



Topline Survey Results

Alaskan Opinions on Education

Fielded March 20-24, 2024
n=810 Alaskan Registered voters
Margin of error= ±3.4%

- 1) Thinking about Alaska right now, do you think things are headed in the right direction, or do you think things have gotten off on the wrong track?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Right direction | 16% |
| Wrong track | 65% |
| Unsure | 19% |

- 2) 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?

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| A | 4% |
| B | 15% |
| C | 30% |
| D | 28% |
| F | 15% |
| Unsure | 8% |

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

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Top | 2% |
| Middle | 28% |
| Bottom | 49% |
| Unsure | 21% |

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

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Increasing | 14% |
| Stable | 17% |
| Decreasing | 50% |
| Unsure | 19% |

- 5) 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?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Aware | 51% |
| New information | 44% |
| Unsure | 5% |

- 6) 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?

Consolidate (skipped to 7) 56%
Fund to keep all open 32%
Unsure (skipped to 7) 12%

- 6a) And if it were necessary to reduce PFDs in order to supply this funding, would you support or oppose that?

| | <i>Among 32% wanting funding</i> | <i>As % of total</i> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Support reducing PFDs | 48% | 15% |
| Oppose reducing PFDs..... | 43% | 14% |
| Unsure | 9% | 3% |
| <i>Consolidate</i> | <i>N/A</i> | <i>56%</i> |
| <i>Unsure</i> | <i>N/A</i> | <i>12%</i> |

- 7) 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?

Support 75%
Oppose..... 14%
Unsure 11%

Moving now to a different aspect of education...

- 8) 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? ...and would you strongly (support/oppose) or somewhat (support/oppose) this?

| | | |
|------------------------|-----|-------|
| Strongly support | 40% | } 64% |
| Somewhat support | 24% | |
| Somewhat oppose | 9% | } 29% |
| Strongly oppose | 20% | |
| Unsure | 7% | |

- 9) 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? ...and would you strongly (support/oppose) or somewhat (support/oppose) this?

| | | |
|------------------------|-----|-------|
| Strongly support | 38% | } 58% |
| Somewhat support | 20% | |
| Somewhat oppose | 14% | } 36% |
| Strongly oppose | 22% | |
| Unsure | 6% | |

Next I will describe some recent proposals regarding education. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each proposal. First... ..and is that strongly (agree/disagree) or somewhat (agree/disagree)?

| [Asked in random order – shown sorted by % Agree] | | | Total Agree | Total Disagree | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Unsure |
|--|--|-----|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------|
| 10) | Increase base education funding to maintain school operations..... | 77% | 18% | 53% | 24% | 8% | 10% | 5% | |
| 11) | Offering a bonus incentive program to help recruit and retain teachers..... | 71% | 23% | 44% | 27% | 9% | 14% | 6% | |
| 12) | Providing corporate and business tax credits for donations made to public neighborhood schools, charter schools, and homeschooling programs | 69% | 22% | 36% | 33% | 10% | 12% | 9% | |
| 13) | Providing resources to transport students to their school of choice | 54% | 41% | 31% | 23% | 19% | 22% | 5% | |

Moving on...

- 14) 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 73%
 Oppose..... 13%
 Unsure 14%

- 15) 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: (randomized statements)

Changes and reforms to the education system are the most important factors in improving education outcomes (skipped to 16) 57%

-or-

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

Unsure (skipped to 16) 10%

- 15a) And if it were necessary to reduce PFDs in order to supply this funding, would you support or oppose that?
- | | <i>Among 33%
wanting funding</i> | <i>As % of
total</i> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Support reducing PFDs | 68% | 23% |
| Oppose reducing PFDs..... | 27% | 9% |
| Unsure | 5% | 1% |
| <i>Change and reforms</i> | <i>N/A</i> | <i>57%</i> |
| <i>Unsure</i> | <i>N/A</i> | <i>10%</i> |

And finally, I have a few short questions just to make sure we have a representative sample...

16) Could you please tell me in which of the following age groups you fall into? (asked at beginning of survey for quotas)

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 18-34 yrs old | 22% |
| 35-44 yrs old | 22% |
| 45-54 yrs old | 17% |
| 55-64 yrs old | 17% |
| 65+ yrs old | 21% |
| Not provided..... | 1% |

17) Gender (asked at beginning of survey for quotas)

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Male | 49% |
| Female | 51% |

18) Are registered to vote as a (randomized) Democrat, Republican, Non-Partisan, Undeclared, or something else?

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Democrat | 16% |
| Republican | 25% |
| Non-Partisan | 15% |
| Undeclared | 32% |
| Other..... | 4% |
| Not provided..... | 8% |

19) Do you consider yourself...

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Very conservative | 13% |
| Somewhat conservative | 20% |
| Moderate | 33% |
| Somewhat liberal | 14% |
| Very liberal..... | 9% |
| Not provided..... | 11% |

20) What was the last grade of schooling you completed?

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| High school/GED or less..... | 17% |
| Some college/tech | 26% |
| College grad | 35% |
| Post-grad..... | 19% |
| Not provided..... | 3% |

21) Which of the following ranges does your annual household income fall into?

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Under \$30K | 9% |
| \$30-59K..... | 15% |
| \$60-99K..... | 23% |
| \$100-199K..... | 31% |
| \$200K+ | 13% |
| Not provided..... | 9% |

22) Do you have any children under the age of 18 currently living in your household?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Yes..... | 37% |
| No (skipped to 23) | 61% |
| Not provided (skipped to 23)..... | 2% |

22a) Do any of your children attend a public school, a charter school, a private school, or are they homeschooled? (multiple responses allowed – 1st selection shown)

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Public school | 55% |
| Charter school..... | 17% |
| Homeschooled | 13% |
| Private school..... | 5% |
| Not provided | 10% |

23) Regarding your employment status, are you currently...

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Employed full-time | 54% |
| Employed part-time..... | 8% |
| Unemployed | 3% |
| Unable to work | 3% |
| Retired | 21% |
| Other..... | 4% |
| Not provided..... | 7% |

24) Are you or anyone in your household a member of a labor union? (if yes) And is that a teacher's union, a labor union, a public employee union, or a different type? (multiple responses allowed – 1st selection shown)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Non-union | 73% |
| Labor union..... | 6% |
| Public employee union | 5% |
| Teacher's union | 4% |
| Other union..... | 6% |
| Not provided..... | 6% |

25) Could you please tell me the zip code in the area where you live?

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Anchorage..... | 41% |
| Southcentral | 24% |
| Interior..... | 13% |
| Southeast..... | 11% |
| Rural..... | 11% |

Methodology: Dittman Research conducted a statewide opinion survey among 810 Alaskan registered voters from March 20 to 24, 2024. To improve accuracy in Fairbanks, Southeast, and Western Alaska, the survey included oversampling in these areas. The results were weighted to reflect the actual statewide population distribution. This research utilized live interviewer surveys (49%) over cell and landline phones, and online surveys (51%) initiated through text message invites, accommodating diverse respondent preferences. Respondents were randomly contacted, ensuring each had an equal chance of selection. This method produced a probability sample with a calculable margin of error of $\pm 3.4\%$ at a 95% confidence level.