



ALABAMA EDUCATION SURVEY

Survey Results

March 2019

SURVEY OVERVIEW

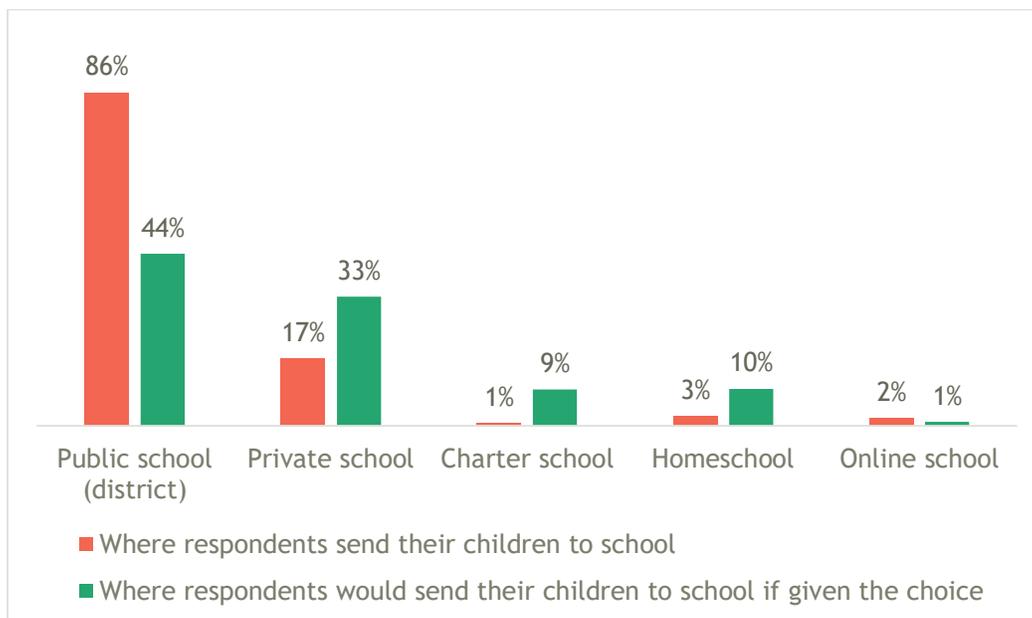
A statewide survey of 587 registered voters in Alabama took place on February 27 and 28. The purpose of the survey was to gauge opinions about education options in Alabama and other issues related to K-12 education in the state.

This summary details several key findings from the survey, including:

- Three out of four respondents support allowing parents to choose a school rather than sending them to a school based on their zip code.
- If given the chance, 42% would enroll their child in a private or charter school, yet only 18% of respondents with school-age children enroll their child in a private or charter school.
- 61% support expansion of charter schools, while only 29% oppose.
- 70% support the state's existing tax-credit scholarship program (the Alabama Accountability Act), while only 24% oppose.
- 67% support the concept of open enrollment, which would allow students to attend the public school of their choice. Only 25% oppose this idea.

SCHOOL PREFERENCES

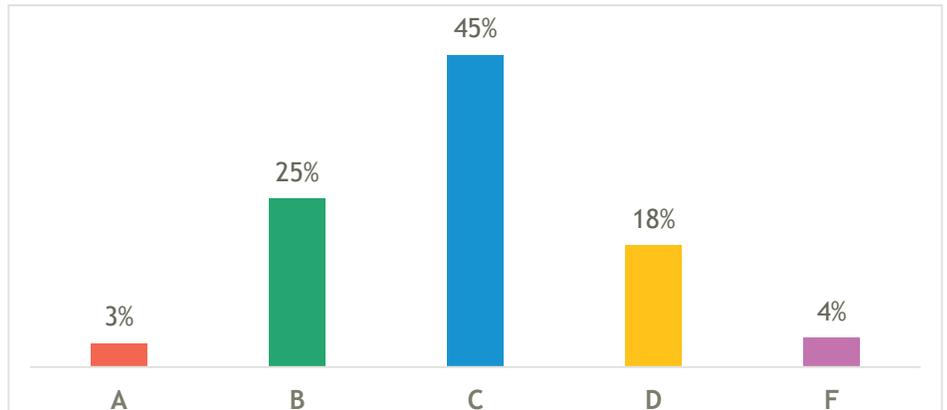
When comparing where respondents send their children to school and where respondents would send their child if they could choose among all options, Alabamians overwhelmingly prefer having access to more options, including private schools and charter schools.



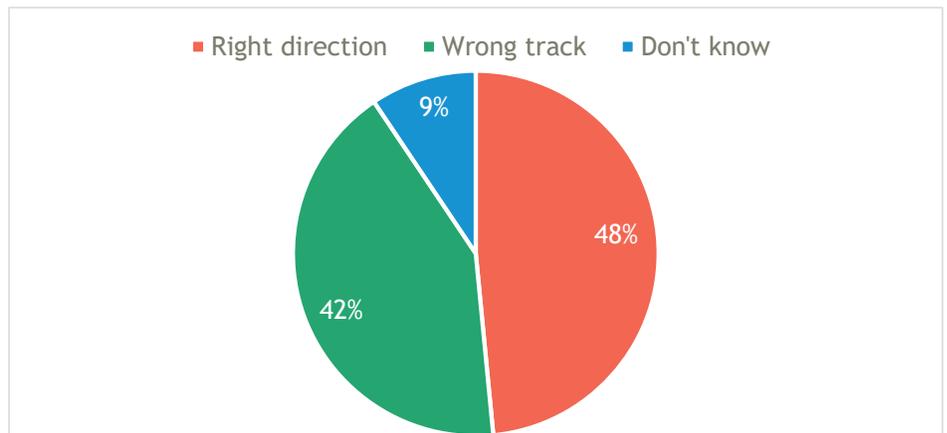


RATING THE QUALITY OF ALABAMA'S K-12 EDUCATION

Question: Many schools are graded using the letters A, B, C, D or F, with A being the highest and F being the lowest. If you had the chance to grade Alabama's overall K-12 public school system - what grade would you give it?

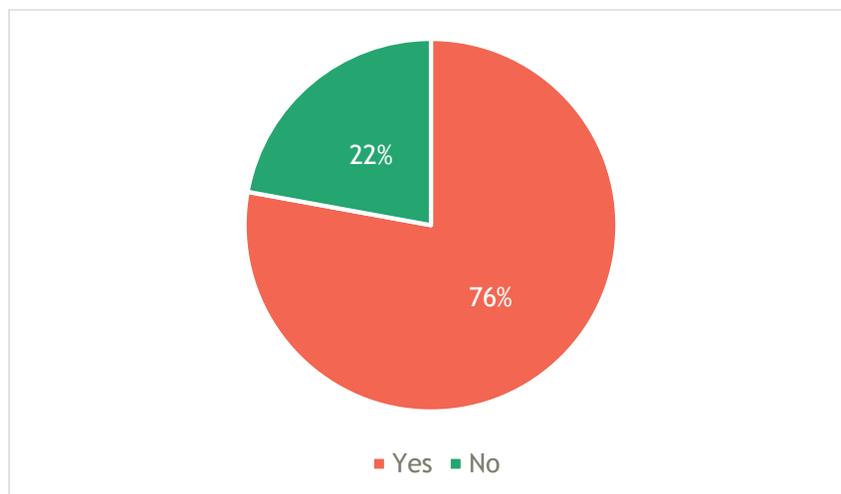


Question: Generally speaking, would you say K-12 education in Alabama is moving in the right direction, or is it on the wrong track?



OVERALL SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION CHOICE

Question: Generally speaking, do you support giving parents the opportunity to choose where they send their child to school rather than assigning children to schools based on zip code?

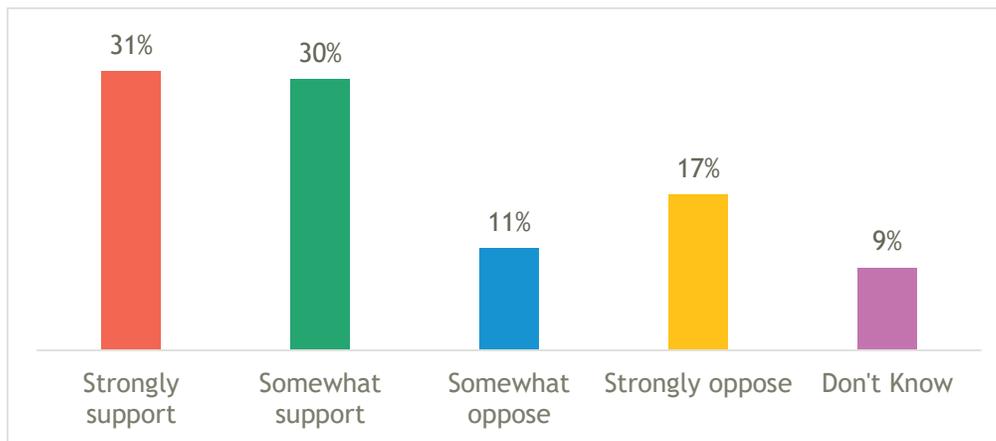




SUPPORT FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

When it comes to expanding charter schools in Alabama, **more than twice as many** respondents support expansion than those who oppose expansion (61% support versus 28% opposition).

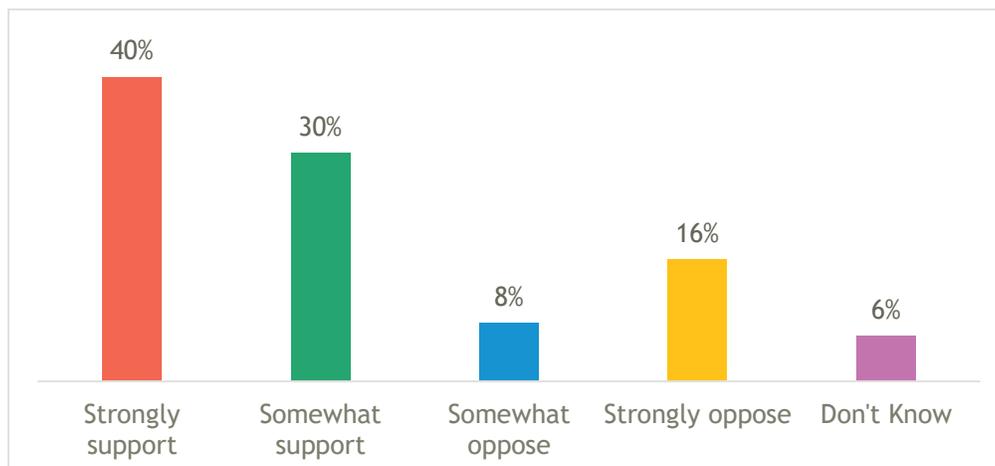
Question: *As you may know, Alabama allows a small number of “charter schools” which are public schools that are operated by non-profits or for-profit companies and provide students an alternative to their district schools. These schools are allowed more freedom to operate than traditional public schools. Some in the legislature have proposed making it easier for charter schools to open and operate in the state. In general, do you support or oppose the expansion of charter schools in Alabama?*



SUPPORT FOR ALABAMA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Nearly **three times** as many respondents support the state’s Alabama Accountability Act (tax-credit scholarships) than those who oppose the program (70% support versus 24% oppose).

Question: *In 2013 the state legislature passed the Alabama Accountability Act, which is a thirty million dollar annual scholarship program that allows families to move their children out of failing schools and into other non-failing public schools or private schools of their choice. This program is funded through individual and corporate tax credits. In general, do you support or oppose the Alabama Accountability Act?*

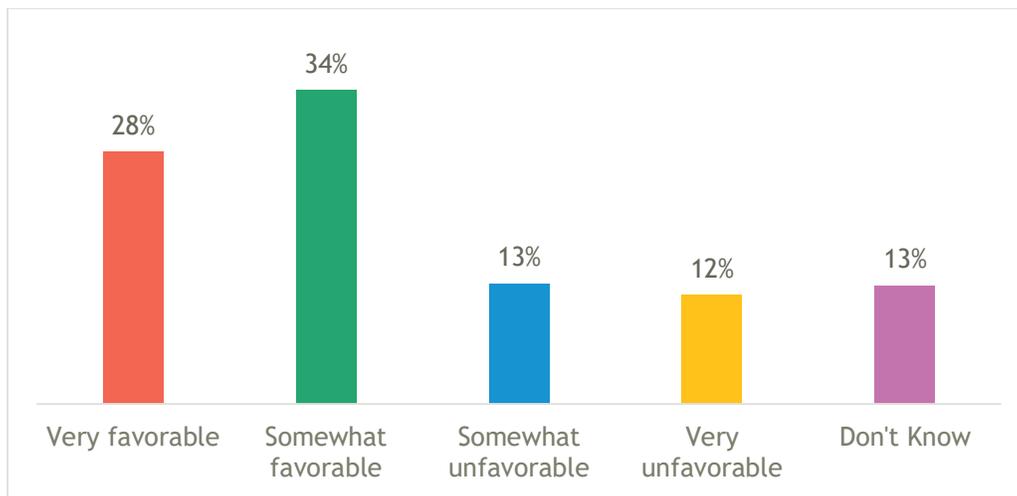




SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT POLICIES

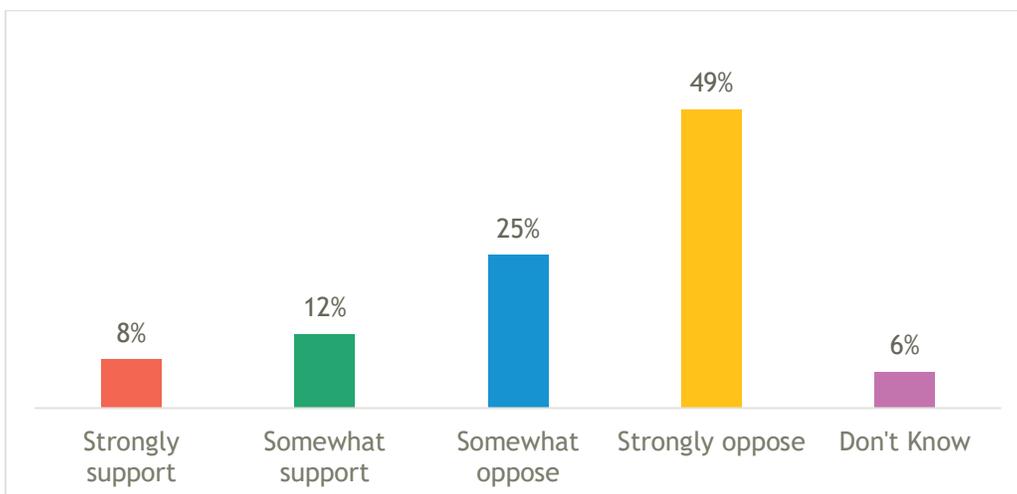
Sixty two percent (62%) of respondents support the idea of letting students enroll in public schools other than their zoned school, compared to just 25% who oppose the concept. Similar percentages support passage of an open enrollment law (67% support, 25% oppose).

Question: *As you may know, some states have passed “open enrollment” education policies. These policies allow students enrolled in public school to transfer to any other public school without a complicated application process. The policy is based on a first come, first served system where schools accept all students who have applied until they no longer have the ability to accommodate them. In general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of an open-enrollment education policy?*



However, few respondents want to see open enrollment limited to certain student groups.

Question: *Now, some in the state want to limit open-enrollment to select students, for example providing the program only to low-income students. Do you support or oppose limiting it to select students?*

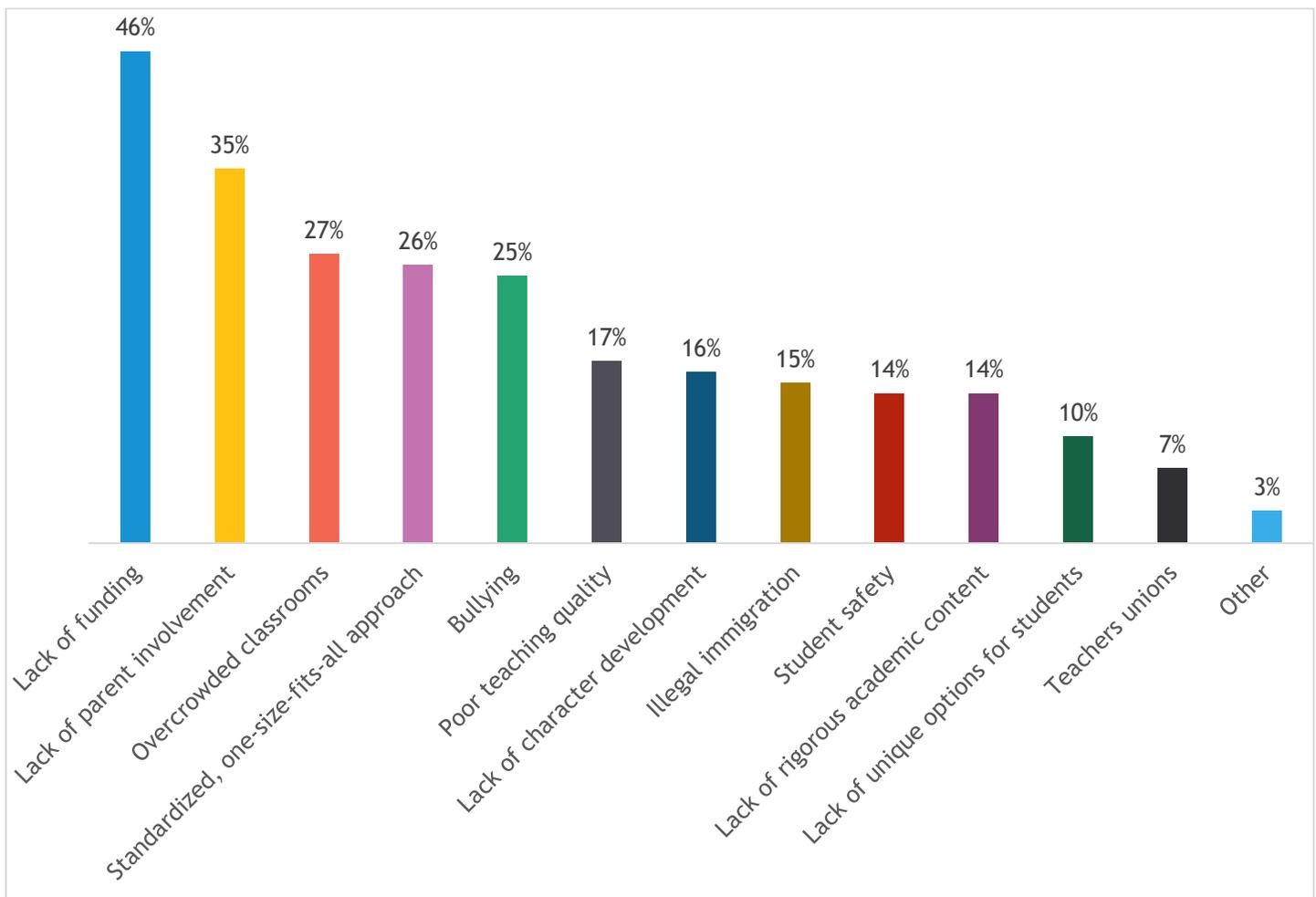




OBSTACLES TO IMPROVING K-12 EDUCATION

When asked what they believed were the biggest obstacles to improving K-12 education in Alabama, respondents' top choices were lack of funding (46%); lack of parental involvement (35%); overcrowded classrooms (27%); standardization, one-size-fits-all (26%); and bullying (25%).

Question: *In your view, what are the biggest obstacles to improving Alabama's K-12 system? (Select 3)*

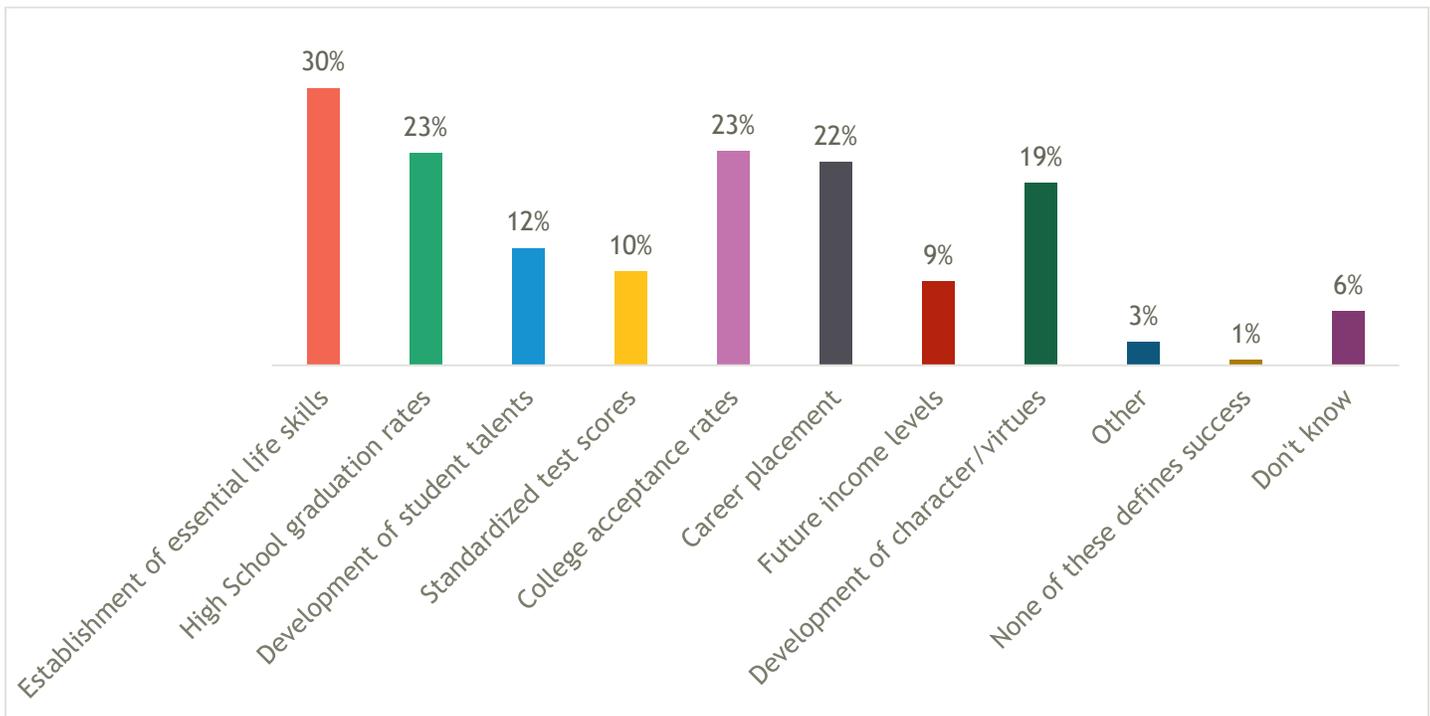




DEFINITION OF SUCCESS IN K-12 EDUCATION

Respondents' definition of success in K-12 Education is varied, as one would expect. The top responses include: establishment of essential life skills (30%); high school graduation rates (23%); college acceptance rates (23%); career placement (22%); and development of student character and virtues (19%).

Question: Which one or two of the following best defines success in K-12 education?



For more information about the survey, view the [full survey results](#) and [survey results crosstabs](#).