

SCHOOL CHOICE

SURVEY

IN THE STATE



Public Opinion in Ohio:

Many agree with the concept of school choice. Some disagree. But everyone needs more information. As the public debate continues to grow louder about how best to provide a quality education to all Ohio children, it is critical to know the facts and to have a good understanding of public opinion.

This statistically representative sample of 1,200 likely Ohio voters illustrates public opinion on a range of K-12 education issues including school choice.

Ohio's Opinion on K-12 Education and School Choice

By:

Paul DiPerna

The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

May 2009

This poll released jointly by the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, School Choice Ohio, Alliance for School Choice, Agudath Israel of America, Association of Christian Schools International - Ohio River Valley Region, Center for Education Reform, Children's Scholarship Fund of Greater Cincinnati, Democrats for Education Reform, and Ohio BAEO - Black Alliance for Educational Options

A MESSAGE FROM THE FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION:

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The Friedman Foundation is committed to research that adheres to high scientific standards. Matters of methodology and transparency are taken seriously.

All individuals have opinions, and many organizations (like our own) have philosophical or mission orientations. Scientific methods, if designed well and followed closely, should neutralize these opinions and orientations. Research rules and methods minimize bias. We believe rigorous procedural rules of science prevent a researcher's motives, and an organization's particular orientation, from pre-determining results.

If research adheres to scientific standards, its findings can be relied upon no matter who has conducted it. If rules and methods are neither specified nor followed, then the biases of the researcher or an organization may become relevant, because a lack of rigor opens the door for those biases to affect the results.

We are committed to sound research and to provide quality information in a transparent and efficient manner. We welcome any and all questions related to our methodology and work.

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By:

Paul DiPerna

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Poll conducted by:

Strategic Vision

May 2009

About the Author

Paul DiPerna (paul@friedmanfoundation.org) is director of partner services for the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, an organization dedicated to educating the public on the issue of school choice. He joined the Friedman Foundation in September 2006. DiPerna directs the organization's state polling series and leads grantmaking and direct service activities in a dozen states. He previously served as assistant director for the Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution, working there for more than six years. DiPerna was a research analyst for the first five issues of the Brown Center Report on American Education (2000-2004), and managed the activities of the National Working Commission on Choice in K-12 Education (2001-2005).

DiPerna has presented research at the American Sociological Association annual conference, and has published articles in *Education Next*, *First Monday*, the *Washington Examiner*, and the *Journal of Information Technology Impact*. He recently authored a chapter in the *Handbook of Research on Web Log Analysis*, published by Idea Group Publishing.

About Strategic Vision



Strategic Vision is an Atlanta-headquartered public relations and public affairs agency with a division that specializes in polling. The public affairs team is knowledgeable about politics, issues, and current events throughout the nation. Strategic Vision operates nationally, and its polls have been used by MSNBC, FOX News Channel, *Newsweek*, Bloomberg News, *Time Magazine*, BBC, ABC News, Scripps Howard, the *Washington Times*, and *USA Today*. The company's polls have been cited as some of the most accurate by National Journal's Hotline and Survey USA.

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Ashlee Wilson Fujawa
Publications Manager

Joe DiLaura
Communications Director

Christian D'Andrea
Research Associate

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Release Partners

Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

One American Square, Suite 2420
Indianapolis, IN 46282
Phone: 317-681-0745 • Fax: 317-681-0945
www.friedmanfoundation.org

School Choice Ohio

88 East Broad Street, Suite 640
Phone: 614-223-1555 • Fax: 614-223-1556
www.schoho.org

Alliance for School Choice

1660 L Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20036
Phone: 202-280-1990 • Fax: 202-280-1989
www.allianceforschoolchoice.org

Agudath Israel of America

42 Broadway, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10004
Phone: 212-797-9000 • Fax: 212-254-1600

Association of Christian Schools International - Ohio River Valley Region

3019 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 207
Canton, OH 44707
Phone: 330-484-7750 • Fax: 330-484-7760
www.acsi.org

Center for Education Reform

910 Seventeenth Street, NW, Suite 1120
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: 301-986-8088 • Fax: 301-986-1826
www.edreform.com

Children's Scholarship Fund of Greater Cincinnati

P.O. Box 361
Oxford, OH 45056
Phone: 888-332-2408
www.csfcincinnati.org

Democrats for Education Reform

140 E. 45th St., 28th Floor
New York, NY 10017
Phone: (212) 763-8921
www.dfer.org

Ohio BAEO - Black Alliance for Educational Options

P. O. Box 5699
Dayton, OH 45405
Phone: 937-222-7990 • Fax: 937-558-0744
www.baeo.org

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Executive Summary

This statistically representative survey of 1,200 likely Ohio voters illustrates public opinion on a wide range of K-12 education issues. The underlying theme of the Friedman Foundation's *Survey in the State* series is to measure voter attitudes toward public institutions and policies, innovative ideas, and the state's K-12 education system.

Ohioans have shared with us their views about "school choice," which includes school vouchers, tax-credit scholarships, charter schools, homeschooling and virtual schools. Ohio is the eleventh state to be surveyed in our series since November 2007.

Survey responses are at odds with how Ohioans enroll their children in schools. There is a very large divide between parental schooling preferences and actual school enrollments. **Forty-five percent** of K-12 parents said they would like to send their child to a private school.¹ In reality, however, approximately **10 percent** of Ohio's K-12 students attend private schools.² **Twenty-seven percent** of Ohio parents said they would like to send their child to a charter school. It is estimated nearly **4 percent** of the state's K-12 student population enroll in charter schools. **Sixteen percent** of Ohio parents said they would choose a regular public school for their child. Approximately **86 percent** of Ohio's K-12 students attend regular public schools. Ohio appears to lack a sufficient school choice system to satisfy parents' schooling preferences.

Our findings reinforce some conclusions drawn in an Ohio survey report released recently by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, Catalyst Ohio, and the FDR Group. The two surveys differ in question design and ordering, as well as sampling protocols and methodology – these are important considerations for any cross-survey comparisons. However, we still generally observe in both surveys that Ohioans are not satisfied with the status quo public school system; they support the Educational Choice Scholarship Program and are open to school vouchers; they favor charter schools rather than oppose them; and they are skeptical about new public school spending.³

A total of 1,200 phone interviews were conducted by Strategic Vision between February 20 and 22, 2009. The margin of error for the full sample of likely voters is ± 3 percentage points; the margin of error is higher when considering the number of respondents for a given demographic subgroup.

Key findings include:

- **Ohio's Democrats (D), Republicans (R), and Independents (I) are likely to share common views on school choice policies.** Solid levels of support exist for the **Autism Scholarship Program** (D: 63 percent | R: 60 percent | I: 58 percent), **Educational Choice Scholarship Program** (D: 58 percent | R: 59 percent | I: 54 percent), **Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program** (D: 52 percent | R: 54 percent | I: 58 percent), **charter schools** (D: 49 percent | R: 54 percent | I: 49 percent), and **school vouchers** (D: 49 percent | R: 56 percent | I: 56 percent).
- **Twenty percent of likely voters rate the state's Ohio's public school system as "good" or "excellent."** We consistently see low-to-modest figures across the states. We have asked this same question in eleven states, and Ohio voters register the second lowest rating just ahead of Maryland (17 percent). Vermont has scored the highest at 44 percent. We have yet to observe a satisfaction rate greater than 50 percent.

¹ The subgroup "K-12 Parents" makes up 73% of the total survey sample (see page 13).

² Ohio regular public school and charter school enrollments obtained from the Ohio Department of Education (ODEA) website: <http://www.ode.state.oh.us>. Private school enrollment obtained in email exchange with ODE's Center for School Options and Finance.

³ See Steve Farkas and Ann Duffet, *Checked Out: Ohioans' Views on Education 2009* (Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2009).

- **Ohioans are skeptical about new public school spending.** Two out of three voters (**69 percent**) say Ohio's level of public school funding is either "about right" or "too high." Since **71 percent** of the survey's respondents actually underestimate the actual per-pupil funding in Ohio public schools (\$11,835), the previously mentioned 69 percent statistic is likely a low estimate.
- **One out of five Ohio voters (21 percent) say "poor engagement with parents" is a major challenge confronting Ohio's public school system.** Ohioans are more than twice as likely to say lack of parental engagement, "lack of accountability" (**19 percent**), or "overcrowded schools" (**19 percent**) are systemic challenges rather than "lack of funding" (**9 percent**).
- **More than eight out of ten likely voters (83 percent) prefer choosing a school for their child among options that include private schools, charter schools, virtual schools, and homeschooling.** This high figure is consistent with previous state surveys asking the same question, most recently in Rhode Island (83 percent), Vermont (89 percent), Oregon (87 percent), and Montana (90 percent).
- **Ohio voters express a relatively high preference for private schools.** When asked "what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child," **44 percent** of respondents chose private schools. This finding is consistent with other recent state surveys: Rhode Island (55 percent), Vermont (44 percent), Oregon (44 percent), and Montana (38 percent).
- **Ohio's three existing school choice policies garner solid support.** The numbers in favor of each program outweigh those who oppose by significant margins.
 - **Autism Scholarship Program:** 61% favor | 34% oppose
 - **Educational Choice Scholarship Program:** 58% favor | 37% oppose
 - **Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program:** 54% favor | 44% oppose
 - **Generally speaking, favorability is a consistent finding regardless of respondents' differing demographic perspectives (see Comparative Tables, pp. 31 – 38)**
- **When asked about school vouchers in general, 53 percent of Ohio voters say they support the idea.** More than half of interviewed voters say they are favorable toward a school voucher approach allowing families to pay for their child's school tuition. Those respondents most likely to be emotionally and financially invested in K-12 schooling, the 36 to 45 and 46 to 55 age groups, show strong support for a voucher system. (**56 percent favor | 41 percent oppose**). **Fifty percent** of Ohio low-income households favor school vouchers. **Fifty-three percent** of households in the middle income bracket (\geq \$25,000 and $<$ \$75,000) also support school vouchers.
- **Ohioans with either personal or familial ties to labor/teacher unions (U) share similar schooling views when compared with "non-union" voters (NU).** They rate the state's school system as "good" or "excellent" at relatively low levels (U: 19 percent | NU: 20 percent). They prefer private schools over other school types (U: 43 percent | NU: 45 percent). Both groups have substantial proportions favoring the **Autism Scholarship Program** (U: 62 percent | NU: 61 percent), **Educational Choice Scholarship Program** (U: 59 percent | NU: 58 percent), **Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program** (U: 49 percent | NU: 56 percent), **charter schools** (U: 49 percent | NU: 51 percent), and **school vouchers** (U: 59 percent | NU: 51 percent).

Methodology

We obtained a total of 1,200 completed interviews with “likely voters” in Ohio, which provides a statistical representation for this population in the state. The sample’s statistical significance and probability are sufficient for assessment and decision-making purposes. The margin of sampling error at the conventional 95 percent confidence level is ± 3 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, question wording, ordering, and other practical difficulties when conducting surveys may introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Strategic Vision conducted phone interviews using a random sample of registered Ohio voters from its call center. Random Digit Dial (RDD) samples were produced by Survey Sampling International (SSI) using a sampling frame that includes all active telephone area codes and exchanges in the United States. This process randomly generates phone numbers for calls.

SSI starts with a database of all listed telephone numbers, updated on a four- to six-week rolling basis, 25 percent of the listings at a time. All active blocks—contiguous groups of 100 phone numbers for which more than one residential number is listed—are added to this database. Blocks and exchanges that include only listed business numbers are excluded.

Strategic Vision’s live callers conducted all phone interviews from February 20 to 22, 2009. A total of 3,672 calls were made in Ohio. Of these calls 364 were disconnected, non-residential, or non-answers; 1,479 were refusals; 422 did not qualify as likely voters; 207 did not complete the survey. The response rate for this survey was 36.9%.

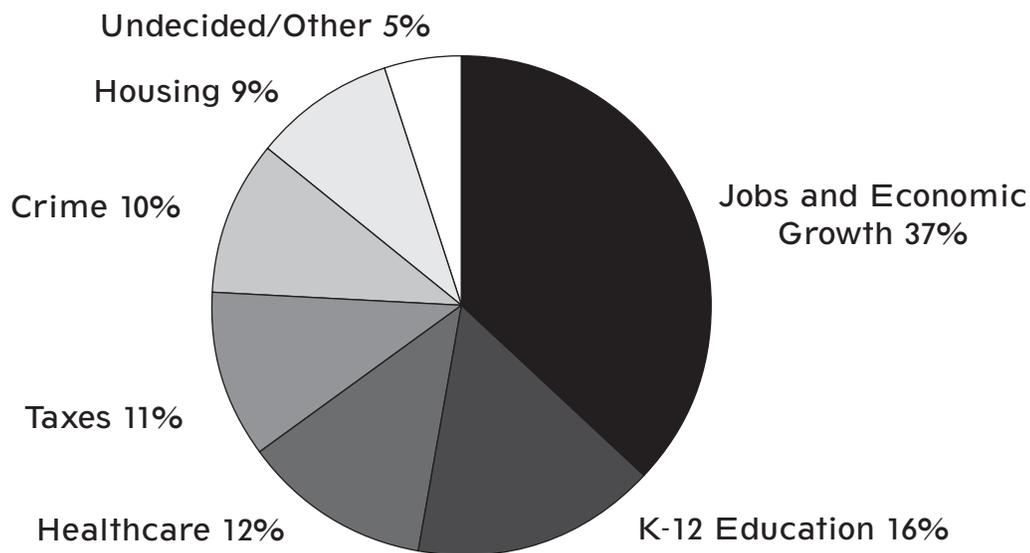
A set of screening questions was used to determine past voting behavior and likely voting in 2010. Respondents were asked whether they had voted in the 2008 election and were planning to vote in the next election in 2010. Respondents who satisfied both these criteria were classified as “likely voters” and were included in the survey. Respondents who either did not vote in 2008 or were not likely to vote in the next election were not included.

The author of this report takes sole responsibility for any errors or misrepresentations.

Toplines & Findings

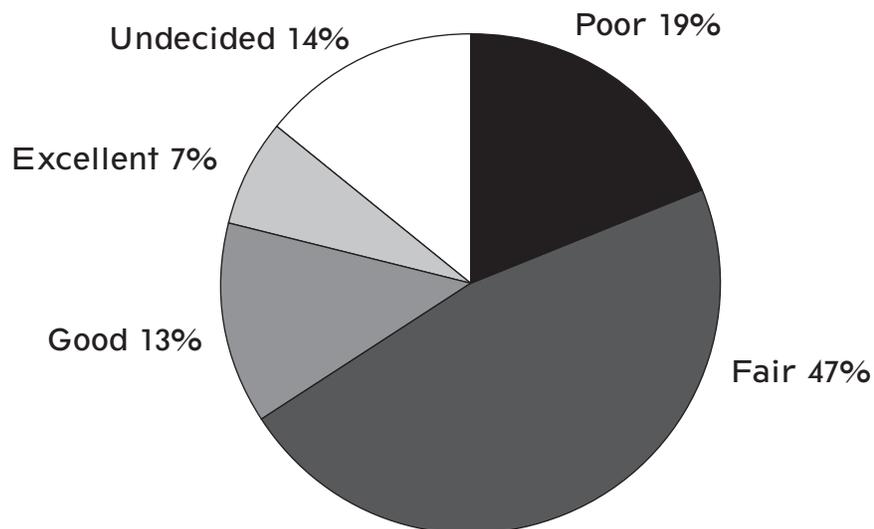
The following are the questions asked in the interview (in order) and the results of the survey.

1. I am going to name several issues facing the State of Ohio, and I would like you to select the one that is most important to you. _____



The order of the possible responses was rotated to avoid bias.

2. How would you rate Ohio's public school system? _____



Demographic Perspectives

K-12 PARENTS (n=876)

20% rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"

45% prefer private schools

16% prefer regular public schools

27% prefer charter schools

11% prefer homeschooling

25% are familiar with virtual schools; 34% favor virtual schools

61% favor the Autism Scholarship Program

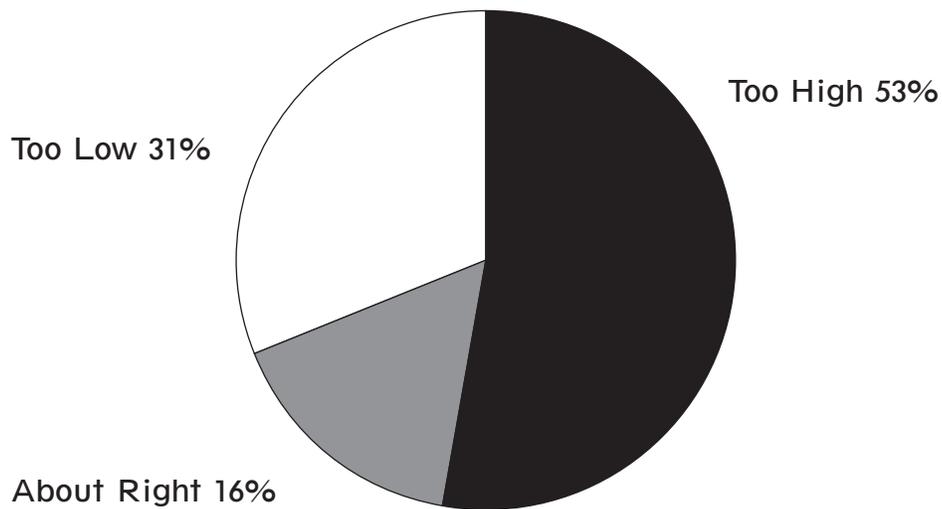
58% favor the Educational Choice Scholarship Program

54% favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private school scholarships

57% are familiar with school vouchers; 55% favor school vouchers

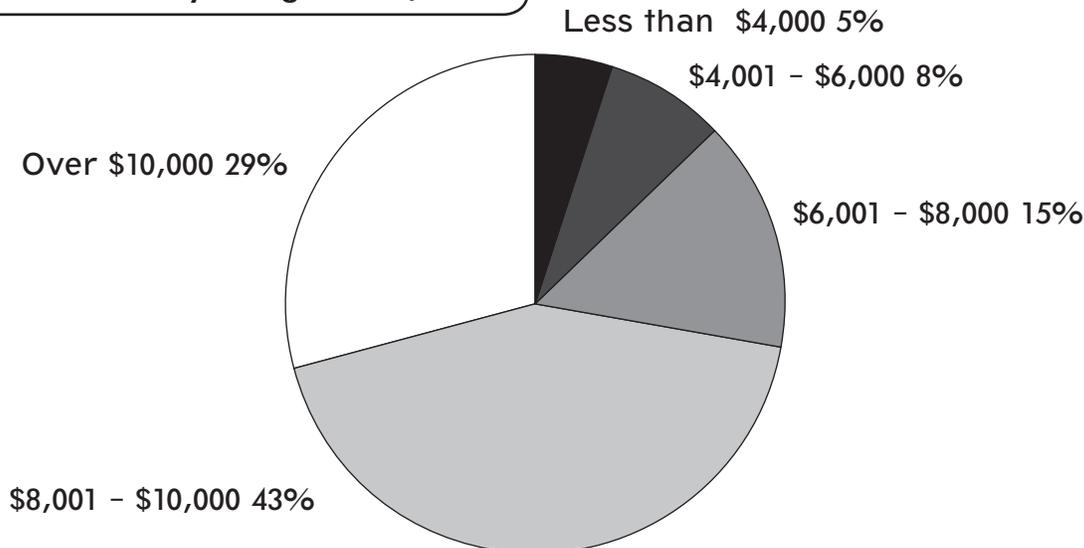
52% favor the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program

3. Do you believe that public school funding in Ohio is at a level that is:



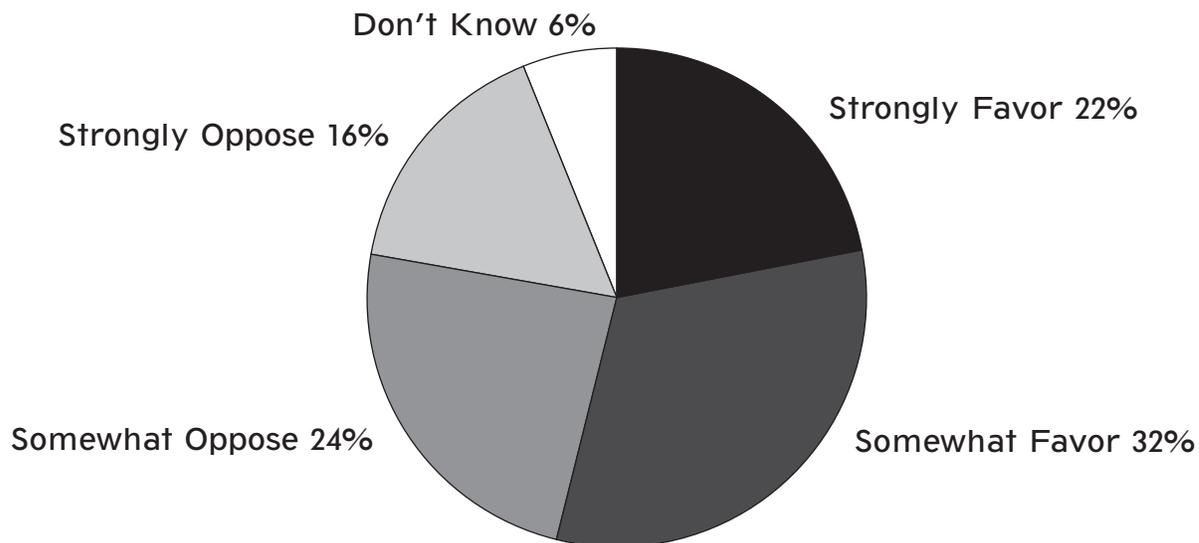
4. Approximately how much do you think is currently spent on each student in Ohio's public schools? Your estimate will represent the combined expenditures of local, state, and federal governments.

Actual 2007 school year figure: \$11,835*



*National Center for Education Statistics, "Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2005-06," published March 2009. Calculated by dividing Ohio's total expenditures (Table 8) by Ohio's fall 2006 student membership (Table 3).

5. How much would you favor or oppose financially rewarding teachers whose students make more academic progress—in terms of measurable outcomes—when compared to similar students taught by other teachers?



Demographic Perspectives

CLEVELAND & NORTHEAST (n=327)

19% rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"

46% prefer private schools

17% prefer regular public schools

25% prefer charter schools

9% prefer homeschooling

24% are familiar with virtual schools; 35% favor virtual schools

63% favor the Autism Scholarship Program

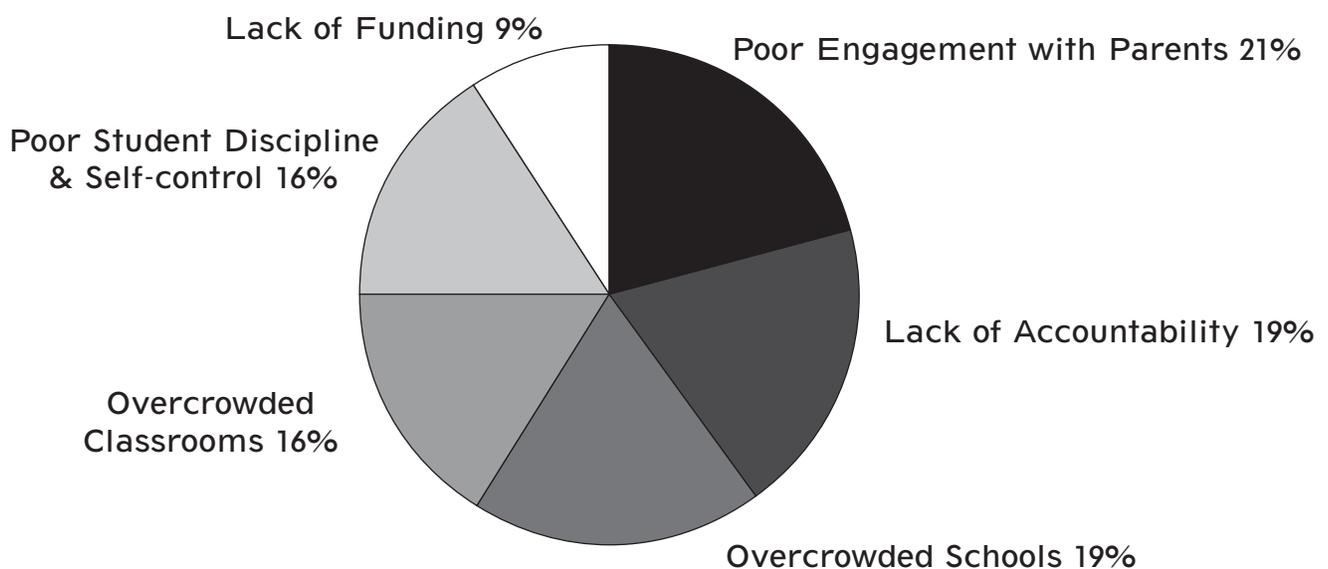
58% favor the Educational Choice Scholarship Program

56% favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private school scholarships

55% are familiar with school vouchers; 51% favor school vouchers

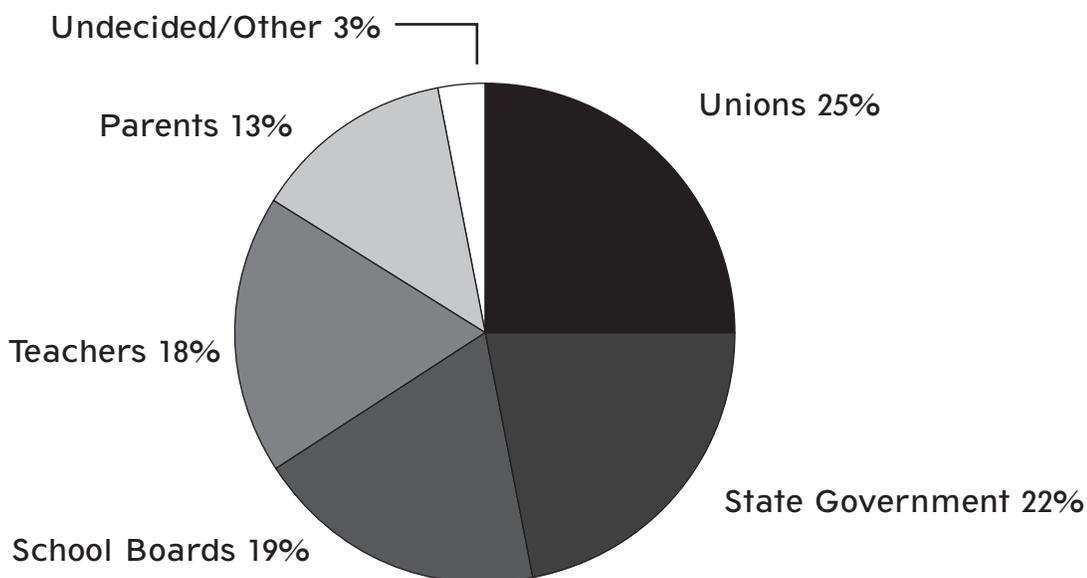
56% favor the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program

6. What do you see as the biggest challenge confronting Ohio's public school system? _____



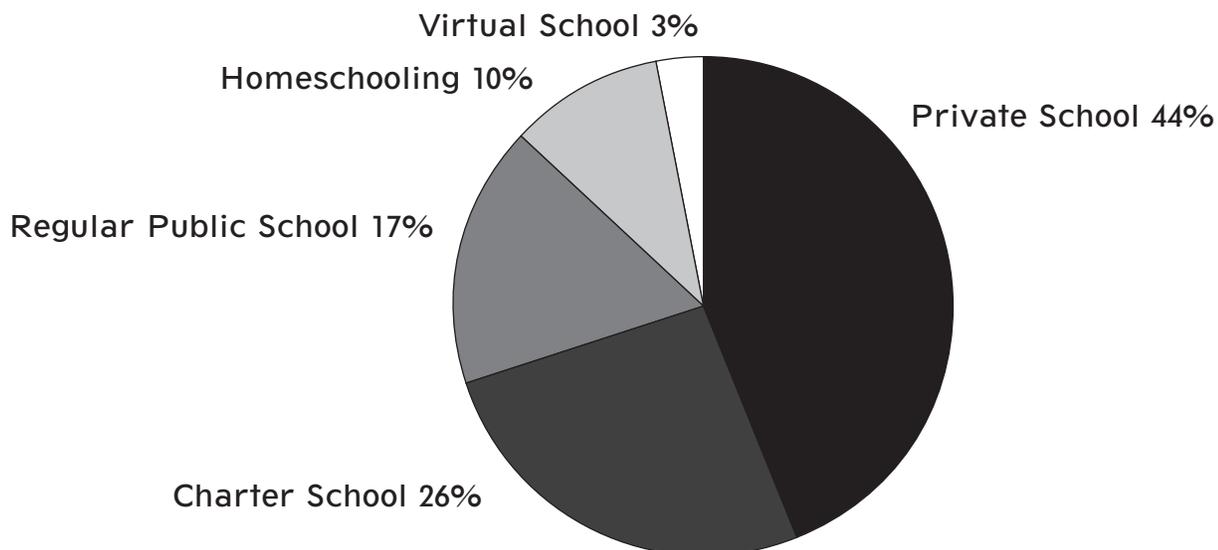
The order of the possible responses was rotated to avoid bias.

7. Who has the greatest influence on Ohio's public school system?



The order of the possible responses was rotated to avoid bias.

8. If it were your decision and you could select any type of school, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?



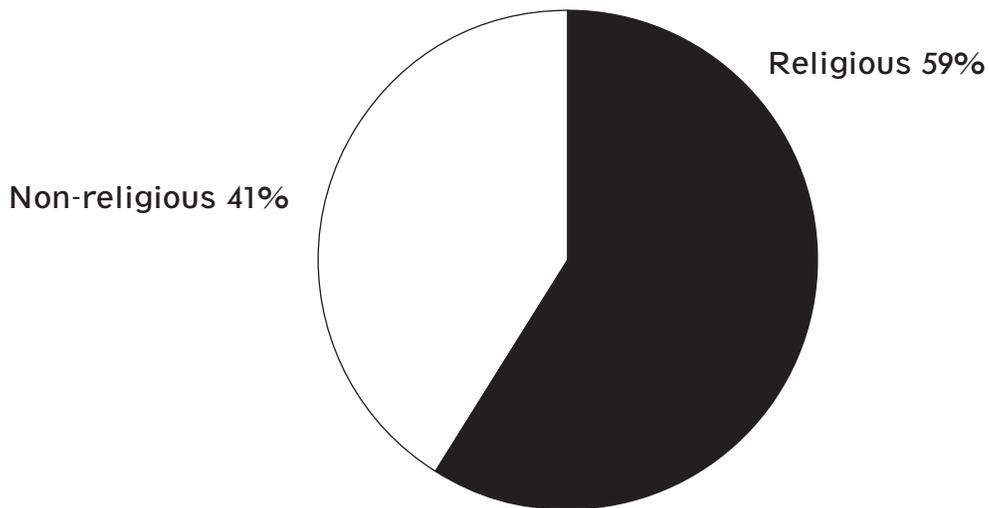
The order of the possible responses was rotated to avoid bias.

Demographic Perspectives

CINCINNATI & SOUTHWEST (n = 255)

- 19% rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"
- 42% prefer private schools
- 20% prefer regular public schools
- 22% prefer charter schools
- 14% prefer homeschooling
- 20% are familiar with virtual schools; 39% favor virtual schools
- 62% favor the Autism Scholarship Program
- 52% favor the Educational Choice Scholarship Program
- 52% favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private school scholarships
- 60% are familiar with school vouchers; 52% favor school vouchers
- 53% favor the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program

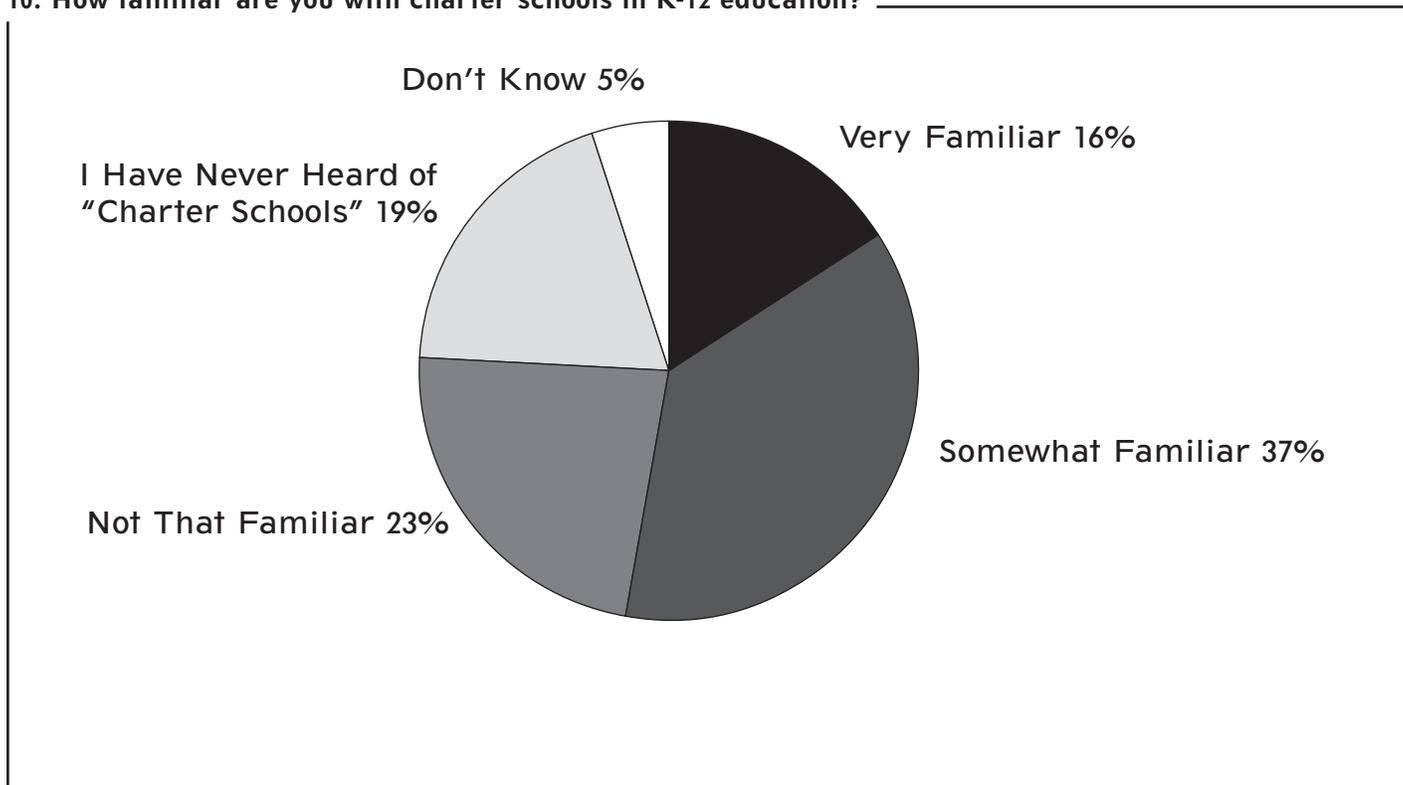
9. [If "Private School" from Question 8] Please specify the type of Private School.



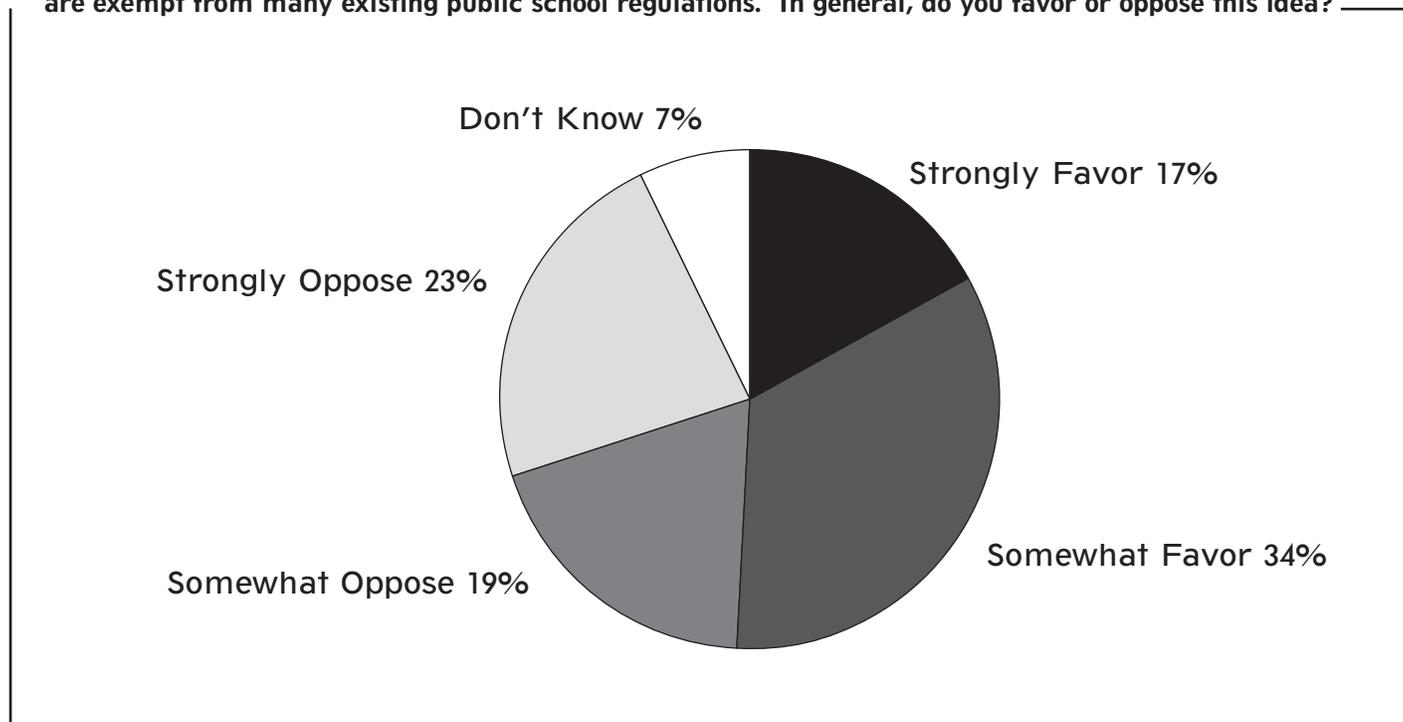
The order of the possible responses was rotated to avoid bias.

"For the remainder of this interview, if you are completely unsure about your answer or have no feelings for an answer, feel free to say 'I don't know.'"

10. How familiar are you with charter schools in K-12 education?



11. Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, do you favor or oppose this idea?



Demographic Perspectives

NORTHWEST (n=244)

19% rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"

42% prefer private schools

16% prefer regular public schools

28% prefer charter schools

9% prefer homeschooling

27% are familiar with virtual schools; 28% favor virtual schools

61% favor the Autism Scholarship Program

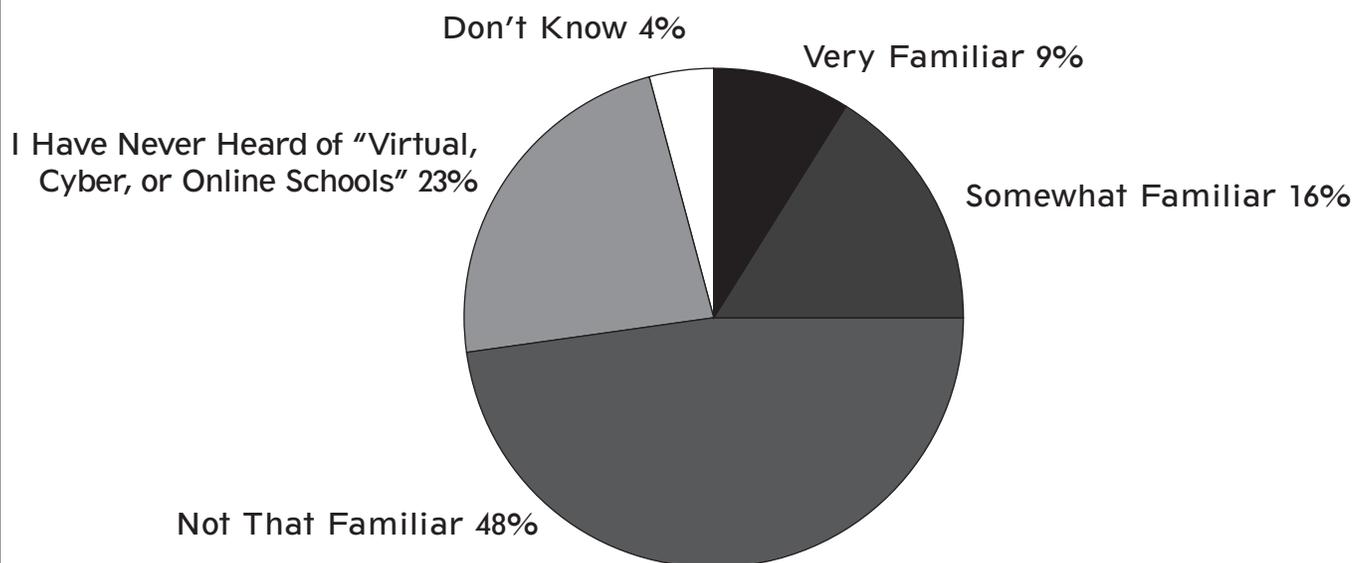
61% favor the Educational Choice Scholarship Program

52% favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private school scholarships

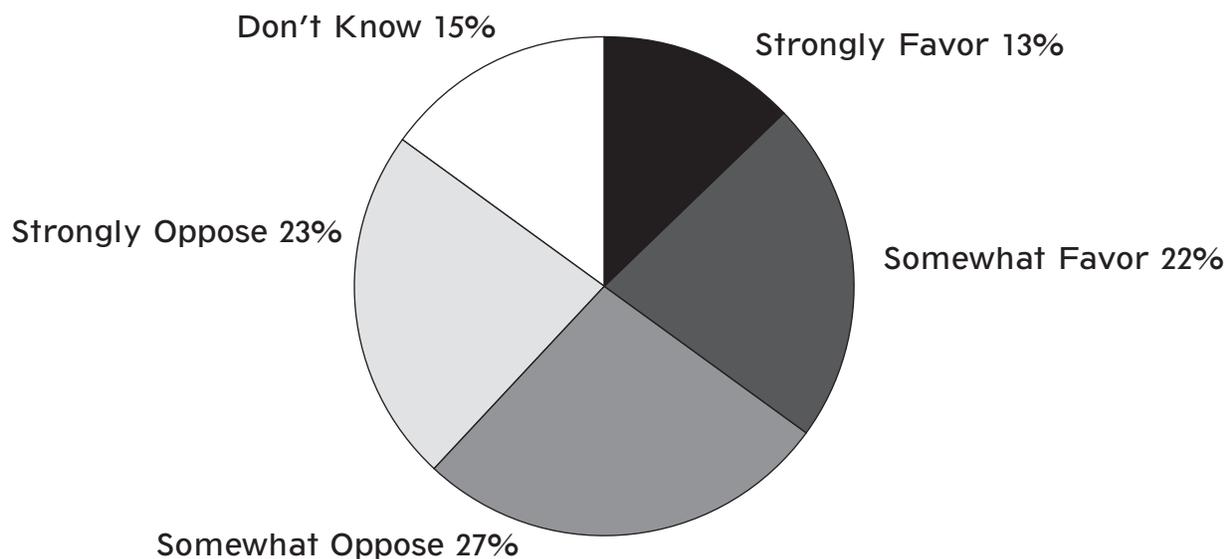
61% are familiar with school vouchers; 53% favor school vouchers

55% favor the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program

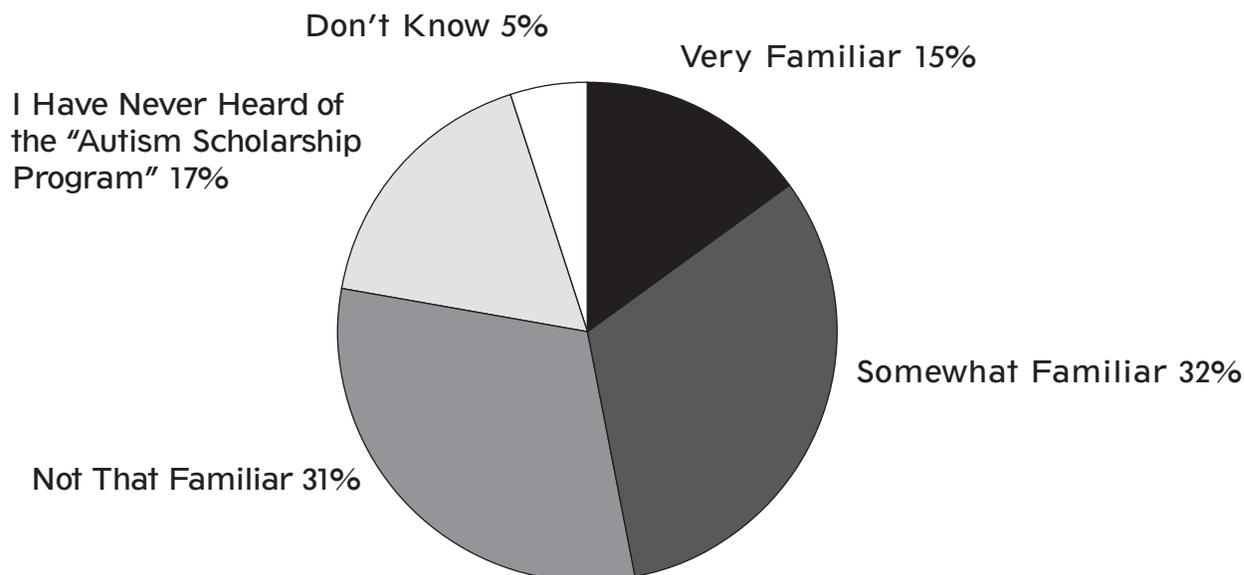
12. How familiar are you with "virtual schools" in K-12 education? These schools are sometimes called "cyber schools" and "online schools". _____



13. Virtual schools can be public or private schools that allow elementary, middle, and high school students to work with their curriculum and teachers over the Internet, rather than a traditional classroom. In general, do you favor or oppose this kind of idea? _____



14. The State of Ohio allows parents of autistic children to use publicly funded "autism scholarships" to help pay for the private school or public school where they choose to send their children. This policy is called the "Autism Scholarship Program". How familiar are you with this program? _____



Demographic Perspectives

SOUTHEAST (n=230)

24% rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"

43% prefer private schools

16% prefer regular public schools

27% prefer charter schools

10% prefer homeschooling

26% are familiar with virtual schools; 36% favor virtual schools

55% favor the Autism Scholarship Program

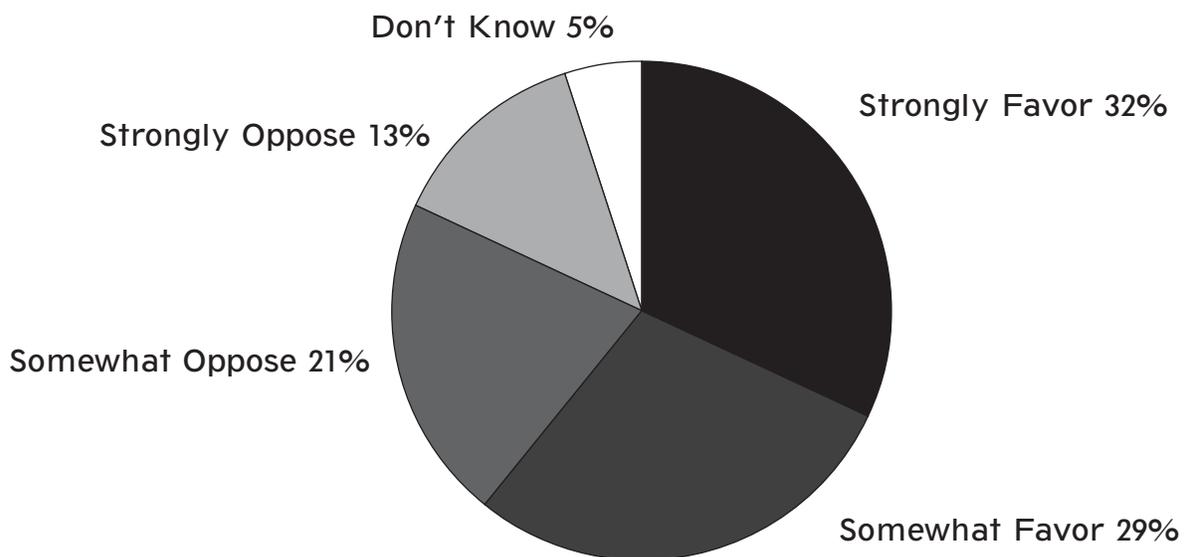
59% favor the Educational Choice Scholarship Program

52% favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private school scholarships

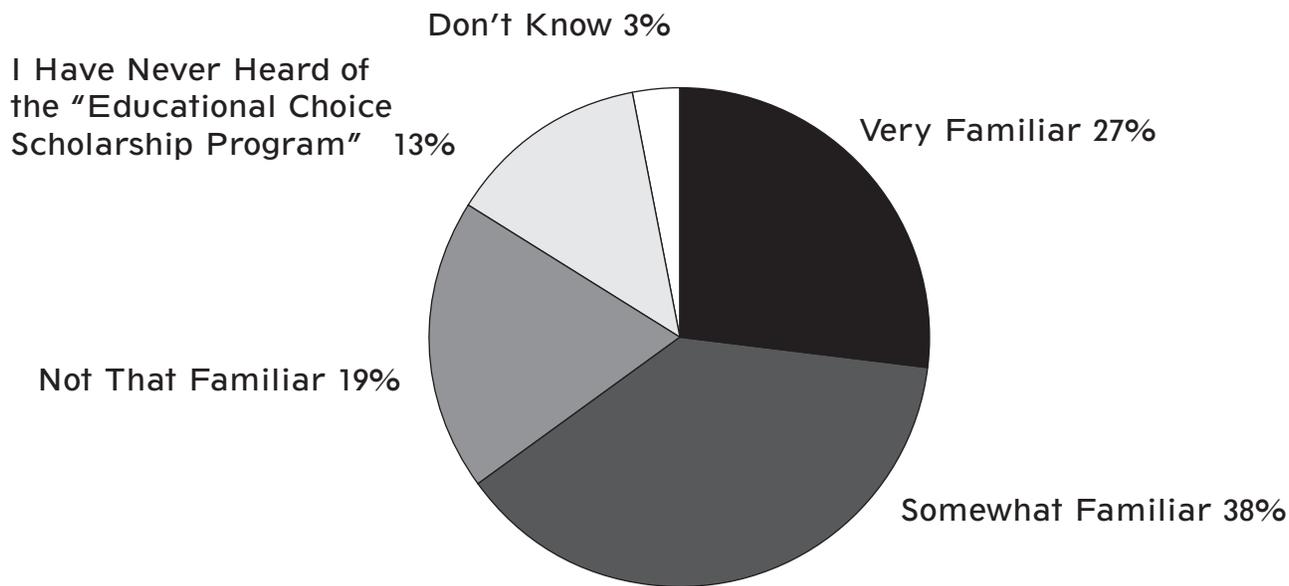
51% are familiar with school vouchers; 55% favor school vouchers

51% favor the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program

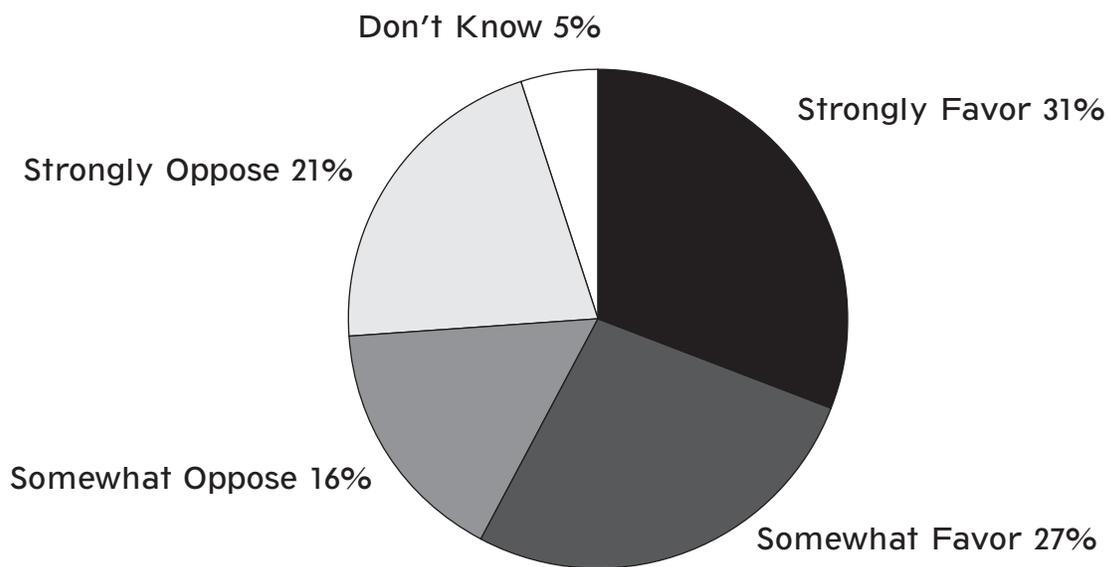
15. In general, do you favor or oppose the Autism Scholarship Program?



16. The State of Ohio allows parents of children attending, or assigned to attend, "consistently low-performing public schools" to use publicly funded scholarships to help pay for the private school where they choose to send their children. This policy is called the "Educational Choice Scholarship Program". How familiar are you with this program?



17. In general, do you favor or oppose the Educational Choice Scholarship Program?



Demographic Perspectives

COLUMBUS & CENTRAL (n=144)

23% rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"

47% prefer private schools

15% prefer regular public schools

28% prefer charter schools

8% prefer homeschooling

31% are familiar with virtual schools; 35% favor virtual schools

63% favor the Autism Scholarship Program

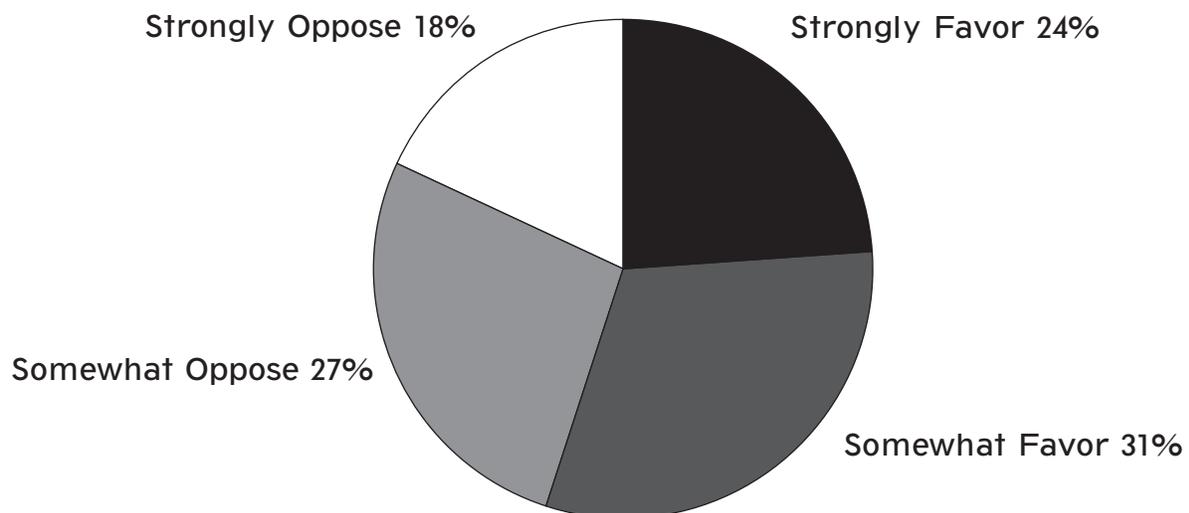
63% favor the Educational Choice Scholarship Program

53% favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private school scholarships

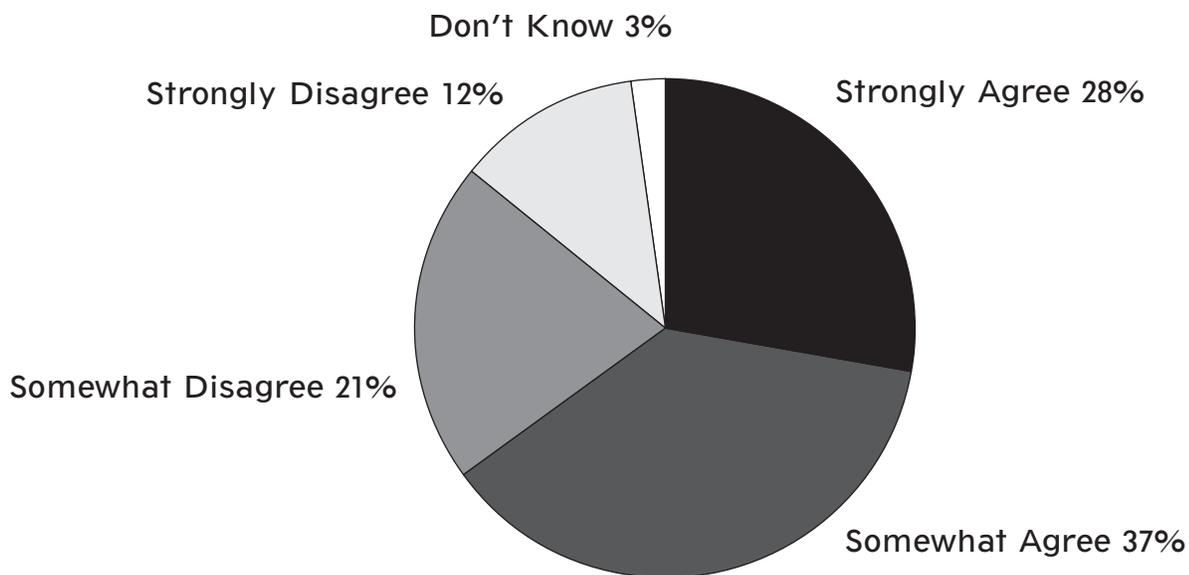
58% are familiar with school vouchers; 57% favor school vouchers

53% favor the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program

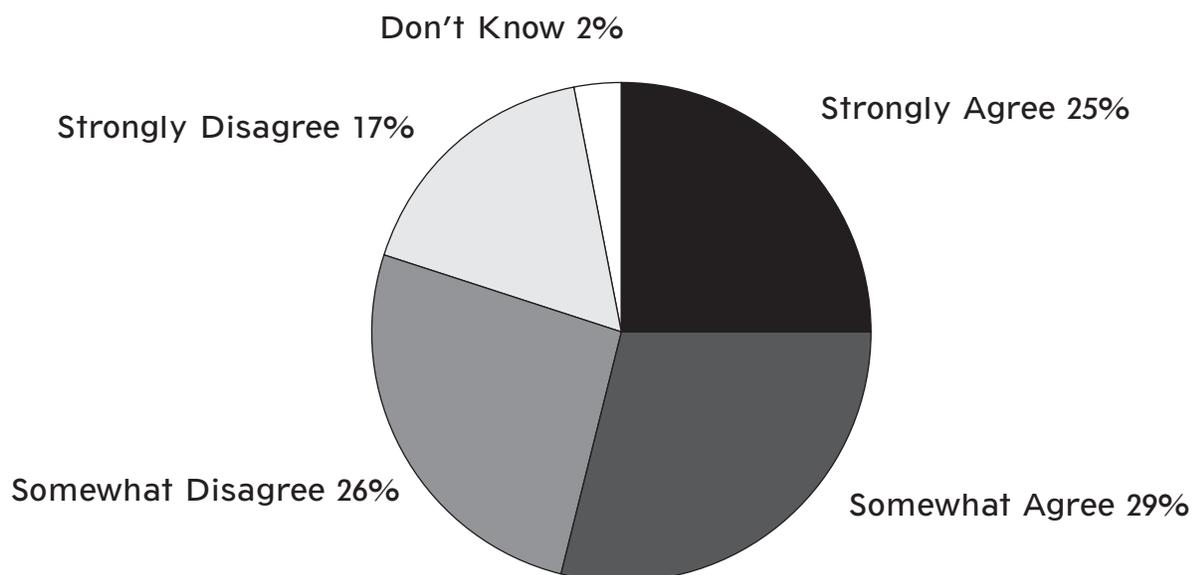
18. Some states give tax credits to individuals and businesses if they contribute money to nonprofit organizations that distribute private school scholarships to low-income families. This policy supports a "tax-credit scholarship system." If a proposal were made in Ohio to create such a system, would you favor or oppose such a program?



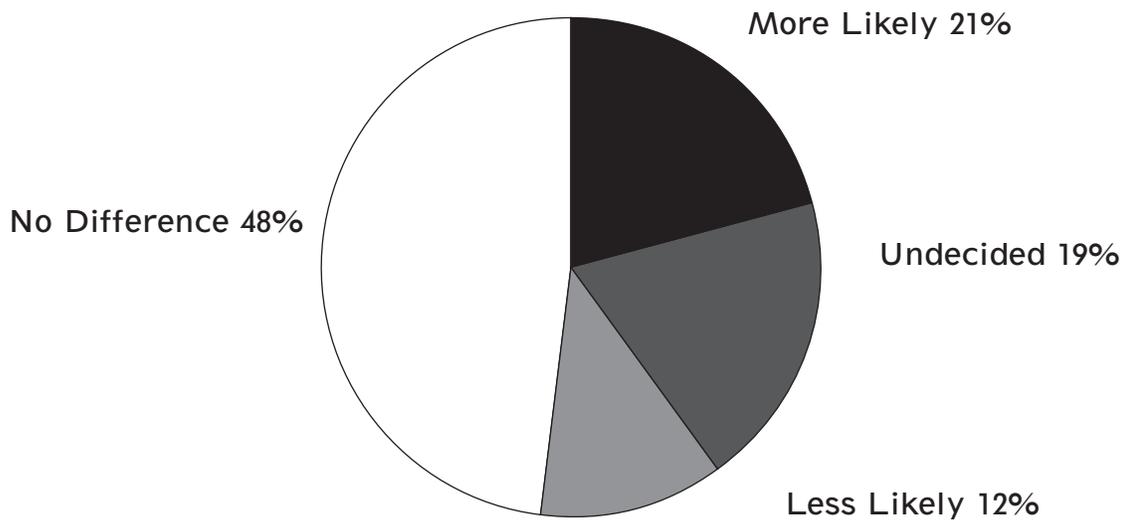
19. Some people believe that tax-credit scholarships should be available to students based on financial need. Do you agree or disagree with that statement? _____



20. Some people believe that tax-credit scholarships should be available to all families, regardless of incomes and special needs. Do you agree or disagree with that statement? _____



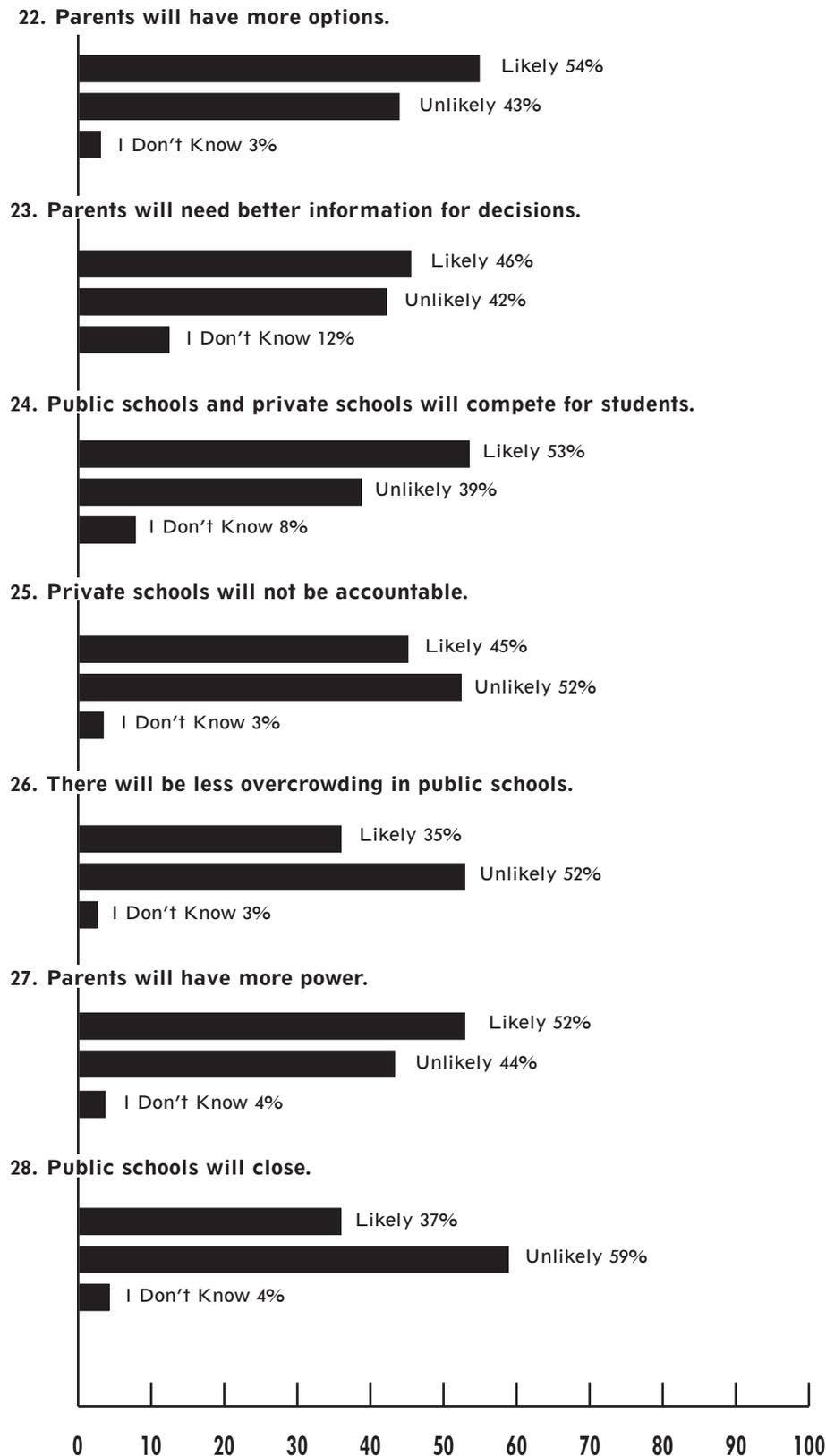
21. Thinking ahead to the next election, when a candidate for Governor, State Senator or Representative supports tax-credit scholarships, would that make you more likely to vote for them, less likely to vote for them, or make no difference whatsoever in your selection of candidates?



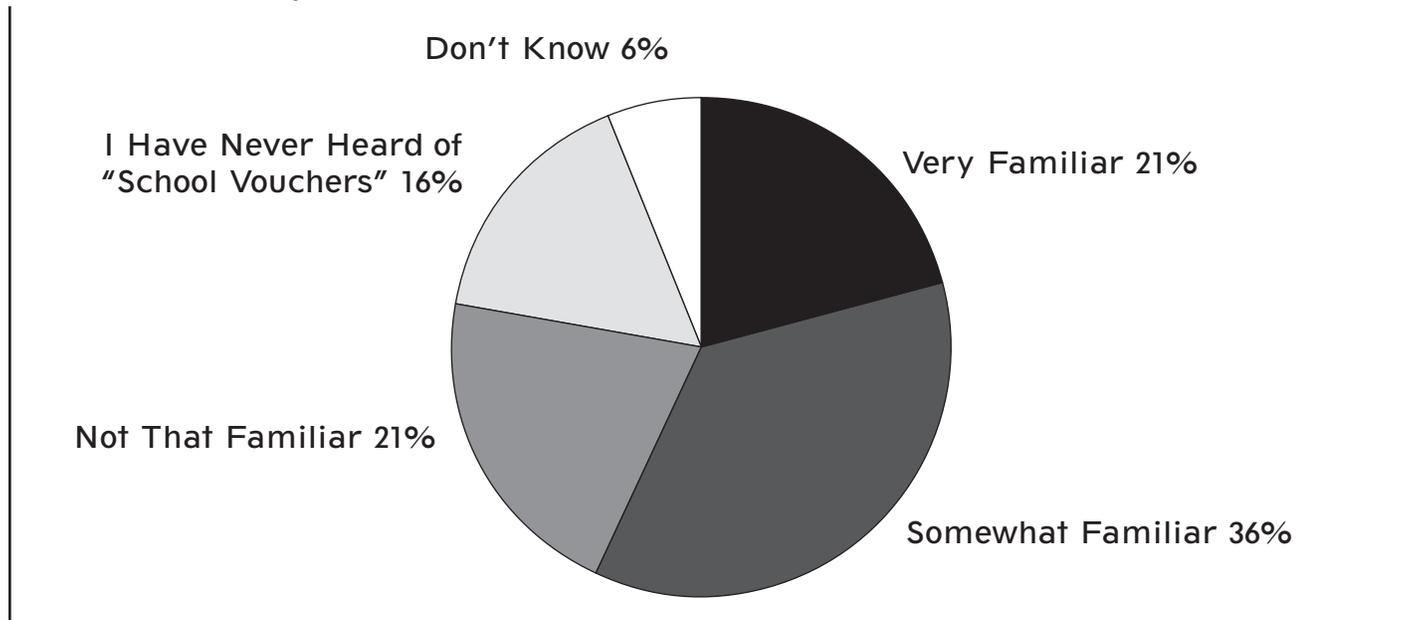
Forecasting Questions

"In this section, I would like to know if you think the following statements are 'likely' or 'unlikely' to happen if a tax-credit scholarship system is implemented in Ohio."

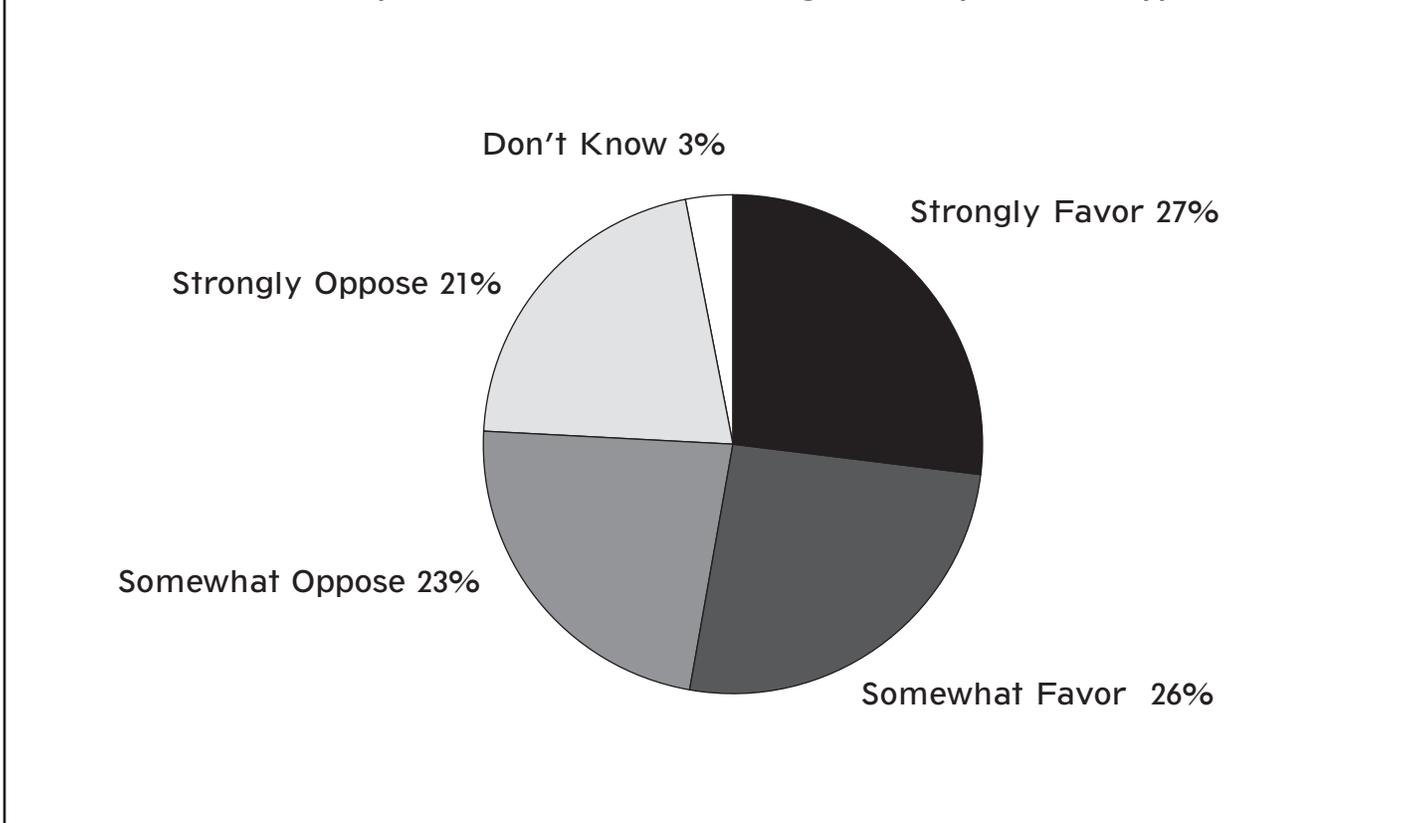
"If you are unsure, feel free to say 'I don't know.'" (Questions 22 - 28 rotated to avoid bias)



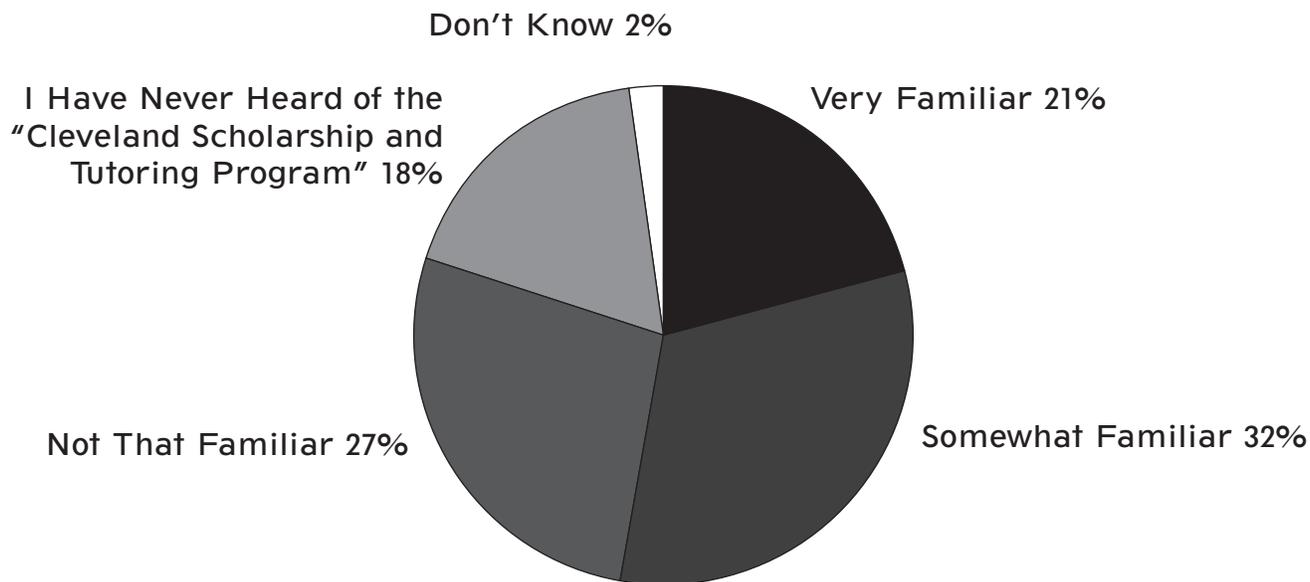
29. How familiar are you with "school vouchers" in K-12 education?



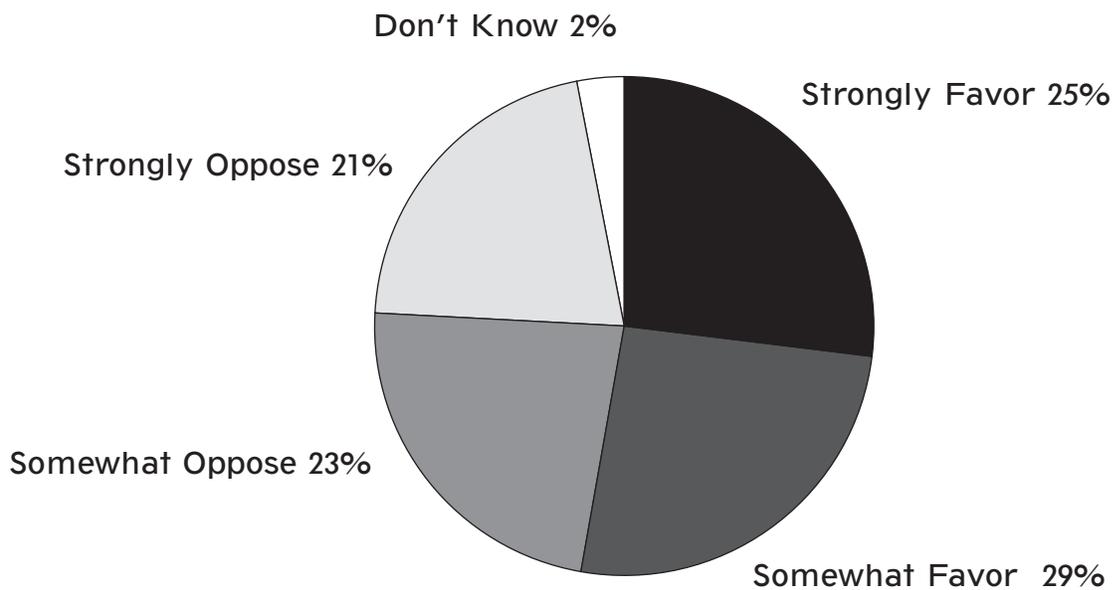
30. School vouchers allow parents the option of sending their children to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private/independent. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a "school voucher" to help pay tuition for the school where they choose to send their child. In general, do you favor or oppose this idea?



31. The State of Ohio allows families who live within the Cleveland Municipal School District to use a school voucher to send their children to private school. The "Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program" also allows the voucher to be used at public schools bordering the school district. How familiar are you with the "Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program"?



32. In general, do you favor or oppose the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program?



Schooling Networks

(expressed by percentage of respondents)

	Regular Public School (n=359)	Private School (n=298)	Charter School (n=79)	Homeschooling (n=86)	Virtual School (n=17)	Combination (n=35)
Rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"	18	23	15	24	6	17
Prefer private schools	44	50	42	36	29	49
Prefer regular public schools	18	12	23	16	6	6
Prefer charter schools	26	25	28	28	41	34
Prefer homeschooling	10	11	8	13	24	11
Familiar with virtual schools	24	24	27	26	59	29
Favor virtual schools	36	28	41	38	47	37
Favor the Autism Scholarship Program	61	62	65	59	41	57
Favor the Educational Choice Scholarship Program	57	55	76	57	82	60
Favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private school scholarships	54	53	65	52	53	51
Familiar with school vouchers	59	54	57	57	53	66
Favor school vouchers	55	55	51	64	35	46
Favor the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program	57	53	56	53	47	54

Community Identification

(expressed by percentage of respondents)

	Urban (n = 312)	Suburban (n = 396)	Small Town (n = 276)	Rural (n = 216)
Rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"	20	18	20	23
Prefer private schools	41	45	45	45
Prefer regular public schools	20	17	14	17
Prefer charter schools	25	24	29	27
Prefer homeschooling	11	12	8	7
Familiar with virtual schools	24	25	28	24
Favor virtual schools	32	37	37	33
Favor the Autism Scholarship Program	64	62	58	59
Favor the Educational Choice Scholarship Program	56	60	56	61
Favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private school scholarships	55	54	54	59
Familiar with school vouchers	56	63	56	50
Favor school vouchers	49	54	57	53
Favor the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program	52	59	54	47

Political Party Identification

(expressed by percentage of respondents)

	Democrat (n = 528)	Republican (n = 432)	Independent (n = 192)
Rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"	20	20	18
Prefer private schools	42	47	44
Prefer regular public schools	17	14	25
Prefer charter schools	28	26	19
Prefer homeschooling	11	10	8
Familiar with virtual schools	27	22	27
Favor virtual schools	35	35	38
Favor the Autism Scholarship Program	63	60	58
Favor the Educational Choice Scholarship Program	58	59	54
Favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private school scholarships	55	57	52
Familiar with school vouchers	54	60	62
Favor school vouchers	49	56	56
Favor the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program	52	54	58

Race/Ethnicity Identification

(expressed by percentage of respondents)

	African American (n = 144)	Asian (n = 26)	Hispanic (n = 49)	Native American (n = 14)	White (n = 955)
Rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"	23	16	18	42	19
Prefer private schools	40	31	37	50	45
Prefer regular public schools	17	35	20	0	17
Prefer charter schools	27	35	27	21	26
Prefer homeschooling	12	0	12	29	10
Familiar with virtual schools	28	23	20	28	25
Favor virtual schools	39	31	33	28	35
Favor the Autism Scholarship Program	55	46	63	79	62
Favor the Educational Choice Scholarship Program	57	58	55	57	58
Favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private school scholarships	53	65	57	35	55
Familiar with school vouchers	45	69	59	57	58
Favor school vouchers	53	65	65	57	52
Favor the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program	43	53	47	43	56

Religious Identification

(expressed by percentage of respondents)

	Catholic (n = 252)	Jewish (n = 24)	Protestant (n = 720)	Other (n = 36)	None (n = 168)
Rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"	22	25	18	22	23
Prefer private schools	45	50	44	42	41
Prefer regular public schools	13	8	17	17	24
Prefer charter schools	28	33	26	19	22
Prefer homeschooling	11	8	10	19	9
Familiar with virtual schools	23	33	26	33	20
Favor virtual schools	36	46	35	31	33
Favor the Autism Scholarship Program	61	63	61	50	63
Favor the Educational Choice Scholarship Program	60	46	57	72	58
Favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private school scholarships	55	50	56	61	51
Familiar with school vouchers	58	50	57	59	60
Favor school vouchers	52	25	52	59	60
Favor the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program	50	58	54	53	58

Union Ties

(expressed by percentage of respondents)

	"Yes" / Union (n = 193)	"No" / Non-Union (n = 996)
Rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"	19	20
Prefer private schools	43	45
Prefer regular public schools	19	17
Prefer charter schools	24	26
Prefer homeschooling	10	10
Familiar with virtual schools	24	25
Favor virtual schools	36	35
Favor the Autism Scholarship Program	62	61
Favor the Educational Choice Scholarship Program	59	58
Favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private school scholarships	62	54
Familiar with school vouchers	62	57
Favor school vouchers	59	51
Favor the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program	49	56

Age Groups

(expressed by percentage of respondents)

	18 - 25 (n = 96)	26 - 35 (n = 156)	36 - 45 (n = 276)	46 - 55 (n = 324)	56 - 65 (n = 168)	Over 65 (n = 180)
Rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"	26	22	19	18	17	21
Prefer private schools	45	43	45	43	43	46
Prefer regular public schools	15	20	20	16	17	12
Prefer charter schools	27	22	25	26	24	31
Prefer homeschooling	10	14	7	11	10	10
Familiar with virtual schools	19	21	26	25	24	31
Favor virtual schools	39	32	36	37	29	38
Favor the Autism Scholarship Program	55	59	60	65	66	57
Favor the Educational Choice Scholarship Program	69	57	59	55	55	58
Favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private school scholarships	57	57	55	56	52	53
Familiar with school vouchers	56	55	58	59	59	59
Favor school vouchers	49	46	57	55	52	53
Favor the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program	47	58	55	57	47	55

Family Income Groups

(expressed by percentage of respondents)

	Under \$25,000 (n = 60)	\$25,000 - \$49,999 (n = 204)	\$50,000 - \$74,999 (n = 384)	\$75,000 - \$150,000 (n = 456)	Over \$150,000 (n = 96)
Rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"	18	17	19	18	25
Prefer private schools	47	39	45	46	42
Prefer regular public schools	17	19	16	17	18
Prefer charter schools	22	28	25	27	26
Prefer homeschooling	12	11	12	7	10
Familiar with virtual schools	15	21	29	27	17
Favor virtual schools	35	29	39	35	29
Favor the Autism Scholarship Program	62	56	65	60	60
Favor the Educational Choice Scholarship Program	58	58	55	60	60
Favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private school scholarships	57	59	53	54	55
Familiar with school vouchers	52	56	60	56	58
Favor school vouchers	50	46	56	57	56
Favor the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program	65	53	54	52	56

Demographics

ARE YOU CURRENTLY THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF ANY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN IN GRADES K-12?

Yes	73%
No	27%

[IF PARENT/GUARDIAN OF SCHOOL-AGE CHILD IN K-12] DO YOU HAVE A CHILD (OR CHILDREN) ATTENDING:

Regular Public School	41%
Private School	34%
Charter School	9%
Homeschooling	10%
Virtual School	2%
Combination of Two or More "School Types"	4%

DO YOUR POLITICAL VIEWS MOST CLOSELY REFLECT THOSE OF A:

Democrat	44%
Libertarian	2%
Republican	36%
Other Party Affiliation	2%
Independent/No Party Affiliation	16%

BASED ON ZIP CODE RESPONSE, CITY OR STATE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION:

Northwest	20%
Cleveland & Northeast	27%
Columbus & Central	12%
Cincinnati & Southwest	21%
Southeast	19%

HOW WOULD YOU BEST DESCRIBE WHERE YOU LIVE?

Urban	26%
Suburban	33%
Small Town	23%
Rural	18%

IN WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING AGE CATEGORIES DO YOU FALL IN?

18 - 25	8%
26 - 35	13%
36 - 45	23%
46 - 55	27%
56 - 65	14%
Over 65	15%

ARE YOU:

African American	12%
Asian	2%
Hispanic	4%
Native American	1%
White	80%
Other	1%

WHAT IS YOUR RELIGION, IF ANY?

Catholic	21%
Jewish	2%
Baptist	13%
Lutheran	10%
Methodist	11%
Other Protestant	26%
Other Religion	3%
None	14%

IN WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES DOES YOUR TOTAL FAMILY INCOME FALL?

Under \$25,000	5%
\$25,000-\$49,999	17%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	32%
\$75,000 - \$150,000	38%
Over \$150,000	8%

ARE YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR FAMILY A UNION (TEACHER OR LABOR) MEMBER?

Yes	16%
No	83%
Don't Know	1%

ARE YOU:

Male	48%
Female	52%

THE FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR Educational *Choice*

Milton and Rose D. Friedman established the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice in 1996. We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization addressing the Friedmans' long-standing concern about the urgent challenges facing America's elementary and secondary education systems. The foundation's philosophy asserts that the best way to improve the quality of education is to enable all parents to have unfettered free choice of the schools that their children attend. The Friedman Foundation conducts research and outreach projects to educate the general public and to amplify the call for systemic reform through school choice.

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Nobel Laureate and Founder of the Friedman Foundation

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