about you? Does the presence of police officers or student resource officers make you feel the school is safer, less safe, or is there no difference?

More safe	71%
Less safe	6%
No difference	21%
Don't know / refused	2%

Has your **GRADE LEVEL** child ever been suspended or expelled?

Yes they have	10%
No they have not	87%
Don't know / refused	3%

ASK IF CHILD EVER SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED

Were you informed of your **GRADE LEVEL** child's legal rights during the discipline process?

Yes I was	70%
No I was not	25%
Don't know / refused	5%

Do you feel your **GRADE LEVEL** child was treated fairly during the discipline process?

Yes I do	67%
No I do not	27%
Don't know / refused	6%

To the best of your knowledge, does your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school use any alternative approaches, such as peer meditation or restorative justice before the traditional discipline process or referring a matter to a school resource officer?

Yes they do	28%
No they do not	29%
Don't know / refused	42%

ASK IF SCHOOL USES ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

How effective do you think these alternative approaches like peer meditation or restorative justice prior to the discipline process have been at your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school?

Very effective	40%
Somewhat effective	40%
Not too effective	11%
Not at all effective	4%
Don't know / refused	5%

RESUME ASKING ALL

Thinking about your children's future, what are you MOST worried about as a parent? **OPEN-END, RECORD VERBATIM**

Safety (bullying, violence, drugs, etc.)	29%
Development (professional, social, reaching fullest potential, etc.)	15%
Career success & economic mobility (financial security, cost of living, economy)	14%
Health and happiness	13%
Academics/teachers (graduating, good education, falling behind, etc.)	11%
Changing world (culture, technology)	9%
College Affordability/Preparedness	9%
No worries/none	6%
Other (politics, IDK, haven't thought of it)	6%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Age

18 to 34 years old	16%
35 to 39 years old	19%
40 to 44 years old	23%
45 to 49 years old	23%
50+	19%
Don't Know / Refused	<1%

How do you describe your gender?

Man	44%
Woman	55%
Non-binary	1%
Some other way: _____	<1%
Prefer not to say	<1%

Race

White	69%
Black / African-American	6%
Hispanic / Latino	13%
Asian	8%
Mixed race / Other	2%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

Education

High school or less	26%
Some college, no degree	23%
College degree	27%
Advanced degree	23%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 1,539 parents of K-12 students in Massachusetts. Live telephone interviews and online interviewing were conducted in English and Spanish April 10 – April 30, 2023. Telephone respondents were reached by both landline and cell phone. Oversamples of Black, Latino, and Asian respondents were obtained to bring the total interview count up to at least 250 for each group for the base sample. Results within race and ethnicity were weighted to age, gender, geography, and education level for each group. Groups were then combined and weighted to the population parameters by race for the state as a whole. The credibility interval for this survey is +/- 3.0 percentage points for the entire sample, including the design effect. The poll was sponsored by The Education Trust.