

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC'S PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS

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This report focuses on the American public's priorities for President-elect Joe Biden and the new Congress. The report also examines the public's views about priorities for Covid-19 relief and about Covid-19 vaccination requirements in various settings, as well as the views of parents and guardians of age 5-17 school children about how their experiences have differed during this school year compared to the previous one.

PART I: NATIONAL PRIORITIES

In a new post-election poll by POLITICO and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the public was asked to describe how important each of 23 potential priorities mentioned in the media should be for the new President and Congress. We are entering a period when the public has considerable expectations of government to address major problems. Of the 23 items on the list, 17 are considered by more than 60% of the public to be extremely important priorities. Democrats are far more interested in government action than Republicans are, as reflected by the fact that 21 of the items are considered extremely important by more than 60% of Democrats, compared to only nine by more than 60% of Republicans.

Americans overall, as well as both Democrats and Republicans, want to address the destructive effects of Covid-19. As shown in Table 1, four of the public's top five priorities are related to coping with the impact of Covid-19 on American lives and the economy. These include enacting a major Covid-19 relief bill (considered extremely important by 89% of the total public); substantially expanding federal support for Covid-19 testing, vaccination, and personal protective equipment (86%); passing a major economic stimulus bill (84%); and increasing eligibility for food stamps during the Covid-19 pandemic (84%). There is broad agreement between Democrats and Republicans about an agenda to face this overwhelming crisis. Each of these is among the top five priorities for both Democrats and Republicans. However, this does not mean that the parties will support the same policies to deal with the crisis.

The other item among the public's top five priorities is taking federal action to lower prescription drug prices (87% extremely important). In addition, ensuring universal health insurance coverage is among the top five priorities for Democrats (92%).

It is important to understand that while there may be considerable agreement on the priority of the top issues, the two parties often do not agree on the solutions. For instance, although lowering prescription drug prices remains an extremely important priority for the public, Democrats and Republicans in Congress disagree on how best to achieve that goal.

Table 1. The Public’s Top Priorities for President Biden and the New Congress, by Party Identification

% saying “extremely important”

Total adults			Democrats			Republicans		
Rank	Issue	%	Rank	Issue	%	Rank	Issue	%
1	Enacting a major Covid-19 relief bill that includes aid for businesses and individuals substantially hurt by the economic effects of Covid-19	89	1	Increasing the eligibility so low- and moderate-income people can receive food stamps during the Covid-19 pandemic	96	1	Enacting a major Covid-19 relief bill that includes aid for businesses and individuals substantially hurt by the economic effects of Covid-19	87
2	Taking federal government action to lower prescription drug prices	87	2	Substantially expanding federal support for Covid-19 testing, vaccinations, and personal protective equipment	95	2	Passing a major bill that will provide stimulus to the nation's economy	82
3	Substantially expanding federal support for Covid-19 testing, vaccinations, and personal protective equipment	86	3	Enacting a major Covid-19 relief bill that includes aid for businesses and individuals substantially hurt by the economic effects of Covid-19	94	3	Taking federal government action to lower prescription drug prices	81
4t	Passing a major bill that will provide stimulus to the nation's economy	84	4t	Passing a major bill that will provide stimulus to the nation's economy	92	4	Substantially expanding federal support for Covid-19 testing, vaccinations, and personal protective equipment	79
4t	Increasing the eligibility so low- and moderate-income people can receive food stamps during the Covid-19 pandemic	84	4t	Enacting federal legislation to ensure everyone has health insurance coverage	92	5	Increasing the eligibility so low- and moderate-income people can receive food stamps during the Covid-19 pandemic	73
6	Enacting federal legislation to ensure everyone has health insurance coverage	78	6	Taking federal government action to lower prescription drug prices	91	6t	Substantially increasing defense spending	67
7	Lowering taxes for middle income individuals and raising taxes for upper-income individuals	73	7t	Substantially increasing spending and regulation to improve the environment and reduce climate change	86	6t	Enacting federal legislation to ensure everyone has health insurance coverage	67
8	Increasing federal spending on K-12 public education	71	7t	Making permanent the DACA policy, which grants temporary legal status to people brought to the US illegally as children	86	8	Increasing spending on the nation's infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and airports	65

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The American Public’s Priorities for the New President and Congress, December 15 – 20, 2020. Base: U.S. adults.

On four important issues, disagreements between Democrats and Republicans about the priority for action are apparent, which could lead to major conflict in the new Congress. On three of these issues, Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to see them as extremely important: climate change, where 86% of Democrats vs. 45% of Republicans believe substantially increasing spending and regulation to improve the environment and reduce climate change is extremely important; making the DACA policy permanent (86% to 45%); and keeping the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and making improvements in it (83% vs. 46%). On the other hand, two-thirds of Republicans (67%) vs. 40% of Democrats believe it is extremely important to substantially increase defense spending.

One issue where bipartisan cooperation seems to be possible is improving the nation's infrastructure. Although it is not a top priority of the public as a whole, about two-thirds of both Democrats (69%) and Republicans (65%) believe that increased spending on the nation's infrastructure should be an extremely important priority.

The priority given by the public to the principle of moving toward universal health insurance coverage (78% believe it is extremely important) is higher than the priority they give to individual plans to achieve that goal. About two-thirds of the public (64% to 68%) see each of three different proposals as extremely important priorities. There is also substantial division between the parties on each of the proposals, with Democrats far more supportive than Republicans.

Numerous polls have shown that the issue of racism in American society rates highly among the U.S. public.¹ However, the specific issue of addressing concerns about race and policing by establishing a national police oversight commission does not rank as highly as several other issues among the public's priorities for the new President and Congress (tied for 15th out of the 23 issues, with 64% considering it an extremely important priority). Democrats are significantly more likely than Republicans (76% to 52%) to see such a commission as an extremely important priority. More than nine in ten Blacks (96%) believe establishing a national police commission is extremely important.

It is important to recognize that beyond Covid-19 and the economy, the parties differ on the extent to which they want the federal government taking action in many areas.

¹ For instance, 60% believe racism is a big problem in the U.S. today, Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll, September 2020, <http://files.kff.org/attachment/Topline-KFF-Health-Tracking-Poll-September-2020.pdf>; 64% believe racism is a major threat to the stability of the U.S., Fox News, June 2020, https://static.foxnews.com/foxnews.com/content/uploads/2020/06/Fox_June-13-16-2020_National_Topline_June-18-Release.pdf.

PART II: THE PUBLIC’S PRIORITIES FOR COVID-19 RELIEF

Although a bill was recently signed providing Covid-19 relief aid, a number of leaders, including President-elect Biden, believe that additional legislation is necessary. The poll by POLITICO and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health focused on the public’s views about the priority for financial aid that should be given to different groups.

In terms of future aid, Table 2 shows that large majorities of the public believe financial aid to three groups should be extremely important priorities: small businesses hurt by Covid-19 (95%), individuals who lost jobs or wages because of Covid-19 (92%), and state governments, particularly to help them with Medicaid and K-12 education costs (74%). But only about four in ten (41%) believe that financial aid to large businesses hurt by Covid-19 should be an extremely important priority. Democrats are significantly more likely than Republicans (86% to 57%) consider aid to state governments as extremely important.

Table 2. The Public’s Priorities for Covid-19 Relief Aid, by Party Identification

	% saying “extremely important”		
	Total	Dem	Rep
Small businesses hurt by Covid-19	95	95	92
Individuals who lost jobs or wages because of Covid-19	92	96	88
State governments, particularly to help them with Medicaid and K-12 education costs	74	86	57
Large businesses hurt by Covid-19	41	37	47

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The American Public’s Priorities for the New President and Congress, December 15 – 20, 2020. Base: U.S. adults.

PART III: THE PUBLIC’S VIEWS ABOUT VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

The poll by POLITICO and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health also focused on two important issues related to the impact of Covid-19 in the future: the public’s views about Covid-19 vaccination requirements, and parents’/guardians’ views of the impact on their school children’s education.

While Covid-19 vaccinations are not yet widely available, about two-thirds of the public (65%) favor health care institutions requiring all their workers to be vaccinated (Table 3). Only slightly over half favor vaccination requirements for college or university students, faculty, and staff (56% overall) and employees in general (52%). In all three cases, Democrats are more supportive of Covid-19 vaccination requirements than Republicans are.

Table 3. The Public’s Views About Vaccination Requirements, by Party Identification

	% favor		
	Total	Dem	Rep
Health care institutions requiring all their workers to be vaccinated before they can remain at or return at work at their facilities	65	79	62
Colleges and universities requiring all their students, faculty, and staff to be vaccinated before they can remain at or return to campus	56	70	52
Employers requiring all their employees to be vaccinated before they can remain at or return to work	52	64	47

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The American Public’s Priorities for the New President and Congress, December 15 – 20, 2020. Base: U.S. adults.

PART IV: PARENTS’/GUARDIANS’ VIEWS ABOUT THEIR SCHOOL CHILDREN’S EXPERIENCES THIS SCHOOL YEAR

The poll by POLITICO and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health did a special examination of parents’ and guardians’ views of the impact of Covid-19 on their school children’s education. A substantial share of parents and guardians of school children age 5-17 believe that the educational experience of their children has been worse during this school year compared with last school year.

Table 4 shows that more than half of them (52%) believe that their children’s academic learning this school year has been worse. In addition, more than four in ten believe that their social and behavioral skills (48%) and mental or emotional health (41%) have been worse.

Very few parents or guardians of school children believe that their children’s experiences have been better in any of these aspects.

Table 4. Views of Parents/Guardians About Their School Children’s Experiences This School Year

% of parents or guardians of children ages 5-17 who normally attend school who say their children’s experiences have been better, worse, or about the same this school year compared to the previous school year

	Worse	Better	About the same
Academic learning	52	12	35
Social and behavioral skills	48	11	40
Mental or emotional health	41	11	47

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The American Public’s Priorities for the New President and Congress, December 15 – 20, 2020. Base: Parents or guardians of children ages 5-17 who normally attend school.

METHODOLOGY

The results are based on polling conducted by *Politico* and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Representatives of the two organizations worked closely to develop the survey questionnaires and analyze the results of the polls. *Politico* and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health paid for the surveys and related expenses.

The project team was led by Robert J. Blendon, Sc.D., Professor of Public Health and Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis Emeritus, at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Joanne Kenen, Executive Editor, Health Care at *Politico/Politico Pro*. Harvard research team also included John M. Benson and Chelsea Whitton Pearsall.

Interviews were conducted with a nationally representative sample of 1,007 randomly selected U.S. adults via telephone (including cell phones and landlines) by SSRS of Glen Mills, Pennsylvania. The interviewing period was December 15 – 20, 2020. The interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

When interpreting these findings, one should recognize that all surveys are subject to sampling error. The margin of error for the full sample is ± 3.6 percentage points. For questions asked of half-samples, the margin of error is ± 5.2 percentage points.

Possible sources of non-sampling error include non-response bias, as well as question wording and ordering effects. Non-response in telephone surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population. To compensate for these known biases and for variations in probability of selection within and across households, sample data are weighted by household size, cell phone/landline use and demographics (sex, age, race/ethnicity, education, and region) to reflect the true population. Other techniques, including random-digit dialing, replicate subsamples, and systematic respondent selection within households, are used to ensure that the sample is representative.

Politico/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Poll

The American Public’s Priorities for the New President and Congress

This survey was conducted for *Politico* and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health via telephone by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted via telephone (cell phone and landline) **December 15 – 20, 2020**, among a nationally representative sample of **1,007 U.S. adults**. The margin of error for total respondents is ± 3.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. More information about SSRS can be obtained by visiting www.ssrs.com.

POLQ1. Here are some things being discussed as possible priorities by President-Elect Joe Biden and the new Congress. For each one, please tell me whether or not you think it should be an EXTREMELY IMPORTANT priority. How about (INSERT FIRST ITEM)? Should that be an EXTREMELY IMPORTANT priority or not?

(Asked of half-sample A; n=496)

a. Passing a major bill that will provide stimulus to the nation’s economy

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	84	92	82	82
Not an extremely important priority	15	7	17	17
Don’t know/Refused	1	1	1	1

(Asked of half-sample A; n=496)

b. Substantially increasing spending and regulation to improve the environment and reduce climate change

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	68	86	45	65
Not an extremely important priority	32	14	55	34
Don’t know/Refused	*	*	-	1

(Asked of half-sample A; n=496)

c. Lowering taxes for middle income individuals and raising taxes for upper-income individuals

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	73	81	64	77
Not an extremely important priority	27	19	35	22
Don’t know/Refused	*	*	1	1

(Asked of half-sample A; n=496)

d. Taking federal government action to lower prescription drug prices

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	87	91	81	88
Not an extremely important priority	12	9	17	12
Don't know/Refused	1	-	2	-

(Asked of half-sample A; n=496)

e. Substantially expanding federal support for Covid-19 testing, vaccinations, and personal protective equipment

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	86	95	79	82
Not an extremely important priority	14	5	21	18
Don't know/Refused	-	-	-	-

(Asked of half-sample A; n=496)

f. Canceling a share of past and current college student loan debt

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	57	67	49	51
Not an extremely important priority	43	33	50	49
Don't know/Refused	*	*	1	-

(Asked of half-sample A; n=496)

g. Having the U.S. rejoin the Paris climate accord

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	56	77	41	61
Not an extremely important priority	38	19	58	35
Don't know/Refused	6	4	1	4

(Asked of half-sample A; n=496)

h. Addressing concerns about race and policing by establishing a national police oversight commission

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	64	76	52	61
Not an extremely important priority	35	22	48	39
Don't know/Refused	1	2	-	-

(Asked of half-sample A; n=496)

i. Enacting federal legislation to ensure everyone has health insurance coverage

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	78	92	67	76
Not an extremely important priority	21	8	32	24
Don't know/Refused	1	-	1	-

(Asked of half-sample A; n=496)

j. Reversing current policy and encouraging more free trade with other countries, including reducing tariffs

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	60	69	54	58
Not an extremely important priority	38	27	45	41
Don't know/Refused	2	4	1	1

(Asked of half-sample A; n=496)

k. Substantially increasing defense spending

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	53	40	67	46
Not an extremely important priority	45	57	31	53
Don't know/Refused	2	3	2	1

(Asked of half-sample A; n=496)

l. Allowing people under the age of 65 the option under the ACA or Obamacare to buy their health coverage through the Medicare program just like one might buy private insurance

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	67	80	58	67
Not an extremely important priority	31	19	39	31
Don't know/Refused	2	1	3	2

(Asked of half-sample B; n=511)

m. Increasing spending on the nation's infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and airports

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	65	69	65	61
Not an extremely important priority	34	31	33	39
Don't know/Refused	1	-	2	-

(Asked of half-sample B; n=511)

n. Keeping the Affordable Care Act, also known as the ACA or Obamacare, and making improvements in it

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	68	83	46	70
Not an extremely important priority	30	17	49	27
Don't know/Refused	2	-	5	3

(Asked of half-sample B; n=511)

o. Making permanent the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy, or DACA, which grants temporary legal status to people brought to the US illegally as children

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	66	86	45	68
Not an extremely important priority	32	14	53	31
Don't know/Refused	2	*	2	1

(Asked of half-sample B; n=511)

p. Increasing federal spending on K-12 public education

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	71	84	56	73
Not an extremely important priority	28	16	42	26
Don't know/Refused	1	*	2	1

(Asked of half-sample B; n=511)

q. Enacting a major Covid-19 relief bill that includes aid for businesses and individuals substantially hurt by the economic effects of Covid-19

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	89	94	87	89
Not an extremely important priority	9	5	11	11
Don't know/Refused	2	1	2	-

(Asked of half-sample B; n=511)

r. Reducing some of the tax cuts enacted in 2017 for large-and medium-sized businesses

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	54	61	46	59
Not an extremely important priority	44	38	53	39
Don't know/Refused	2	1	1	2

(Asked of half-sample B; n=511)

s. Having the U.S. rejoin the World Health Organization, or W-H-O

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	62	81	42	62
Not an extremely important priority	34	16	51	35
Don't know/Refused	4	3	7	3

(Asked of half-sample B; n=511)

t. Substantially reducing defense spending

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	40	51	33	40
Not an extremely important priority	57	47	65	58
Don't know/Refused	3	2	2	2

(Asked of half-sample B; n=511)

u. Increasing the eligibility so low- and moderate-income people can receive food stamps during the Covid-19 pandemic

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	84	96	73	84
Not an extremely important priority	16	4	27	16
Don't know/Refused	*	-	-	*

(Asked of half-sample B; n=511)

v. Taking action to substantially strengthen the role of the U.S. in world affairs

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	65	74	59	64
Not an extremely important priority	33	25	40	33
Don't know/Refused	2	1	1	3

(Asked of half-sample B; n=511)

w. Changing our health care system so that all Americans would get health insurance from the federal government's Medicare program, which is now mainly for people age 65 or over and is paid for by taxpayers? This plan is often called Medicare for All.

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	64	80	50	64
Not an extremely important priority	35	20	47	33
Don't know/Refused	1	-	3	3

POLQ1 Extremely Important Priority Summary Table

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Enacting a major Covid-19 relief bill that includes aid for businesses and individuals substantially hurt by the economic effects of Covid-19 ^b	89	94	87	89
Taking federal government action to lower prescription drug prices ^a	87	91	81	88
Substantially expanding federal support for Covid-19 testing, vaccinations, and personal protective equipment ^a	86	95	79	82
Passing a major bill that will provide stimulus to the nation's economy ^a	84	92	82	82
Increasing the eligibility so low- and moderate-income people can receive food stamps during the Covid-19 pandemic ^b	84	96	73	84
Enacting federal legislation to ensure everyone has health insurance coverage ^a	78	92	67	76
Lowering taxes for middle income individuals and raising taxes for upper-income individuals ^a	73	81	64	77
Increasing federal spending on K-12 public education ^b	71	84	56	73
Keeping the Affordable Care Act, also known as the ACA or Obamacare, and making improvements in it ^b	68	83	46	70
Substantially increasing spending and regulation to improve the environment and reduce climate change ^a	68	86	45	65
Allowing people under the age of 65 the option under the ACA or Obamacare to buy their health coverage through the Medicare program just like one might buy private insurance ^a	67	80	58	67
Making permanent the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy, or DACA, which grants temporary legal status to people brought to the US illegally as children ^b	66	86	45	68
Taking action to substantially strengthen the role of the U.S. in world affairs ^b	65	74	59	64
Increasing spending on the nation's infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and airports ^b	65	69	65	61
Addressing concerns about race and policing by establishing a national police oversight commission ^a	64	76	52	61
Changing our health care system so that all Americans would get health insurance from the federal government's Medicare program, which is now mainly for people age 65 or over and is paid for by taxpayers? This plan is often called Medicare for All. ^b	64	80	50	64
Having the U.S. rejoin the World Health Organization, or W-H-O ^b	62	81	42	62
Reversing current policy and encouraging more free trade with other countries, including reducing tariffs ^a	60	69	54	58
Canceling a share of past and current college student loan debt ^a	57	67	49	51
Having the U.S. rejoin the Paris climate accord ^a	56	77	41	61
Reducing some of the tax cuts enacted in 2017 for large-and medium-sized businesses ^b	54	61	46	59
Substantially increasing defense spending ^a	53	40	67	46
Substantially reducing defense spending ^b	40	51	33	40

^a Asked of half-sample A; n=496

^b Asked of half-sample B; n=511

POLQ2. In terms of priorities for Covid-19 relief, please tell me whether or not you think each of the following should be an EXTREMELY IMPORTANT priority. How about financial aid to (read item, randomize)? Should that be an EXTREMELY IMPORTANT priority or not?

(Asked of half-sample B; n=511)

a. Individuals who lost jobs or wages because of Covid-19

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	92	96	88	93
Not an extremely important priority	8	4	12	6
Don't know/Refused	*	-	-	1

(Asked of half-sample B; n=511)

b. Large businesses hurt by Covid-19

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	41	37	47	41
Not an extremely important priority	58	63	52	58
Don't know/Refused	1	-	1	1

(Asked of half-sample B; n=511)

c. Small businesses hurt by Covid-19

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	95	95	92	95
Not an extremely important priority	5	5	8	4
Don't know/Refused	*	-	-	1

(Asked of half-sample B; n=511)

d. State governments, particularly to help them with Medicaid and K-12 education costs

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Extremely important priority	74	86	57	80
Not an extremely important priority	26	14	43	19
Don't know/Refused	*	-	-	1

**POLQ2 Extremely Important Priority Summary Table
Based on half-sample B, n=511**

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Small businesses hurt by Covid-19	95	95	92	95
Individuals who lost jobs or wages because of Covid-19	92	96	88	93
State governments, particularly to help them with Medicaid and K-12 education costs	74	86	57	80
Large businesses hurt by Covid-19	41	37	47	41

POLQ3. When a successful Covid-19 vaccine becomes widely available, do you favor or oppose each of the following? Do you favor or oppose (read item)?

(Asked of half-sample A; n=496)

a. Employers requiring all their employees to be vaccinated before they can remain at or return to work

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Favor	52	64	47	51
Oppose	47	36	53	47
Don't know/Refused	1	*	-	2

(Asked of half-sample A; n=496)

b. Health care institutions requiring all their workers to be vaccinated before they can remain at or return to work at their facilities

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Favor	65	79	62	63
Oppose	34	21	38	37
Don't know/Refused	-	-	-	-

(Asked of half-sample A; n=496)

c. Colleges and universities requiring all their students, faculty, and staff to be vaccinated before they can remain at or return to campus

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Favor	56	70	52	55
Oppose	42	29	48	44
Don't know/Refused	2	1	-	1

**POLQ3 Favor Summary Table
Based on half-sample A, n=496**

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Health care institutions requiring all their workers to be vaccinated before they can remain at or return to work at their facilities	65	79	62	63
Colleges and universities requiring all their students, faculty, and staff to be vaccinated before they can remain at or return to campus	56	70	52	55
Employers requiring all their employees to be vaccinated before they can remain at or return to work	52	64	47	51

POLQ5. On each of the following measures, would you say that your child's or children's school education or experiences THIS school year have been better or worse than it was LAST school year, or have they been about the same? Would you say that your child's or children's (INSERT ITEM)

(Asked of parents or guardians of children ages 5-17 who normally attend school; n=170)

a. Mental or emotional health THIS school year has been better or worse than it was LAST school year, or has it been about the same?

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Better	11	Not enough cases for analysis (n<50)		
Worse	41			
About the same	47			
Don't know/Refused	1			

(Asked of parents or guardians of children ages 5-17 who normally attend school; n=170)

b. Social and behavioral skills THIS school year have been better or worse than they were LAST school year, or have they been about the same?

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Better	11	Not enough cases for analysis (n<50)		
Worse	48			
About the same	40			
Don't know/Refused	1			

(Asked of parents or guardians of children ages 5-17 who normally attend school; n=170)

c. Opportunities to form and maintain friendships THIS school year have been better or worse than they were LAST school year, or have they been about the same?

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Better	4	Not enough cases for analysis (n<50)		
Worse	64			
About the same	31			
Don't know/Refused	1			

(Asked of parents or guardians of children ages 5-17 who normally attend school; n=170)

d. Academic learning THIS school year has been better or worse than it was LAST school year, or has it been about the same?

	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Better	12	Not enough cases for analysis (n<50)		
Worse	52			
About the same	35			
Don't know/Refused	1			