

August 2023

7TH

TEXAS

VOTER
POLL

Fewer Texas voters believe children will have better opportunities to succeed than past generations.

To help students, strong majorities rally behind more rigorous school accountability.

TEXAS 2036 

POLL METHODOLOGY

Baselice and Associates conducted the survey, polling 1,000 registered Texas voters on August 22-29, 2023. It has a *margin of error of $\pm 3.1\%$* . *This is Texas 2036's 7th Texas Voter Poll since January 2020.*

The interviews were conducted via:



Phone
52%

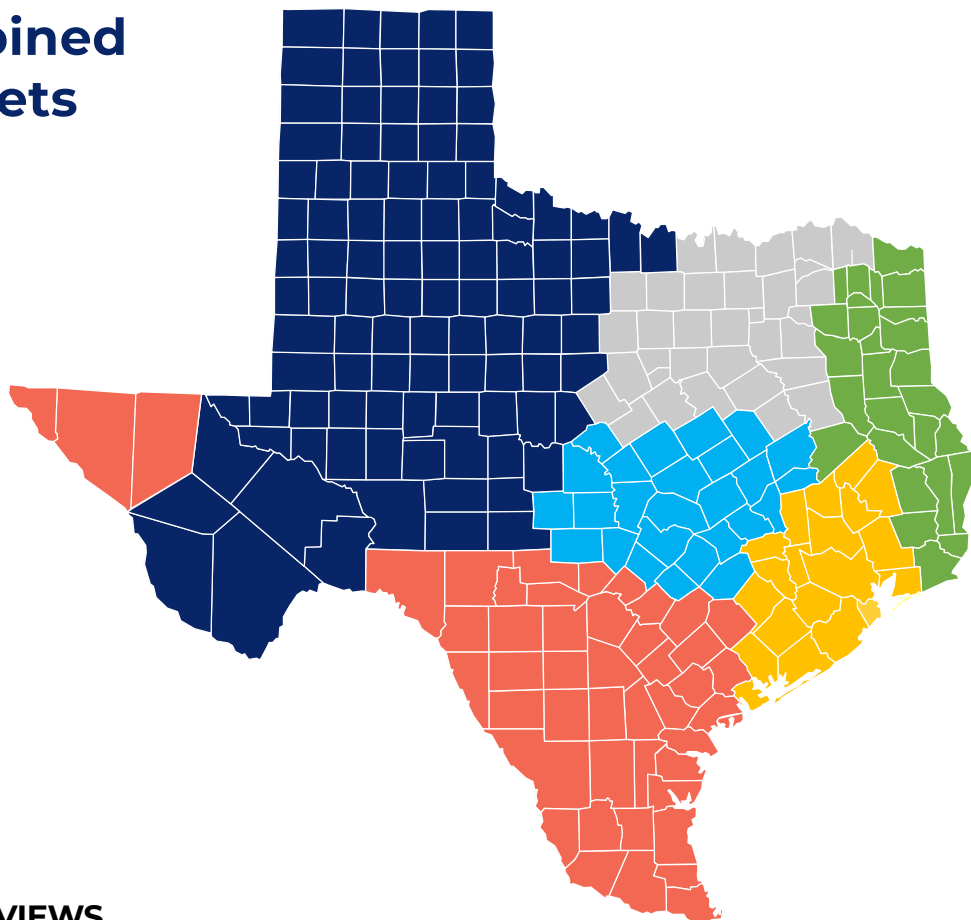


SMS
13%

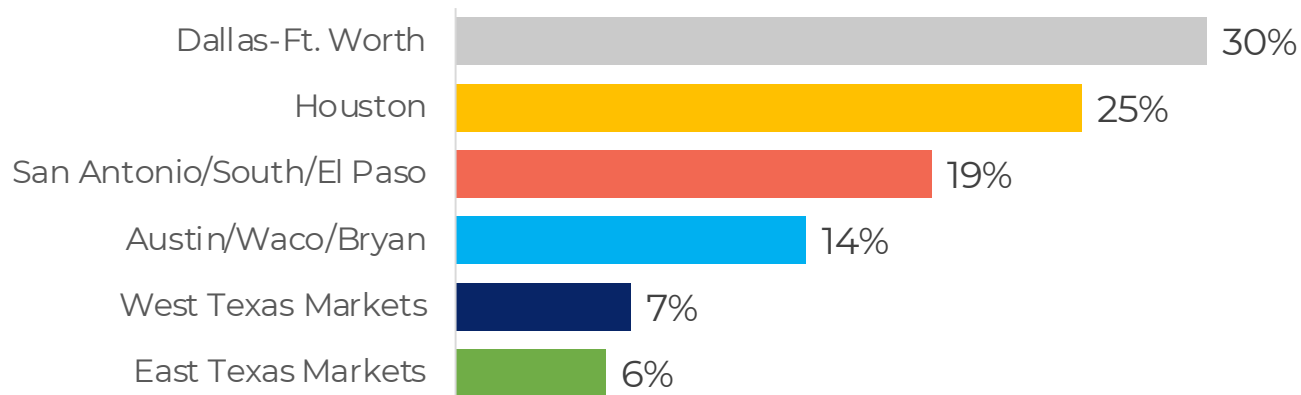


Web
35%

Texas Combined Media Markets



PERCENT OF INTERVIEWS



First Release

FUTURE OF TEXAS AND EDUCATION

Texas Voter Poll Reveals Strong Support for Public Schools and Rigorous Accountability Standards at a Time of Deep Concern for the Future of Texas

Nearly half of Texas voters are concerned about the prospects for future generations while strong majorities support elevated academic standards to prepare more students for career or college.

AUSTIN, TX — As Texas lawmakers gear up for an education-oriented special session this fall, Texas 2036 releases its initial findings from the seventh edition of the Texas Voter Poll. The results reveal Texas voters are deeply concerned about the state's future yet are overwhelmingly supportive of elevating public education standards to ensure more high school graduates are ready for college or a career.

KEY FINDINGS

46% of Texas voters believe children today will have worse opportunities to succeed than previous generations. That's **17 points higher** than what we measured in January 2022.

30% of Texas voters believe children today will have opportunities to do better than previous generations. That's **11 points lower** than what we measured in January 2022.

96% of Texas voters agree that the strength of a community's public education system is important, with **89%** rating it as extremely or very important.

80% of Texas voters expressed support for the Texas Education Agency's proposed initiative to elevate the standards for school ratings. Under this new framework, the benchmark to attain an "A" rating would rise substantially, requiring **88%** of students to graduate prepared for either college or a career.

70% of Texas voters selected teaching students to read at grade level as the first or second most important element of a good school. The next most important element was college and career readiness, supported by **59%**, and then teaching students to do math at grade level, supported by **47%**.

Conversely, extracurricular activities were deemed as important to a successful school by **9%** of voters. A strong sports team was considered important to a successful school by **5%** of voters.

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As we prepare for a fall special session on education issues, it's clear that Texas voters value a high-quality public education system and want state leaders to pursue strategies that will lead to improved student outcomes, especially in key areas like reading, math, and college and career readiness.

Texas voters overwhelmingly support the Texas Education Agency's recent changes to increase the rigor of our college and career readiness indicators.



Mary Lynn Pruneda
Senior Policy Advisor
Texas 2036

Texans love their public schools. They want those schools to have stronger and more rigorous accountability standards because they want to give their children a better future.

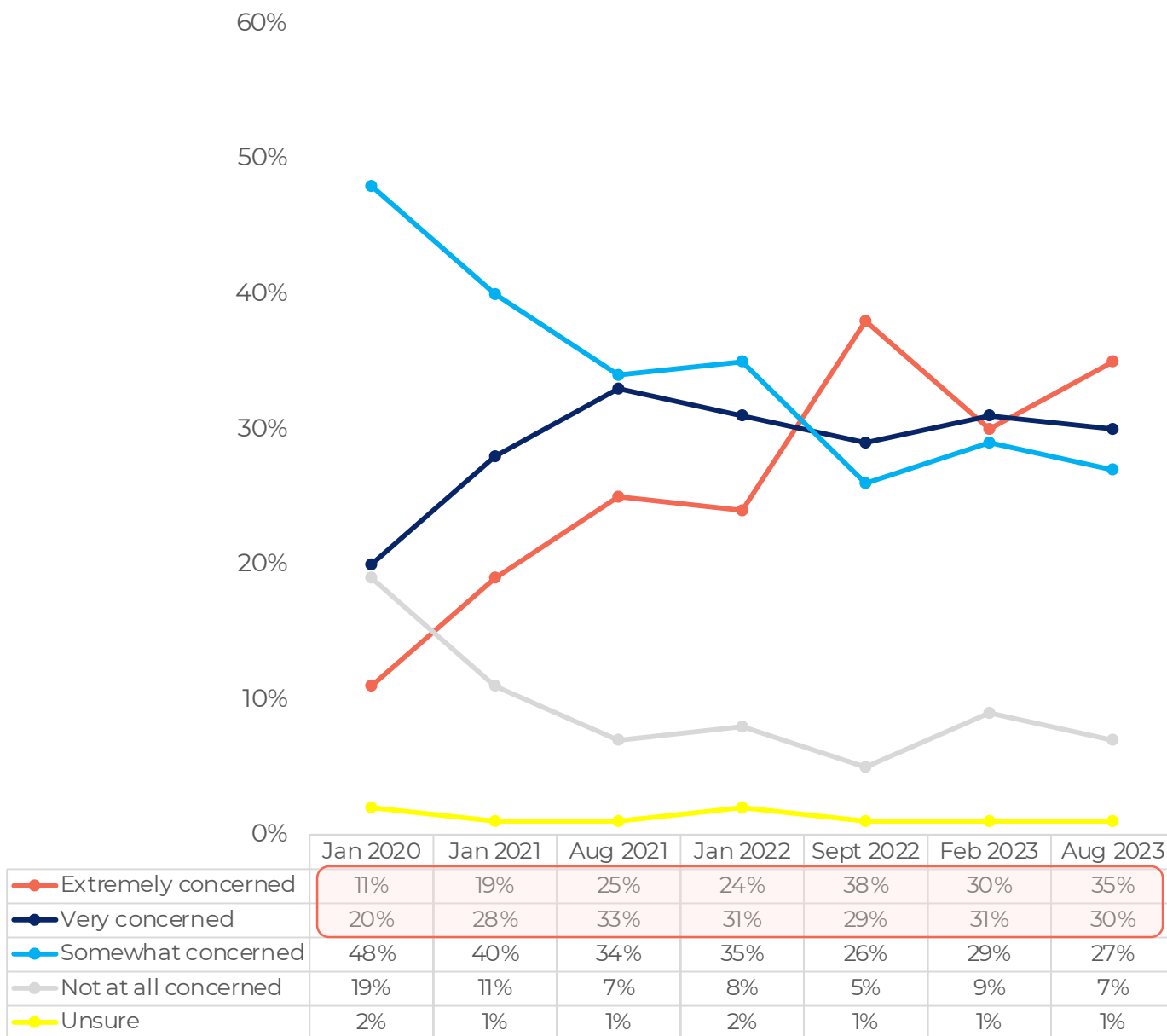


Holly Heard
Vice President
Data and Analytics
Texas 2036



FUTURE OF TEXAS

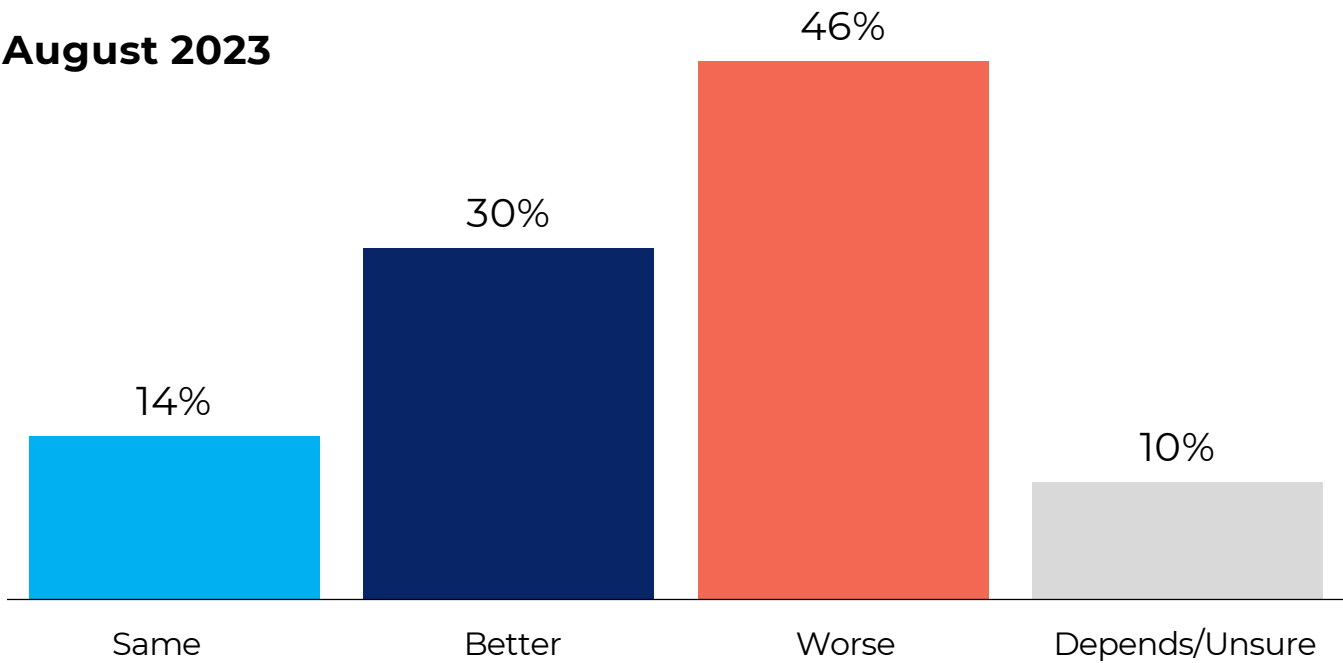
Which best describes your level of concern regarding the future of Texas?



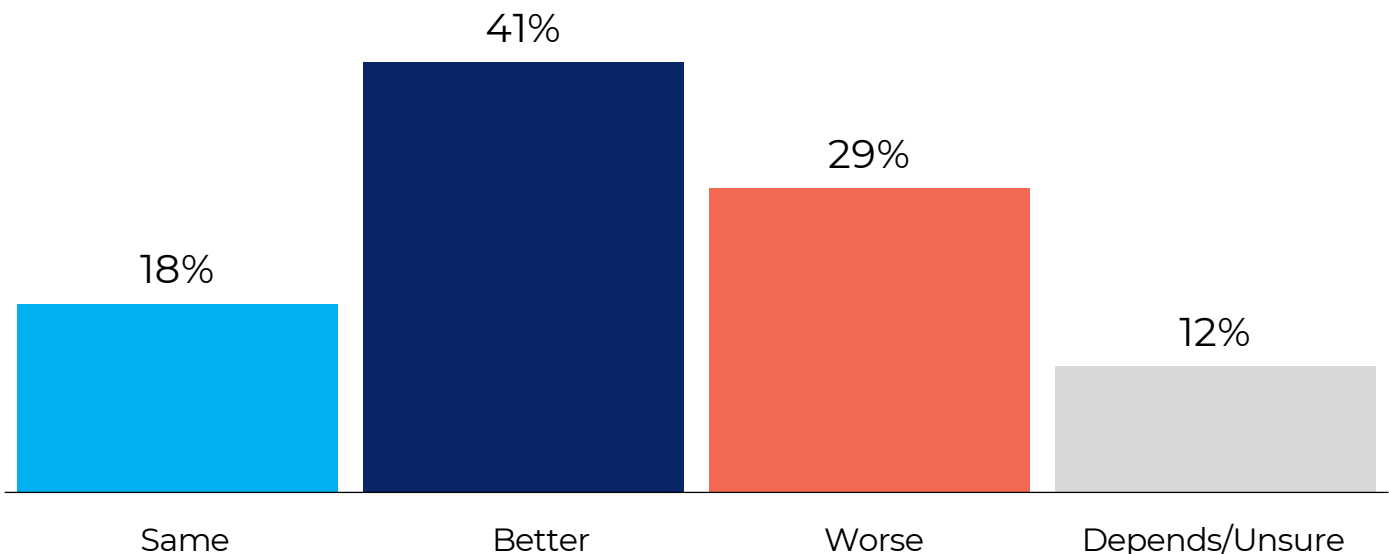
Do you believe that Texas children today will have the same opportunities, better opportunities or worse opportunities to succeed than previous generations have had?

Texas voters' outlook on children's opportunities worsens by 17 points since Jan. 2022, with only one out of three Texas voters currently forecasting better opportunities for future generations of Texans.

August 2023



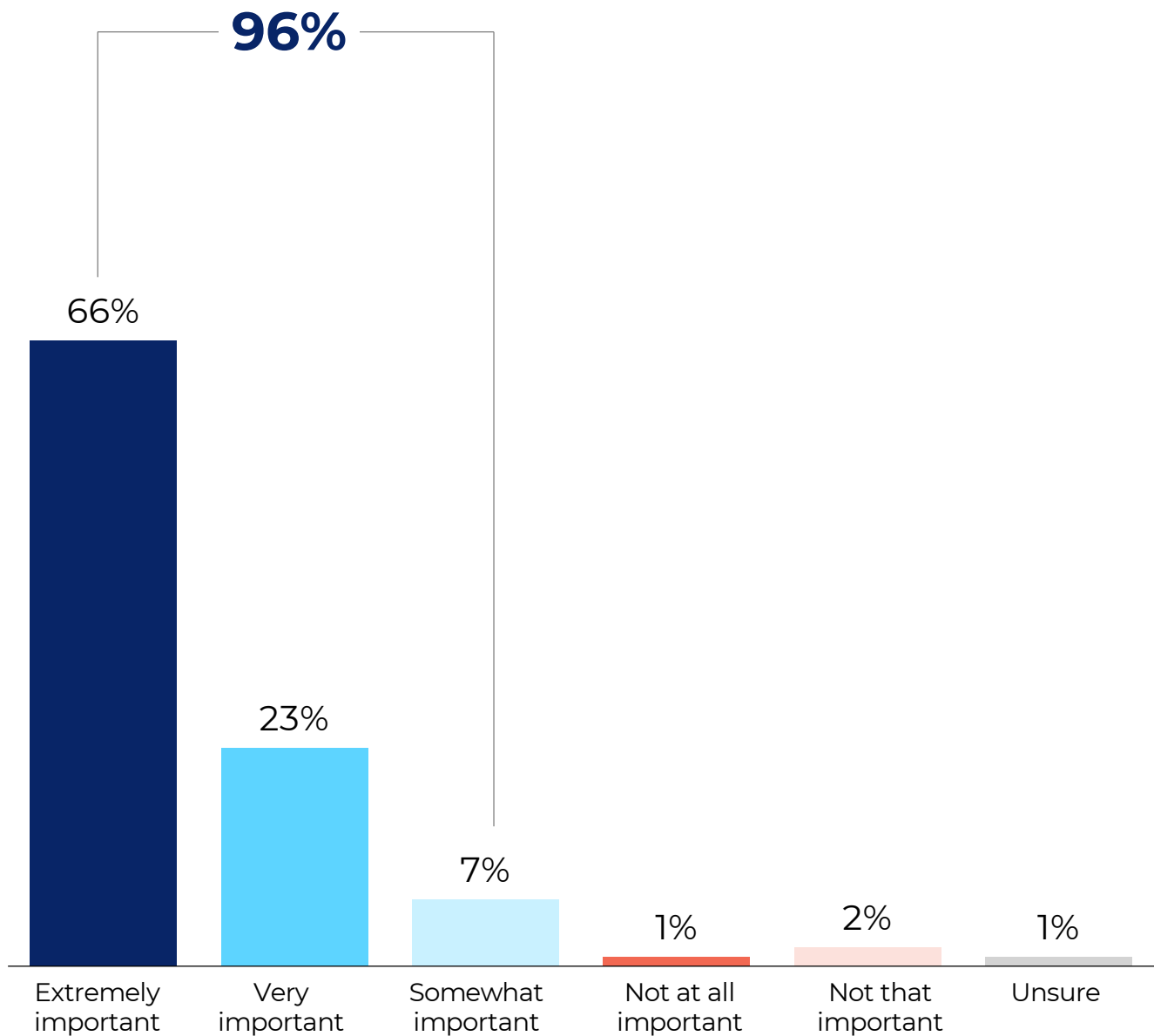
January 2022



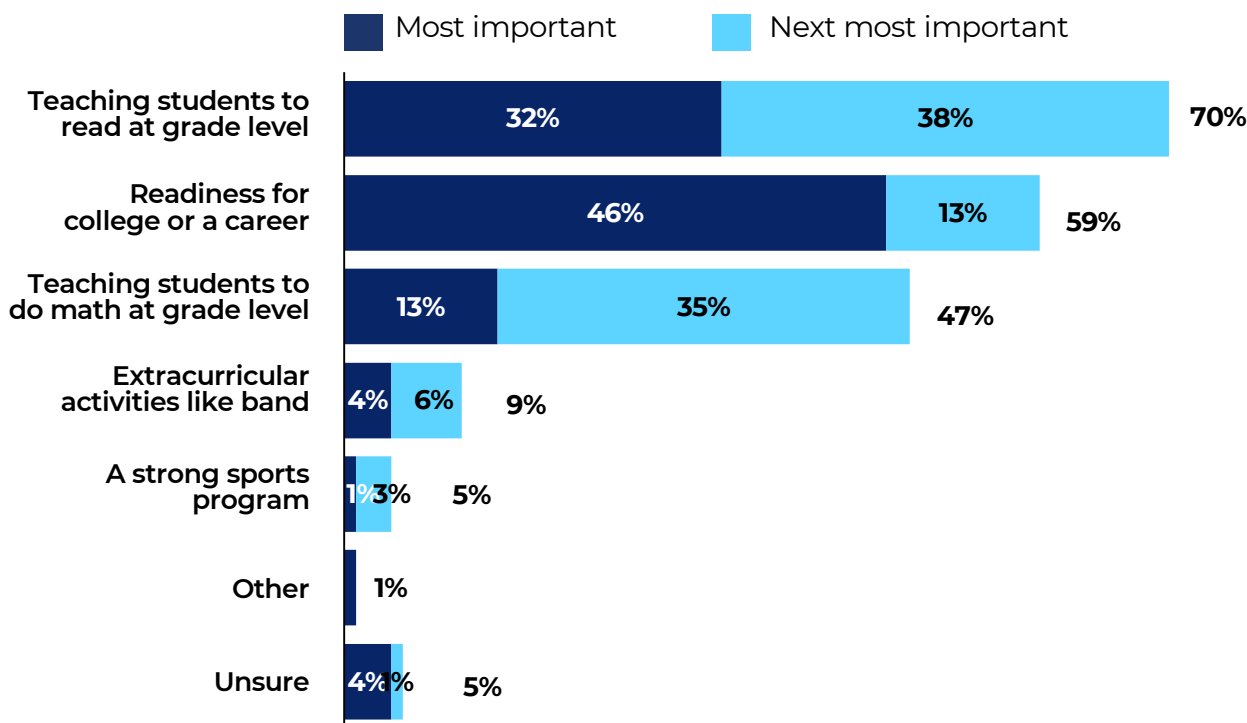


PUBLIC EDUCATION

Which best describes how important it is for your community to have a good public school system?



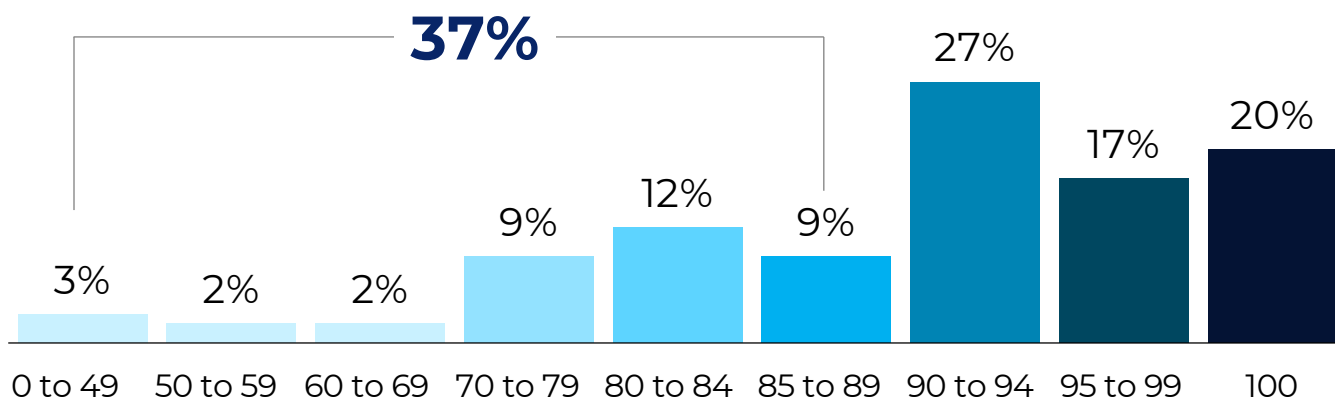
Which of the following is the most (and next most) important element of a good school?



The State of Texas rates public schools on an A to F scale based on its success at achieving student learning outcomes. What percentage of students do you believe should need to graduate high school ready for college or a career for that high school to be rated an “A”?

Today, Texas schools' statewide average is 65% and schools can earn an “A” if 60% of students graduate career or college ready.

Mean: 87.0
Median : 90.0



* Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100.

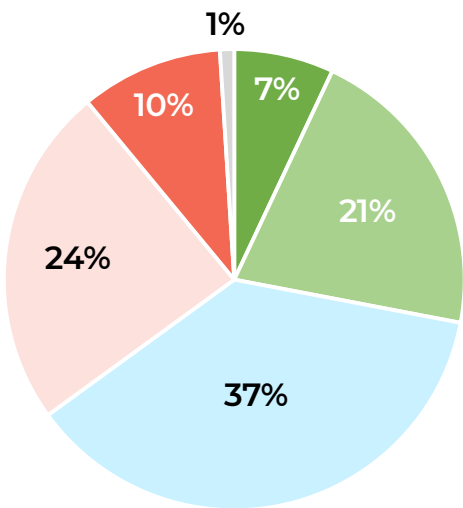
When presented with current performance rates, Texans hold schools to high expectations.

For the 2021-2022 school year, 87% of Texas school districts earned an ‘A’ or ‘B’ rating. Using Texas’ current student outcomes in college and career readiness, reading and math, Texas 2036 asked voters to rate a school based on those outcomes.

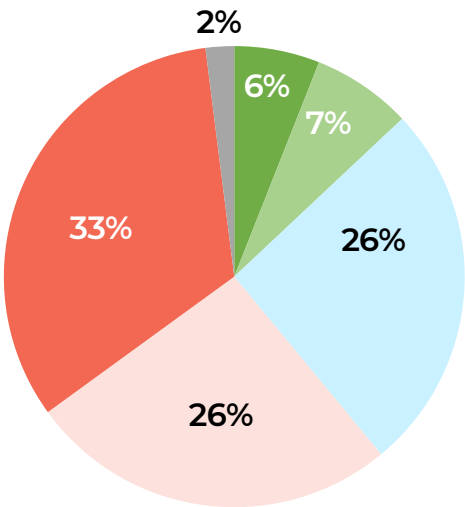
Here is what we found:



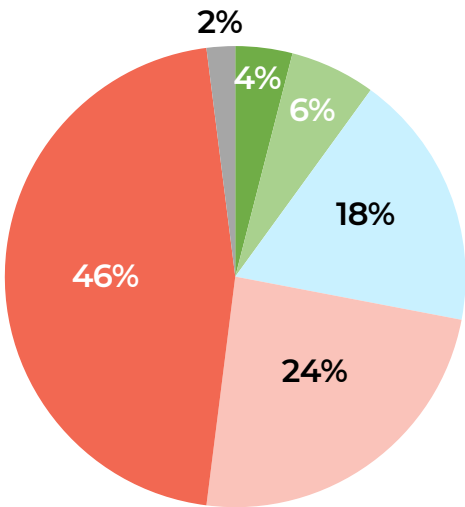
When asked “on an A to F scale, how would you rate a high school in which 65% of its graduating students are ready for college or a career,” **nearly 3 out of 4 Texas voters (71%) would assign a C or lower.**



When asked “on an A to F scale, how would you rate a school in which 52% are reading at grade level,” **85% of voters rated the school with a C or lower.**



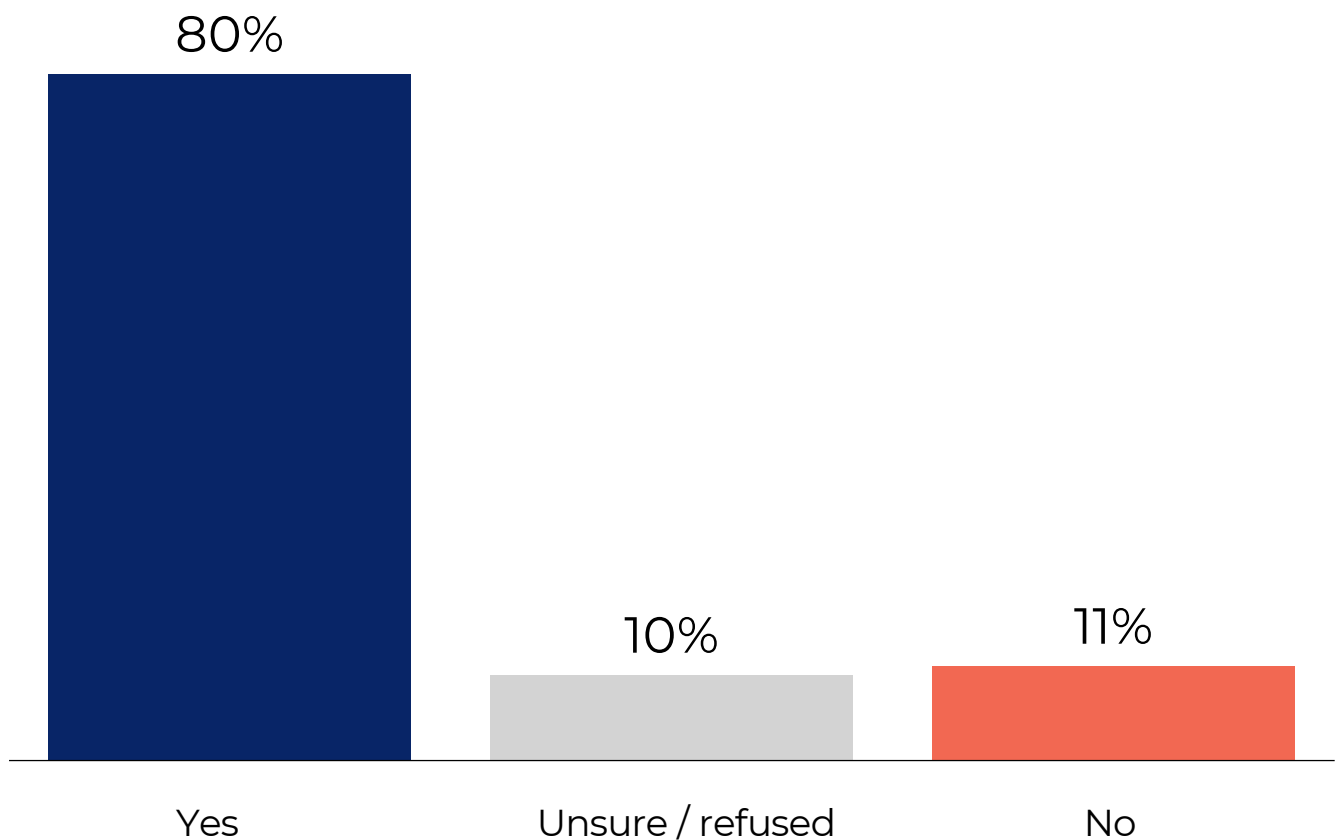
When asked “on an A to F scale, how would you rate a school in which 43% are doing math at grade level,” **88% of voters rated the school with a C or lower.**



For the first time since the state began rating high schools on an A to F scale, the Texas Education Agency has proposed increasing the standards that determine a school's rating.

Under this new scoring system, the threshold to receive an “A” rating would increase from 60% of students graduating ready for college or a career to 88%.

Do you support this update?



** Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100.*



For additional information,
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