



ALASKAN OPINIONS ON EDUCATION

STATEWIDE PUBLIC OPINION

MARCH 20-24, 2024

survey conducted by



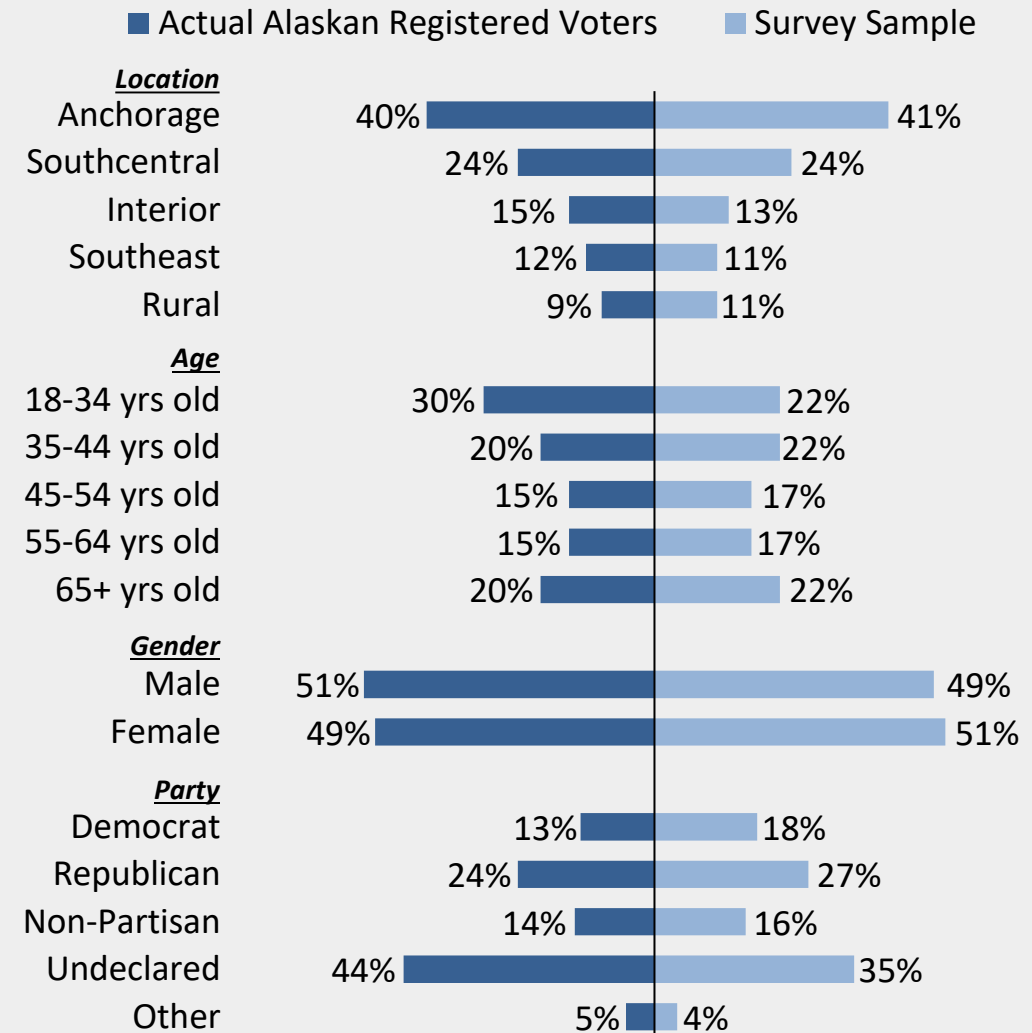
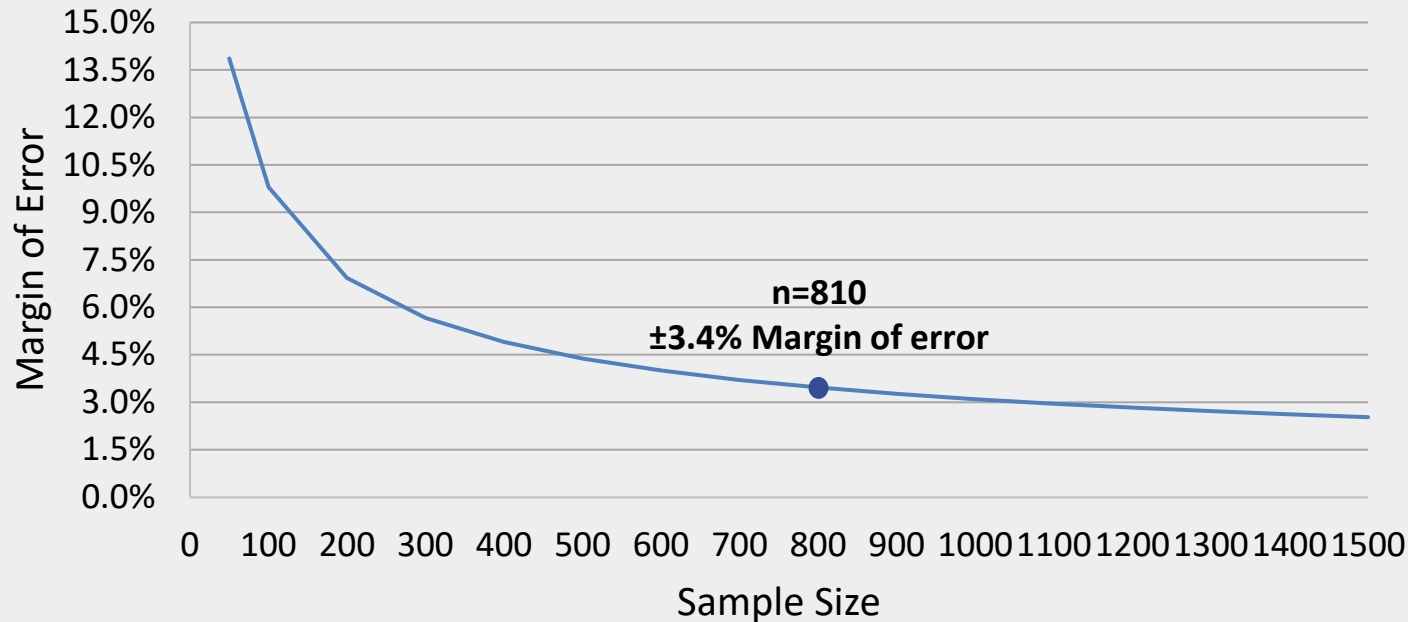
METHODOLOGY

- **Field Dates:** March 20-24, 2024
- **Interview Method:**
 - 51% online via text invite, 49% live interviewer phone surveys (58% cell/42% landline)
- **Sample:**
 - n=810 Alaskan registered voters
 - Oversamples conducted in Fairbanks, Southeast, and Western Alaska
 - Final results weighted to reflect actual statewide population distribution
 - Highly representative sample in terms of location, age, gender and political affiliation

METHODOLOGY, CONT.

▪ Margin of Error:

- Probability sample with respondents were randomly contacted and having an equal chance of selection.
- $\pm 3.4\%$ at 95% confidence level for total sample



KEY FINDINGS

Current Awareness & Perceptions

- Nearly three quarters of Alaskans (73%) grade Alaska's public school system as a "C" or below. Compared to ten years ago, half as many people grade the school system "A" or "B", and more than double grade it an "F".
- Only about half of Alaskans are aware that student test scores rank near the bottom nationally (49%), that the state's school-age population is decreasing (50%), and that some schools are operating below the capacity they were built for (51%).
- As a general approach to improving education outcomes, Alaskans believe that "change and reforms to the education system" are more important than "increasing education funding" by a margin of 1.7-to-1.

KEY FINDINGS, CONT.

Education Proposals

- **77%** support increasing BSA funding
- **75%** support an open enrollment system
- **73%** support public charter schools using excess capacity of other public schools
- **71%** support a bonus incentive program to recruit and retain teachers
- **69%** support business tax credits for donations to public education
- **64%** support a greater allocation of education funding to public charter schools
- **58%** support a greater allocation of education funding to public homeschooling
- **57%** think changes and reforms are most important to improving education outcomes
- **56%** think undercapacity schools should be consolidated when student impact minimal
- **54%** support resources to transport students to their school of choice
- **23%** support use of PFD to increase education funding
- **15%** support use of PFD to keep undercapacity school building open

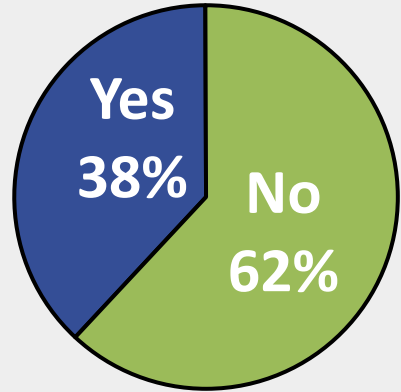
Baseline Views and Awareness on Alaska's Education System

ALASKA PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

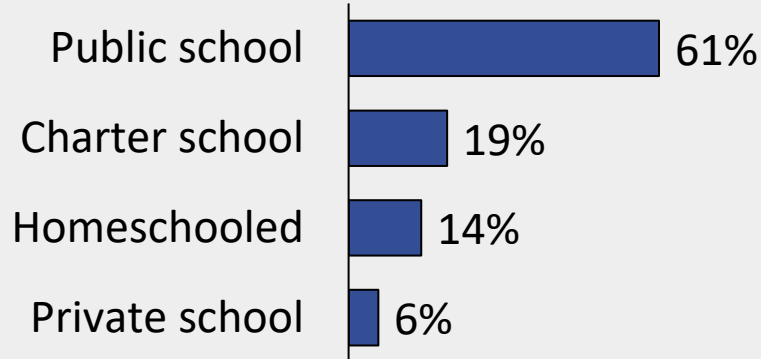
ALASKANS WITH SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Do you have any children under the age of 18 currently living in your household? Do any of your children attend a public school, a charter school, a private school, or are they homeschooled?

Have school-age children?



Type of school attending? (Among 38% with children)



Location	Public	Charter	Home	Private
Anchorage	55%	24%	13%	8%
Southcentral	60%	20%	18%	2%
Interior	44%	22%	20%	14%
Southeast	71%	8%	17%	4%
Rural	82%	12%	6%	0%

Age	Public	Charter	Home	Private
18-34 yrs old	54%	13%	30%	3%
35-44 yrs old	61%	24%	10%	5%
45-54 yrs old	64%	23%	6%	7%
55-64 yrs old	76%	9%	12%	3%
65+ yrs old	62%	13%	13%	12%

Party

Party	Public	Charter	Home	Private
Democrat	63%	23%	8%	6%
Republican	59%	17%	21%	3%
Non-Partisan	38%	27%	18%	17%
Undeclared	68%	16%	13%	3%

Education

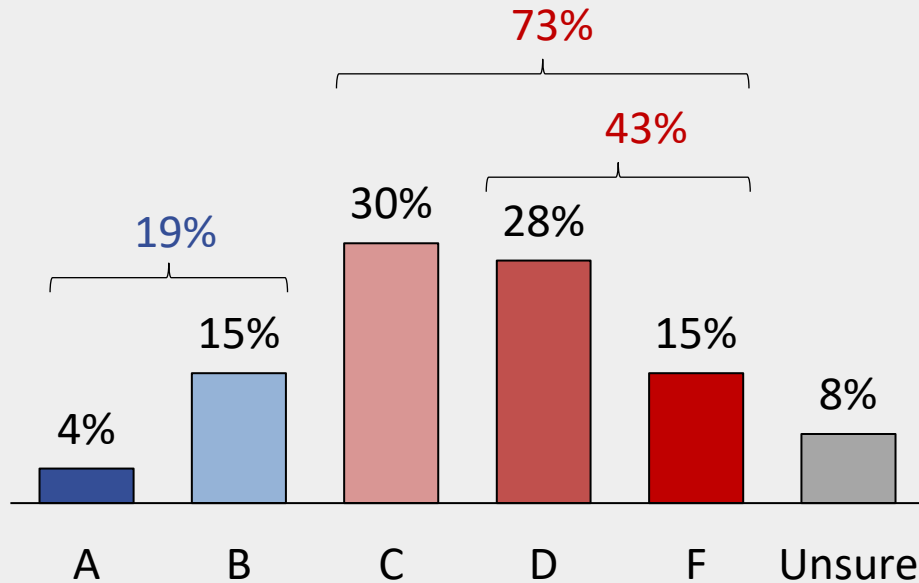
Education	Public	Charter	Home	Private
HS/GED or less	84%	12%	0%	4%
Some college/tech	54%	16%	26%	3%
College grad	60%	13%	22%	5%
Post-grad	52%	36%	0%	12%

Household income

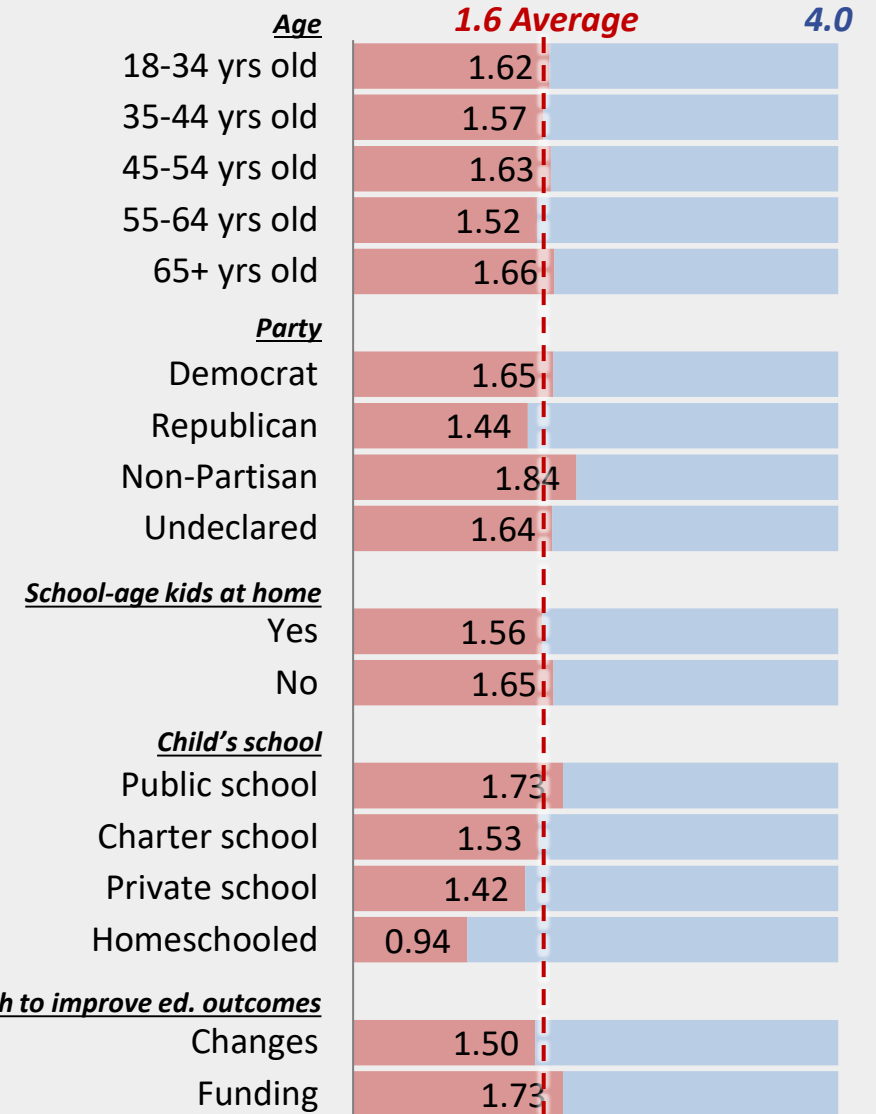
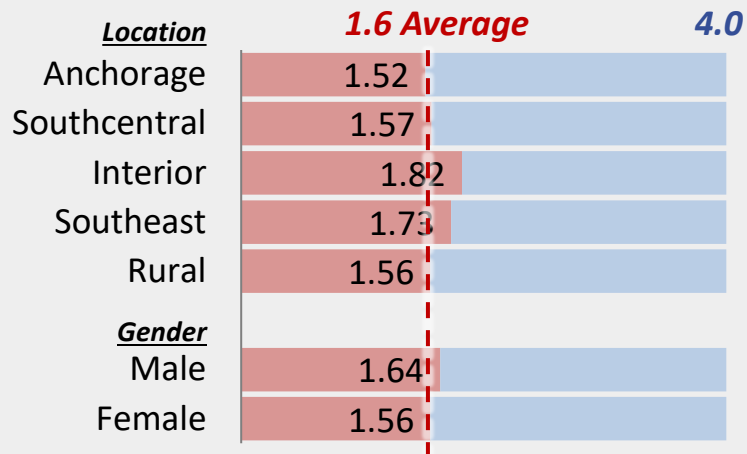
Household income	Public	Charter	Home	Private
Under \$30K	100%	0%	0%	0%
\$30-59K	60%	19%	22%	0%
\$60-99K	49%	30%	20%	2%
\$100-199K	61%	18%	16%	5%
\$200K+	59%	17%	6%	18%

GRADE ALASKA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

With regard to education, if you had to assign a letter grade to Alaska's K through 12 public school system, what would it be? Would you give it an A, B, C, D, or F?

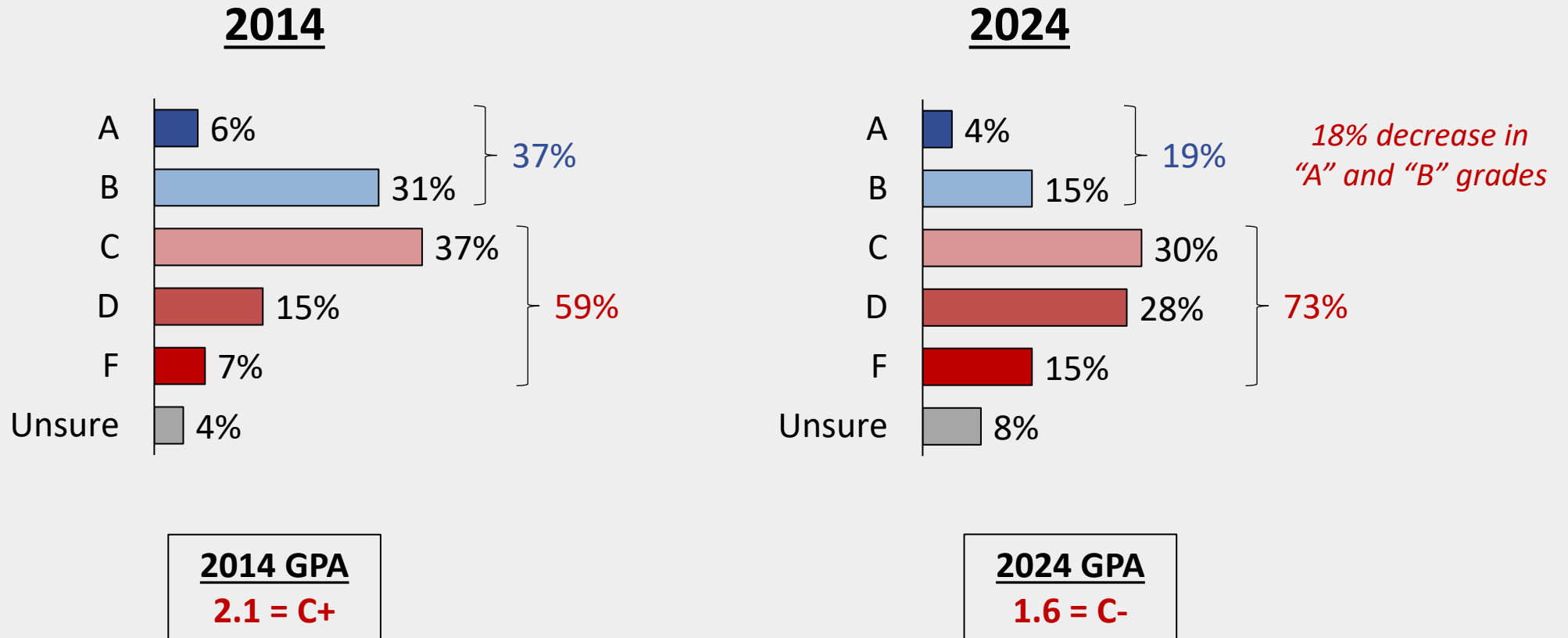


GPA
1.6 = C-



GRADE ALASKA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS: TRACKING

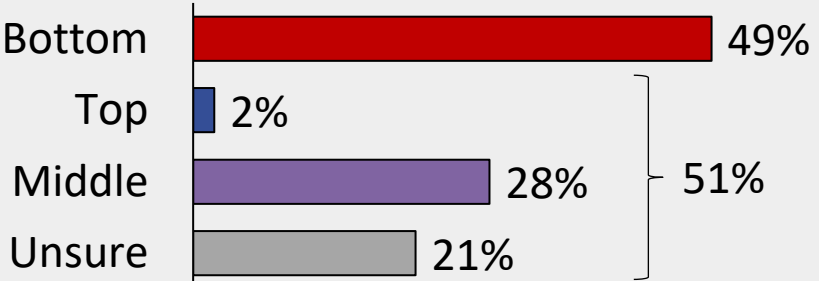
With regard to education, if you had to assign a letter grade to Alaska's K through 12 public school system, what would it be?
Would you give it an A, B, C, D, or F?



AWARENESS OF LOCAL EDUCATION ISSUES

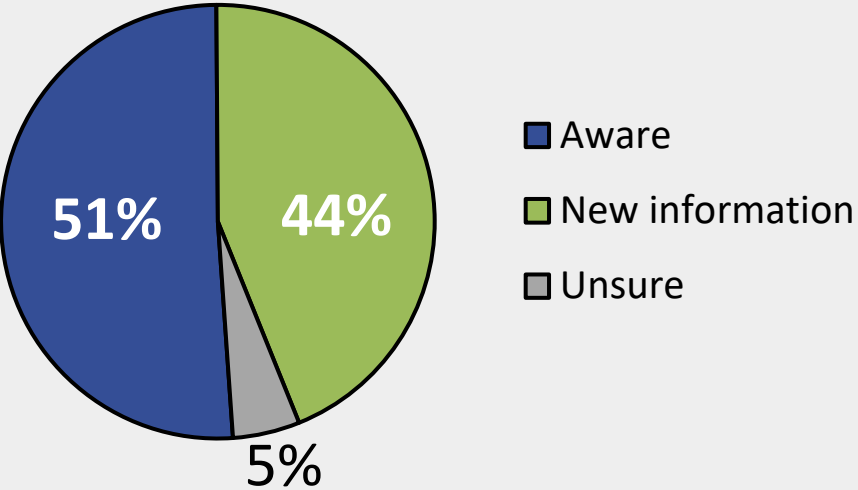
STUDENT TEST SCORES

As far as you know, do student test scores in Alaska rank toward the (randomized) top, the middle, or the bottom nationally?



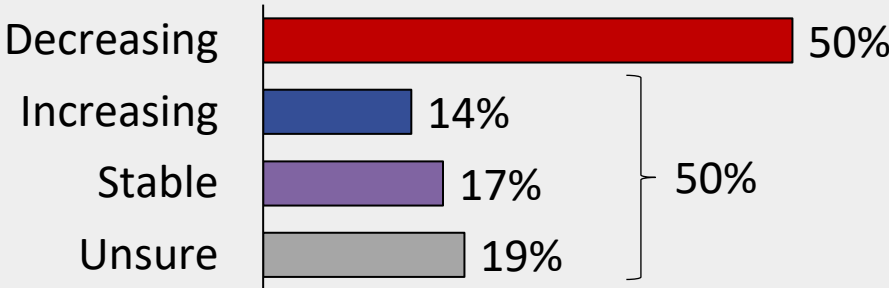
SOME SCHOOLS BELOW CAPACITY

So everyone has the same information, the population of school age children in Alaska is decreasing due to changes in the state population. As a result, some schools in Alaska's school system are currently operating at as low as one-half of the capacity they were intended for. Were you aware of this, or is this new information?



STUDENT POPULATION TREND

As far as you know, is the population of school age children in Alaska (randomized) increasing, decreasing, or stable?



BEST APPROACH TO IMPROVING EDUCATION OUTCOMES

Alaska is among the top 5 states in the nation when it comes to education spending on a per student basis, however student graduation rates and test scores in Alaska's public schools consistently rank among the lowest in the nation. The debate around improving education outcomes generally comes down to two approaches. Please tell me which comes closest to your opinion:

+24% Changes
1.7-to-1

57% *Changes and reforms to the education system are the most important factors in improving education outcomes.*

33% *Increasing education funding is the most important factor in improving education outcomes.*

10% *Unsure*

Location	Changes	Funding	Net Changes
Anchorage	56%	34%	+22%
Southcentral	62%	31%	+31%
Interior	60%	32%	+28%
Southeast	55%	38%	+17%
Rural	52%	34%	+18%
Party			
Democrat	42%	52%	-10%
Republican	68%	21%	+47%
Non-Partisan	47%	43%	+4%
Undeclared	56%	34%	+22%
Aware of student test score ranking			
Yes	59%	34%	+25%
No	55%	33%	+22%

BEST APPROACH TO IMPROVING EDUCATION OUTCOMES, CONT.

	Changes	Funding	Net Changes
Overall	57%	33%	+24%
Ideology			
Very conservative	80%	11%	+69%
Somewhat conserv.	72%	18%	+54%
Moderate	50%	40%	+10%
Somewhat liberal	38%	53%	-15%
Very liberal	37%	59%	-22%
Gender			
Male	60%	29%	+31%
Female	54%	38%	+16%
Age			
18-34 yrs old	64%	28%	+36%
35-44 yrs old	49%	41%	+8%
45-54 yrs old	59%	32%	+27%
55-64 yrs old	64%	23%	+41%
65+ yrs old	51%	41%	+10%
Education			
HS/GED or less	72%	24%	+48%
Some college/tech	62%	26%	+36%
College grad	55%	37%	+18%
Post-grad	45%	45%	0%

HH income	Changes	Funding	Net Changes
Under \$30K	55%	30%	+25%
\$30-59K	59%	31%	+28%
\$60-99K	62%	32%	+30%
\$100-199K	58%	35%	+23%
\$200K+	45%	43%	+2%

School-age kids at home

Yes	54%	38%	+16%
No	59%	31%	+28%

Child's education

Public school	47%	44%	+3%
Charter school	44%	49%	-5%
Private school	70%	26%	+44%
Homeschooled	83%	17%	+66%

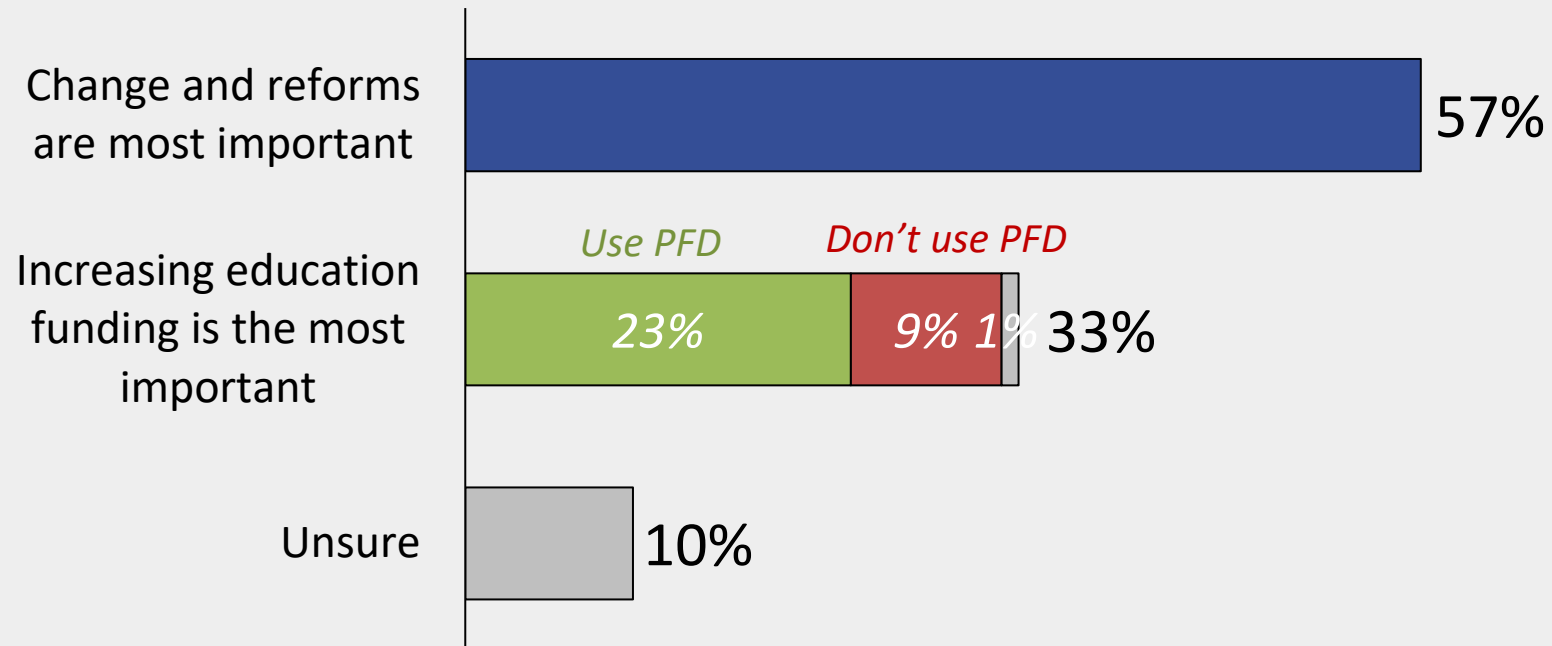
Union affiliation

Non-union	59%	32%	+27%
Other union	59%	32%	+27%
Labor union	54%	36%	+18%
Public employee	38%	57%	-19%
Teachers union	28%	59%	-31%

USE OF PFD TO FUND INCREASE EDUCATION FUNDING

And if it were necessary to reduce PFDs in order to supply this funding [to increase education funding to improving education outcomes], would you support or oppose that?

Asked of 33% who think increasing education funding is the most important factor in improving education outcomes. Results are shown as percentage of total Alaskans.

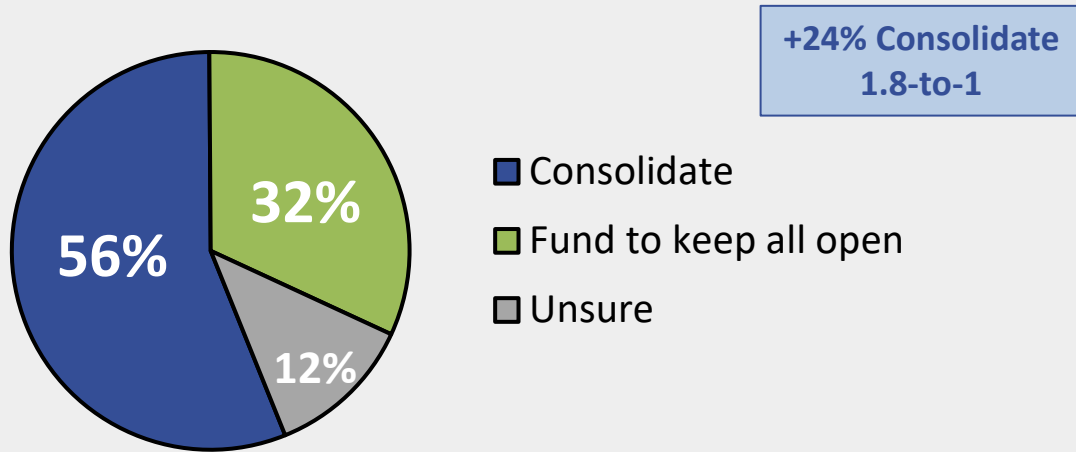


Opinions on Education Proposals

ALASKA PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

CONSOLIDATING UNDERCAPACITY SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Do you think the state (randomized statements) should look to consolidate school buildings that are undercapacity when the transportation impact on students is minimal, or do you think the state should continue funding to keep all undercapacity school buildings open?



Location	Consolidate	Keep open	Net Consolidate
Anchorage	60%	29%	+31%
Southcentral	58%	31%	+27%
Interior	61%	29%	+32%
Southeast	55%	31%	+24%
Rural	31%	50%	-19%

Gender	Consolidate	Keep open	Net Consolidate
Male	61%	29%	+32%
Female	52%	35%	+17%

Party	Consolidate	Keep open	Net Consolidate
Democrat	47%	42%	+5%
Republican	63%	27%	+36%
Non-Partisan	55%	36%	+19%
Undeclared	59%	30%	+29%

Ideology	Consolidate	Keep open	Net Consolidate
Very conservative	64%	26%	+38%
Somewhat conserv.	67%	27%	+40%
Moderate	54%	36%	+18%
Somewhat liberal	48%	38%	+10%
Very liberal	49%	38%	+11%

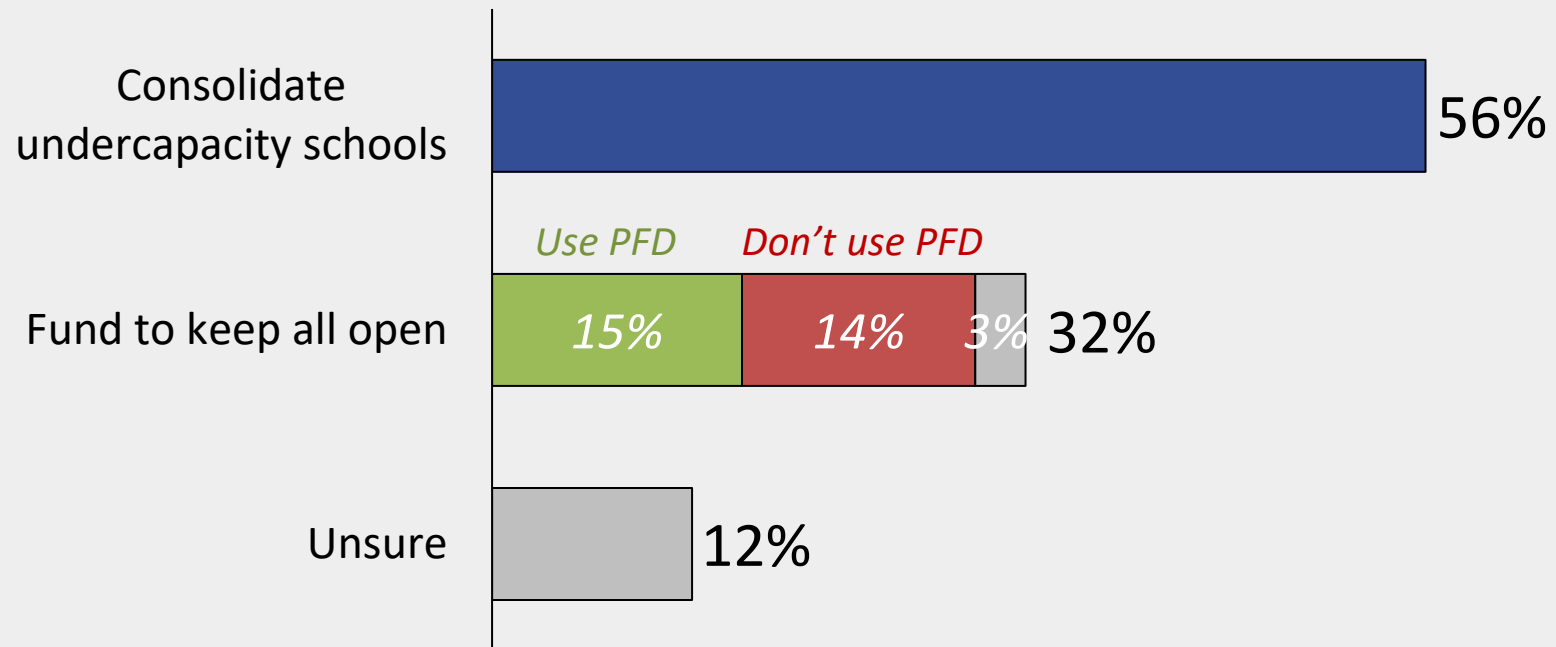
Household income	Consolidate	Keep open	Net Consolidate
Under \$30K	46%	43%	+3%
\$30-59K	45%	46%	-1%
\$60-99K	60%	27%	+33%
\$100-199K	61%	30%	+31%
\$200K+	60%	28%	+32%

School-age kids at home	Consolidate	Keep open	Net Consolidate
Yes	56%	29%	+27%
No	57%	34%	+23%

USE OF PFD TO FUND KEEPING SCHOOLS OPEN

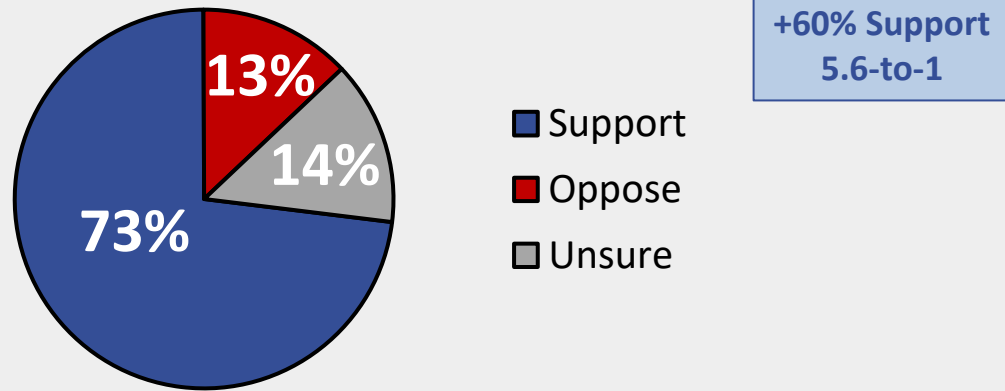
And if it were necessary to reduce PFDs in order to supply this funding [to keep all undercapacity school buildings open], would you support or oppose that?

Asked of 32% who think the state should continue funding to keep all undercapacity school buildings open. Results are shown as percentage of total Alaskans.



CHARTER SCHOOL USE OF EXCESS CAPACITY

In cases where public school buildings are operating below the student capacity they were intended for, would you support or oppose allowing public charter schools to use the excess capacity?



■ Support
■ Oppose
■ Unsure

Location	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Anchorage	73%	12%	15%
Southcentral	82%	8%	10%
Interior	69%	19%	12%
Southeast	72%	15%	13%
Rural	60%	19%	21%

Gender	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Male	72%	17%	11%
Female	74%	9%	17%

Party	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Democrat	68%	16%	16%
Republican	82%	6%	12%
Non-Partisan	73%	16%	11%
Undeclared	70%	15%	15%

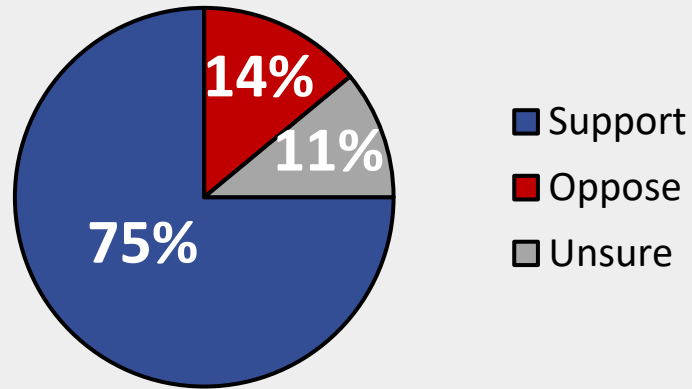
School-age kids at home	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Yes	74%	11%	15%
No	73%	14%	13%

Union affiliation	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Non-union	75%	12%	13%
Other union	67%	15%	18%
Public employee	64%	19%	17%
Labor union	63%	24%	13%
Teachers union	62%	17%	21%

Approach to improve ed. outcomes	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Changes	82%	9%	9%
Funding	60%	21%	19%

OPEN ENROLLMENT

An open enrollment policy in public education allows students to enroll in the public school of their choice as long as it has capacity, rather than attending a school based on where they live. In general, would you support or oppose an open enrollment system for Alaska's public school system?



**+61% Support
5.4-to-1**

Location	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Anchorage	74%	19%	+55%
Southcentral	82%	8%	+74%
Interior	75%	15%	+60%
Southeast	71%	14%	+57%
Rural	69%	9%	+60%

Gender	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Male	73%	16%	+57%
Female	78%	13%	+65%

Party	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Democrat	81%	13%	+68%
Republican	76%	12%	+64%
Non-Partisan	69%	22%	+47%
Undeclared	73%	17%	+56%

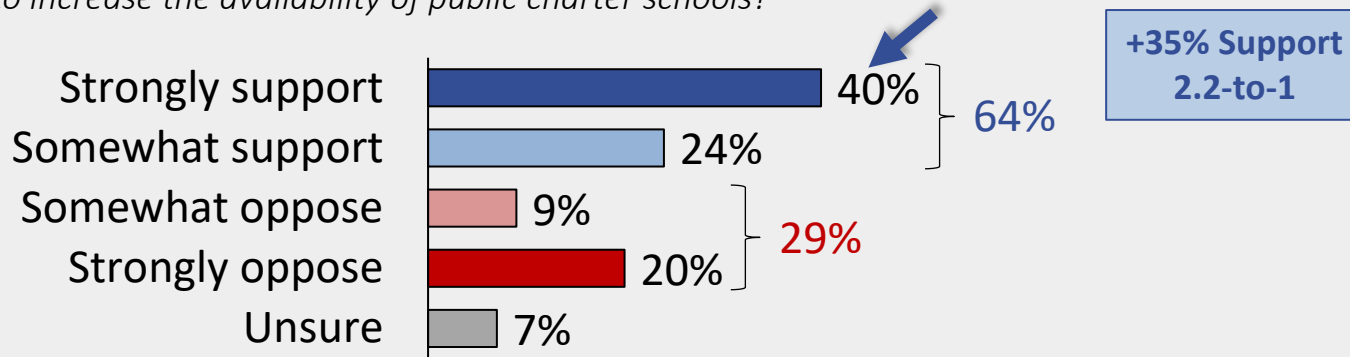
School-age kids at home	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Yes	75%	15%	+60%
No	75%	14%	+61%

Union affiliation	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Non-union	78%	13%	+65%
Teachers union	76%	12%	+64%
Other union	72%	17%	+55%
Labor union	65%	21%	+44%
Public employee	58%	23%	+35%

Approach to improve ed. outcomes	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Changes	84%	8%	+76%
Funding	63%	24%	+39%

GREATER FUNDING FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools are public schools that have specialized curriculum or a unique approach to teaching. Alaska's public charter schools were recently ranked number one in the nation. Many public charter schools in Alaska have waiting lists for students who want to attend. Would you support or oppose the state allocating a greater proportion of education funding to increase the availability of public charter schools?



Location	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Anchorage	60%	32%	+28%
Southcentral	74%	18%	+56%
Interior	60%	32%	+28%
Southeast	61%	35%	+26%
Rural	58%	30%	+28%

Gender	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Male	67%	28%	+39%
Female	60%	30%	+30%

Party	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Democrat	58%	33%	+25%
Republican	80%	13%	+67%
Non-Partisan	48%	49%	-1%
Undeclared	62%	31%	+31%

Education	Support	Oppose	Net Support
HS/GED or less	75%	20%	+55%
Some college/tech	76%	17%	+59%
College grad	60%	32%	+28%
Post-grad	47%	50%	-3%

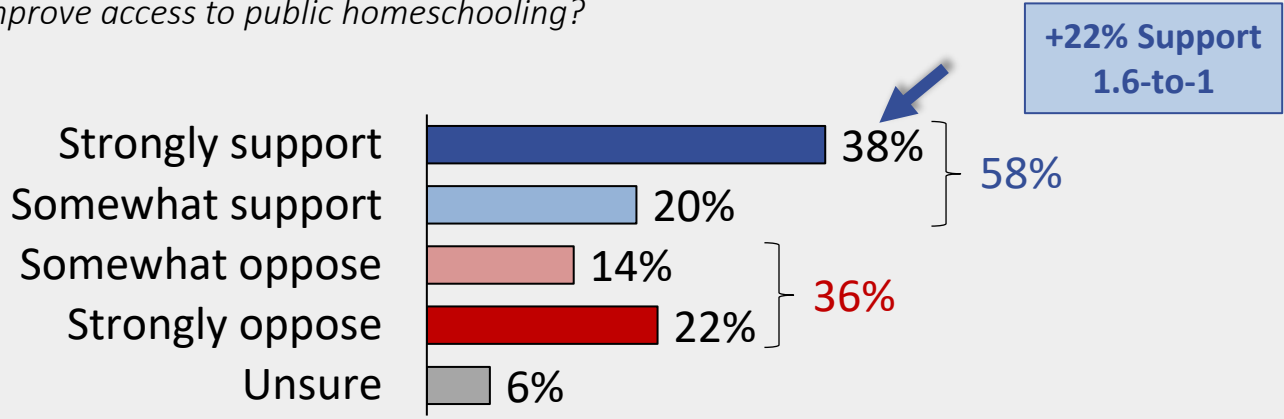
School-age kids at home	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Yes	62%	30%	+32%
No	64%	29%	+35%

Union affiliation	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Non-union	66%	27%	+39%
Other union	64%	33%	+31%
Public employee	53%	39%	+14%
Labor union	51%	38%	+13%
Teachers union	48%	41%	+7%

Approach to improve ed. outcomes	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Changes	77%	17%	+60%
Funding	43%	48%	-5%

GREATER FUNDING FOR HOMESCHOOLING

The demand for homeschooling is increasing in Alaska. The state currently supports public homeschooling by providing curriculum resources and standardized testing. Would you support or oppose the state allocating a greater proportion of education funding to improve access to public homeschooling?



Location	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Anchorage	50%	44%	+6%
Southcentral	70%	24%	+46%
Interior	59%	38%	+21%
Southeast	63%	34%	+29%
Rural	63%	30%	+33%

Gender	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Male	64%	32%	+32%
Female	54%	40%	+14%

Party	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Democrat	46%	49%	-3%
Republican	73%	22%	+51%
Non-Partisan	52%	46%	+6%
Undeclared	60%	36%	+24%

Education	Support	Oppose	Net Support
HS/GED or less	69%	28%	+41%
Some college/tech	71%	23%	+48%
College grad	58%	37%	+21%
Post-grad	38%	58%	-20%

School-age kids at home	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Yes	55%	40%	+15%
No	61%	34%	+27%

Union affiliation	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Labor union	69%	27%	+42%
Other union	62%	35%	+27%
Non-union	60%	35%	+25%
Public employee	39%	58%	-19%
Teachers union	34%	58%	-24%

Approach to improve ed. outcomes	Support	Oppose	Net Support
Changes	74%	23%	+51%
Funding	38%	56%	-18%

RECENT EDUCATION PROPOSALS

Next I will describe some recent proposals regarding education. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each proposal.

