



CYGNAL

Survey of North Carolina Parents

North Carolina Statewide

Conducted April 25 - 27, 2023

n=520

Parent Screener

1. Are you currently the parent of a K-12 student?

	Freq.	%
Yes	520	100.0%
No	0	0.0%
Unsure	0	0.0%
Total	520	100.0%

RD/WT

2. Generally speaking, would you say education in North Carolina is headed in the right direction or off on the wrong track?

	Freq.	%	2022 Survey
<u>Right direction</u>	<u>308</u>	<u>59.1%</u>	<u>55.9%</u>
Definitely the right direction	162	31.2%	10.6%
Mostly the right direction	145	27.9%	45.3%
<u>Wrong track</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>24.0%</u>	<u>36.8%</u>
Mostly the wrong track	80	15.3%	23.5%
Definitely the wrong track	45	8.7%	13.3%
Unsure	87	16.8%	7.3%
Total	520	100.0%	100.0%

K-12 Grade

3. How would you grade the overall performance of K-12 public schools in North Carolina?

	Freq.	%
A	110	21.2%
B	156	29.9%
C	128	24.6%
D	39	7.5%
F	14	2.7%
Unsure	73	14.0%
Total	520	100.0%

School board Grade

4. School boards are charged with developing and implementing policy to ensure education programs are effectively and efficiently delivered to students. What letter grade best reflects the quality of the work of your local school board is accomplished? *Note: In the 2022 Survey, the question was "The grade I would assign that best reflects the quality of the work of the school board would be:"*

	Freq.	%	2022 Survey
A	123	23.7%	8.9%



B	175	33.7%	22.6%
C	126	24.2%	38.0%
D	44	8.4%	14.6%
F	13	2.6%	9.1%
Unsure	39	7.5%	6.8%
Total	520	100.0%	100.0%

Top Challenges

5. In your opinion, the biggest challenge facing local school boards is:

	Freq.	%
Insufficient funding	68	13.1%
Teacher shortages	89	17.2%
Learning loss	30	5.8%
Children's access to inappropriate material	62	12.0%
Parents want to control the schools	35	6.7%
Loss of confidence in the public schools	66	12.7%
School boards are making decisions that belong to parents	90	17.3%
School choice is siphoning students and funding from the public schools	50	9.6%
Unsure	30	5.7%
Total	520	100.0%

Thinking about issues relating to controversial books and curriculum in our public schools...

Objectionable Books Response

6. There has been a recent increase in the number of books parents have flagged as inappropriate due to language, violence, or other content. In your opinion, is the administrative process schools use to decide these claims fair to school staff and parents and effective in reaching an acceptable remedy?

	Freq.	%
Yes	305	58.6%
Definitely yes	153	29.5%
Probably yes	152	29.2%
No	152	29.2%
Probably no	95	18.3%
Definitely no	57	10.9%
Unsure	63	12.1%
Total	520	100.0%



Objectionable Books Policy

7. In general, should books flagged by parents as inappropriate due to language, violence, or sexual content remain in a public school library? *Note: In the 2022 Survey, the question was “Should books or instructional materials flagged by parents as inappropriate due to language, violence, or sexual content be used in the standard curriculum?”*

	Freq.	%	2022 Survey
All objectionable books should be removed	81	15.7%	21.3%
No objectionable books should be removed	54	10.4%	12.7%
Objectionable books should be removed from elementary school libraries only	76	14.5%	33.3%
Schools should purchase additional books that provide multiple points of view	100	19.2%	22.8%
Schools should set up a review process for books that have parental objections and be removed if it is found they violate certain standards	177	34.0%	-
Unsure	33	6.3%	9.7%
Total	520	100.0%	100.0%

Thinking now about how schools should handle topics such as sexual preference and gender identity...

Sex Ed Focus

8. When it comes to teaching children about sexual preference and gender identity, do you think the public schools give these topics...?

	Freq.	%	2022 Survey
Too much time	145	27.9%	44.8%
Not enough time	157	30.2%	21.0%
Right amount of time	158	30.4%	17.1%
Unsure	60	11.5%	17.2%
Total	520	100.0%	100.0%



Parents of Transgender Students

9. Issues of gender identity issues are some of the most sensitive and controversial issues that parents, students and school boards will ever encounter. In your opinion, which statement comes closest to your opinion on how schools should handle issues of gender identity?

Note: In the 2022 Survey, the question was “Information related to a child’s gender identity is a highly personal and sensitive information. School districts have struggled with the best way to address this issue and the needs of parents and children. In your opinion, which of the following statements comes closest to your opinion on how schools should inform parents about a student’s gender identity?”

	Freq.	%	2022 Survey
Schools should not be forced to tell parents about gender changes since parents may not support a child’s decision to transition	157	30.2%	6.7%
Because parents have a legal right to all medical and psychological information about their child, school boards should be required to share information about gender changes with parents	315	60.7%	86.5%
Unsure	48	9.1%	6.8%
Total	520	100.0%	100.0%

Teacher’s Political Opinions

10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Teachers share their personal beliefs in the classroom in an attempt to influence the beliefs of their students.

	Freq.	%	2022 Survey
<u>Agree</u>	<u>304</u>	<u>58.4%</u>	<u>46.8%</u>
Strongly agree	155	29.8%	19.3%
Somewhat agree	149	28.6%	27.5%
<u>Neither agree nor disagree</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>15.7%</u>	<u>13.1%</u>
<u>Disagree</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>20.8%</u>	<u>35.4%</u>
Somewhat disagree	51	9.8%	14.5%
Strongly disagree	57	11.0%	21.0%
Unsure	26	5.1%	4.6%
Total	520	100.0%	100.0%



Teacher's Political Opinions Solutions

11. In your opinion, what should be done about teachers who share their personal beliefs in the classroom in an attempt to influence the beliefs of their students?

	Freq.	%	2022 Survey
Prohibit discussion of certain topics and issues	141	27.1%	27.2%
Publish teacher lesson plans online	88	16.8%	16.6%
Place cameras in the classroom	88	16.9%	12.1%
Require teachers to show no preference for certain ideas	153	29.4%	35.7%
Unsure	50	9.7%	8.3%
Total	520	100.0%	100.0%

Classroom Politization

12. In your opinion, in the past five years, has the classroom instruction in the local kindergarten through 12th-grade schools become more or less political?

	Freq.	%	2022 Survey
<u>More political</u>	<u>305</u>	<u>58.7%</u>	<u>71.7%</u>
Much more political	152	29.3%	42.8%
Somewhat more political	153	29.4%	28.9%
<u>Neither more nor less political</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>21.1%</u>	<u>14.1%</u>
<u>Less political</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>13.9%</u>	<u>8.1%</u>
Somewhat less political	43	8.3%	5.0%
Much less political	29	5.6%	3.1%
Unsure	33	6.3%	6.0%
Total	520	100.0%	100.0%

Classroom Politization Blame

13. In your opinion, who is more responsible for politicizing education?

	Freq.	%	2022 Survey
Democrats and liberals are more responsible	136	26.1%	29.1%
Republicans and conservatives are more responsible	96	18.5%	14.2%
Both equally responsible	206	39.6%	41.2%
Neither are responsible	38	7.4%	5.8%
Unsure	44	8.4%	9.6%
Total	520	100.0%	100.0%



Thinking now about a parent's role in their child's education...

Determinant of Child's Education

14. It is generally accepted that where a child attends school significantly influences educational outcomes. In your opinion, who is best equipped to help the child make those decisions?

	Freq.	%	2022 Survey
Local school board	44	8.5%	8.9%
Parents/Guardians	234	45.0%	56.4%
School Principal	53	10.2%	2.7%
State Board of Education	95	18.3%	23.6%
State Legislature	57	10.9%	3.2%
Unsure	37	7.1%	5.2%
Total	520	100.0%	100.0%

Teacher v Parent Trust

15. If you heard there was a disagreement on an education issue between teachers and a group of parents, would you generally have more confidence in the teachers or in the parent group to have the right position on the issue?

	Freq.	%	2022 Survey
More confidence in teachers	100	19.3%	18.5%
More confidence in parents	156	30.0%	27.4%
Same confidence in both	162	31.2%	39.8%
Confident in neither	55	10.5%	-
Unsure	47	9.0%	14.3%
Total	520	100.0%	100.0%

Parental Bill of Rights

16. Parents Bill of Rights Legislation has been introduced in North Carolina. The proposed legislation has gathered both supporters and opponents. Which of the following statements best reflects your opinion regarding the Parents bill of rights.

	Freq.	%
<u>Supporters</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>62.2%</u>
I support the parents bill of rights because the legislation affirms important parental rights and helps to end school practices that marginalize parental influence.	135	26.0%
I support the Parental Bill of Rights because the legislation enumerates important parental rights with regards to a student's medical and psychological records and bans all instruction on gender identity, sexuality activity and sexuality in grades kindergarten through grade four.	188	36.2%



<u>Opposers</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>26.9%</u>
I oppose Parents Bill of Rights because schools and parents must be equal partners in educating and raising kids. The Parents Bill of Rights significantly reduces the role and influence of the school in those efforts.	77	14.8%
I oppose the Parents Bill of Rights because provisions unfairly target LGBTQ students and would require schools to tell parents who may not support a child's decision to gender transition.	63	12.2%
Unsure	56	10.8%
Total	520	100.0%

School Boards Responsible

17. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

School boards are responsible for ensuring school districts follow appropriate laws and regulations and deliver educational services to public school students. Parents should work to ensure students can thrive within the school system and follow school board policies.

	Freq.	%
<u>Agree</u>	<u>355</u>	<u>68.3%</u>
Strongly agree	213	40.9%
Somewhat agree	142	27.4%
<u>Neither agree nor disagree</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>16.6%</u>
<u>Disagree</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>10.6%</u>
Somewhat disagree	37	7.2%
Strongly disagree	18	3.4%
Unsure	24	4.6%
Total	520	100.0%

Parents Responsible

18. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Parents are responsible for the education and upbringing of their children. School boards work for parents. As such, school board policies should be parent friendly and serve the interests of the child.

	Freq.	%
<u>Agree</u>	<u>343</u>	<u>66.1%</u>
Strongly agree	219	42.1%
Somewhat agree	125	24.0%



<u>Neither agree nor disagree</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>15.2%</u>
<u>Disagree</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>14.5%</u>
Somewhat disagree	49	9.4%
Strongly disagree	27	5.2%
Unsure	22	4.2%
Total	520	100.0%

Thinking about educational spending in North Carolina...

Spending and Educational Outcomes

19. Which of the following statements best reflects your thoughts on school spending and educational outcomes?

	Freq.	%
To improve educational outcomes, North Carolina must spend more on K-12 education.	192	36.9%
Additional funds are not needed to improve educational outcomes, but better spending of resources could help raise test	90	17.3%
Additional funds will not result in improvements in educational outcomes, since the linkage between spending and outcomes is inconclusive.	101	19.4%
School spending is not unimportant, but there are other variables that schools should look at when assessing influences on educational outcomes.	83	15.9%
Unsure	55	10.5%
Total	520	100.0%

Spending Amount

20. In 2022, North Carolina spent on average \$12,345 per K-12 student. In your opinion, is that:

	Freq.	%
Too little spending	136	26.2%
About the right level of spending	216	41.5%
Too much spending	101	19.4%
Unsure	67	12.9%
Total	520	100.0%



21. Are you female or male?

	Freq.	%
Female	282	54.3%
Male	238	45.7%
Total	520	100.0%

22. What age range do you fall within?

	Freq.	%
<u>Under 50</u>	<u>375</u>	<u>72.2%</u>
18 - 34	125	24.0%
35 - 49	251	48.2%
<u>50 and Over</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>27.8%</u>
50 - 64	135	26.0%
65+	9	1.8%
Total	520	100.0%

23. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, Republican, or Independent?

	Freq.	%
<u>Republican</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>25.5%</u>
Strongly Republican	66	12.6%
Mostly Republican	67	12.9%
<u>Independent</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>19.7%</u>
<u>Democratic</u>	<u>271</u>	<u>52.1%</u>
Mostly Democratic	92	17.7%
Strongly Democratic	179	34.4%
Unsure	14	2.7%
Total	520	100.0%

24. And thinking about your views toward politics and government, would you say you are...

	Freq.	%
<u>Conservative</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>28.9%</u>
Very conservative	87	16.7%
Somewhat conservative	64	12.2%
<u>Moderate</u>	<u>176</u>	<u>33.8%</u>
<u>Liberal</u>	<u>176</u>	<u>33.9%</u>
Somewhat liberal	68	13.0%
Very liberal	109	20.9%
Unsure	18	3.4%
Total	520	100.0%



25. Do you consider the area where you live to be more rural, suburban, or urban?

	Freq.	%
Rural	118	22.7%
Suburban	158	30.3%
Urban	244	47.0%
Total	520	100.0%

26. What is your primary source for news?

	Freq.	%
National broadcast television news (i.e. NBC, ABC, CBS)	154	29.6%
Local broadcast television news	70	13.5%
Cable news	50	9.7%
Social media	145	28.0%
Newspaper	34	6.6%
Talk radio	16	3.1%
Other websites	32	6.1%
Unsure	18	3.5%
Total	520	100.0%

27. What annual household income range do you fall within out of the following options?

	Freq.	%
Less than \$40,000	132	25.3%
\$40,000 - \$69,999	106	20.4%
\$70,000 - \$99,999	84	16.1%
\$100,000 or more	190	36.5%
Unsure	9	1.7%
Total	520	100.0%

28. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity?

	Freq.	%
White or Caucasian	340	65.3%
Asian or Pacific Islander	9	1.7%
Black or African American	115	22.1%
Hispanic or Latino	40	7.7%
Other	11	2.2%
Unsure	5	1.0%
Total	520	100.0%

29. Thinking back, who did you vote for in the 2020 election for President?

	Freq.	%
Republican Donald Trump	118	22.6%
Democrat Joe Biden	307	59.0%
Another candidate	15	2.9%
Did not vote	64	12.3%



Unsure	16	3.1%
Total	520	100.0%

30. What's the highest level of education you have completed?

	Freq.	%
<u>No Degree</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>57.4%</u>
Some high school	18	3.4%
High school diploma/GED	130	25.0%
Technical Certification	20	3.9%
Some college or Associate's Degree	130	25.1%
<u>Atleast College</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>41.8%</u>
Four-year undergraduate or Bachelor's Degree	97	18.7%
Graduate degree or further	120	23.1%
Unsure	4	0.8%
Total	520	100.0%

31. Geo – DMA

	Freq.	%
Charlotte	142	27.4%
Greenville, NC	79	15.2%
Raleigh	86	16.6%
Greenville, SC	55	10.5%
Greensboro	62	11.8%
Wilmington	42	8.1%
Norfolk	26	5.0%
Atlanta	15	2.9%
Chattanooga	8	1.6%
Myrtle Beach	5	0.9%
Total	520	100.0%

32. Geo – County

	Freq.	%
Alexander County	41	8.0%
Alleghany County	12	2.2%
Amance County	4	0.8%
Anson County	4	0.8%
Ashe County	11	2.1%
Avery County	13	2.6%
Beaufort County	14	2.8%
Bertie County	10	1.9%
Bladen County	4	0.8%
Brunswick County	14	2.8%
Buncombe County	3	0.6%
Burke County	5	1.0%



Cabarrus County	4	0.8%
Caldwell County	3	0.6%
Camden County	8	1.6%
Carteret County	2	0.4%
Caswell County	2	0.4%
Catawba County	3	0.5%
Chatham County	4	0.7%
Cherokee County	8	1.6%
Chowan County	1	0.2%
Clay County	15	2.9%
Cleveland County	7	1.4%
Columbus County	13	2.6%
Craven County	1	0.2%
Cumberland County	3	0.6%
Currituck County	4	0.7%
Dare County	3	0.6%
Davidson County	7	1.4%
Davie County	2	0.4%
Duplin County	1	0.2%
Durham County	5	1.0%
Edgecombe County	3	0.5%
Forsyth County	0	0.0%
Franklin County	12	2.2%
Gaston County	1	0.2%
Gates County	7	1.4%
Graham County	1	0.2%
Granville County	1	0.2%
Greene County	4	0.8%
Guilford County	4	0.9%
Halifax County	2	0.4%
Harnett County	0	0.0%
Haywood County	2	0.4%
Henderson County	2	0.4%
Hertford County	2	0.4%
Hoke County	0	0.0%
Hyde County	0	0.0%
Iredell County	1	0.2%
Jackson County	11	2.1%
Johnston County	5	1.0%
Jones County	2	0.4%
Lee County	5	0.9%
Lenoir County	1	0.2%
Lincoln County	12	2.3%
Macon County	4	0.8%
Madison County	11	2.2%
Martin County	2	0.3%
McDowell County	0	0.0%
Mecklenburg County	9	1.7%
Mitchell County	0	0.0%
Montgomery County	14	2.7%
Moore County	1	0.2%



Nash County	2	0.4%
New Hanover County	8	1.6%
Northampton County	11	2.1%
Onslow County	2	0.3%
Orange County	16	3.0%
Pamlico County	0	0.0%
Pasquotank County	1	0.2%
Pender County	2	0.4%
Perquimans County	0	0.0%
Person County	0	0.0%
Pitt County	2	0.4%
Polk County	13	2.4%
Randolph County	4	0.8%
Richmond County	8	1.5%
Robeson County	2	0.4%
Rockingham County	3	0.6%
Rowan County	1	0.2%
Rutherford County	3	0.6%
Sampson County	0	0.0%
Scotland County	2	0.5%
Stanly County	4	0.8%
Stokes County	4	0.8%
Surry County	1	0.2%
Swain County	1	0.2%
Transylvania County	2	0.4%
Tyrrell County	2	0.4%
Union County	12	2.2%
Vance County	3	0.5%
Wake County	4	0.8%
Warren County	4	0.8%
Washington County	37	7.1%
Watauga County	2	0.5%
Wayne County	4	0.7%
Wilkes County	3	0.6%
Wilson County	2	0.4%
Yadkin County	1	0.2%
Yancey County	1	0.2%
Not registered to vote	0	0.0%
Total	520	100.0%

33. Age + Income

	Freq.	%
<65 <\$40k	129	24.7%
65+ \$40k-\$70k	2	0.3%
65+ \$70k-\$100k	2	0.4%
65+ <\$40k	3	0.6%
65+ \$100k+	2	0.4%
<65 \$40k-\$70k	105	20.1%
<65 \$70k-\$100k	82	15.7%
<65 \$100k+	188	36.1%



Unsure	9	1.7%
Total	520	100.0%

34. Age + Gender

	Freq.	%
F 18 - 34	63	12.1%
F 35 - 49	124	23.8%
F 50 - 64	89	17.1%
F 65+	7	1.3%
M 18 - 34	62	11.9%
M 35 - 49	127	24.4%
M 50 - 64	46	8.9%
M 65+	3	0.5%
Total	520	100.0%

35. Race + Gender

	Freq.	%
White Female	159	30.5%
White Male	181	34.8%
Asian Male	2	0.5%
Asian Female	6	1.2%
Hispanic Female	30	5.8%
Hispanic Male	10	1.9%
Other Female	9	1.8%
Other Male	2	0.4%
Black Female	73	14.0%
Black Male	42	8.1%
Unsure	5	1.0%
Total	520	100.0%

36. Education + Gender

	Freq.	%
Female No degree	211	40.6%
Female At least College	67	12.9%
Male No degree	87	16.8%
Male At least College	150	28.9%
Unsure	4	0.8%
Total	520	100.0%

METHODOLOGY

This probabilistic survey was conducted April 25 – 27, 2023, with 520 North Carolina parents. North Carolina parents were interviewed via online panel. This survey was weighted to a likely general election voter universe.



ABOUT THE FIRM

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