



# Educational Choice:

Who Has It, Who  
Supports It, and  
What Do Parents  
Want

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School Choice in America Summit  
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# School Choice: What Is It?



# Types of Private Educational Choice Programs

## EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

Publicly funded, government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for educational purposes.

## TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Taxpayers receive full or partial tax credits when they donate to nonprofits that provide private school scholarships.

## TAX CREDIT ESAs

ESAs funded through tax credit scholarships.

## SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Pays partial or full tuition for their child's private school

## REFUNDABLE TAX CREDITS

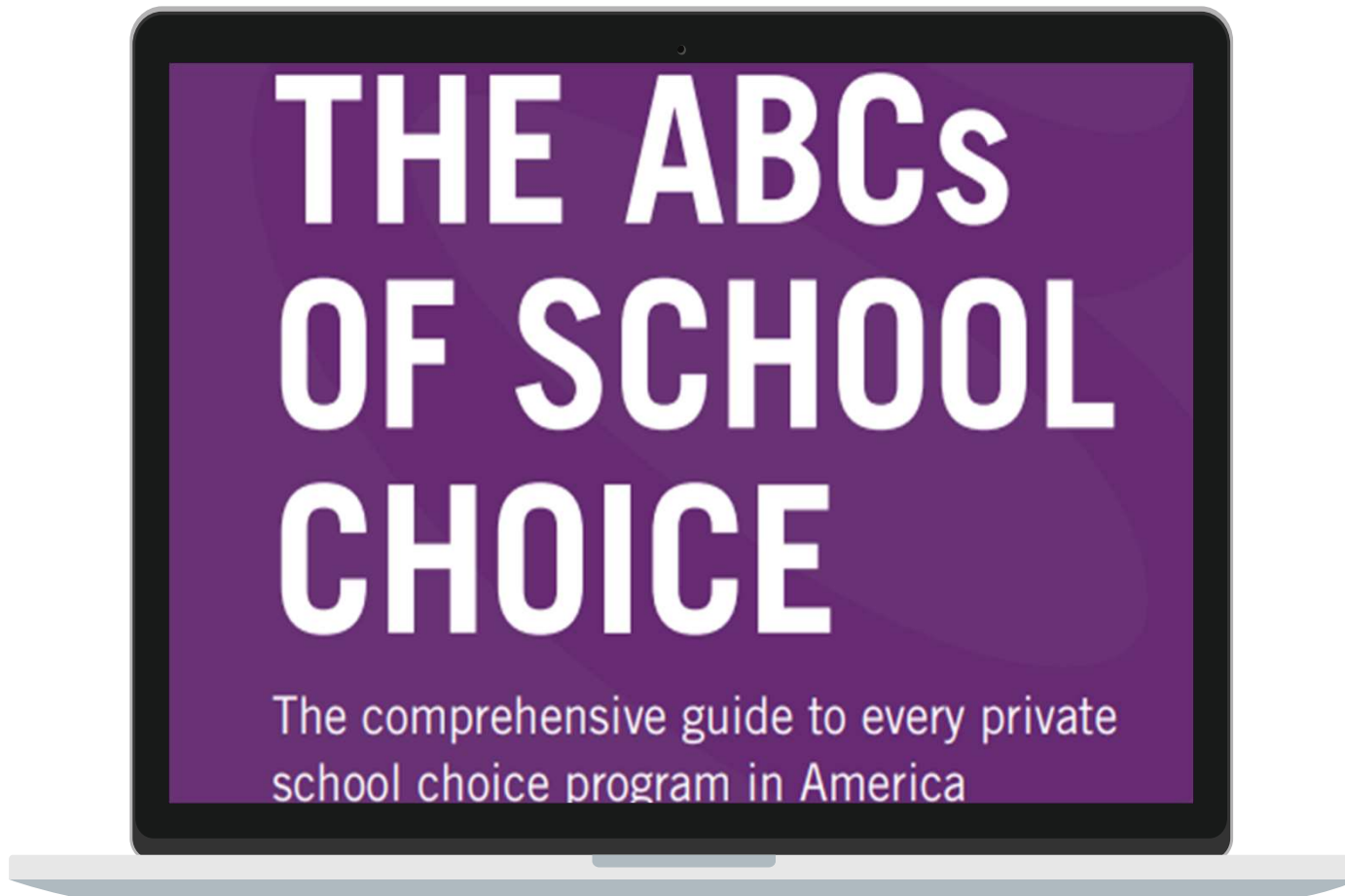
State income tax relief for approved educational expenses. Parents receive up to the full credit even if its value exceeds what they owe the state in taxes.

## INDIVIDUAL TAX CREDITS/DEDUCTIONS

Income tax relief for approved educational expenses.

# School Choice: Who Has It?

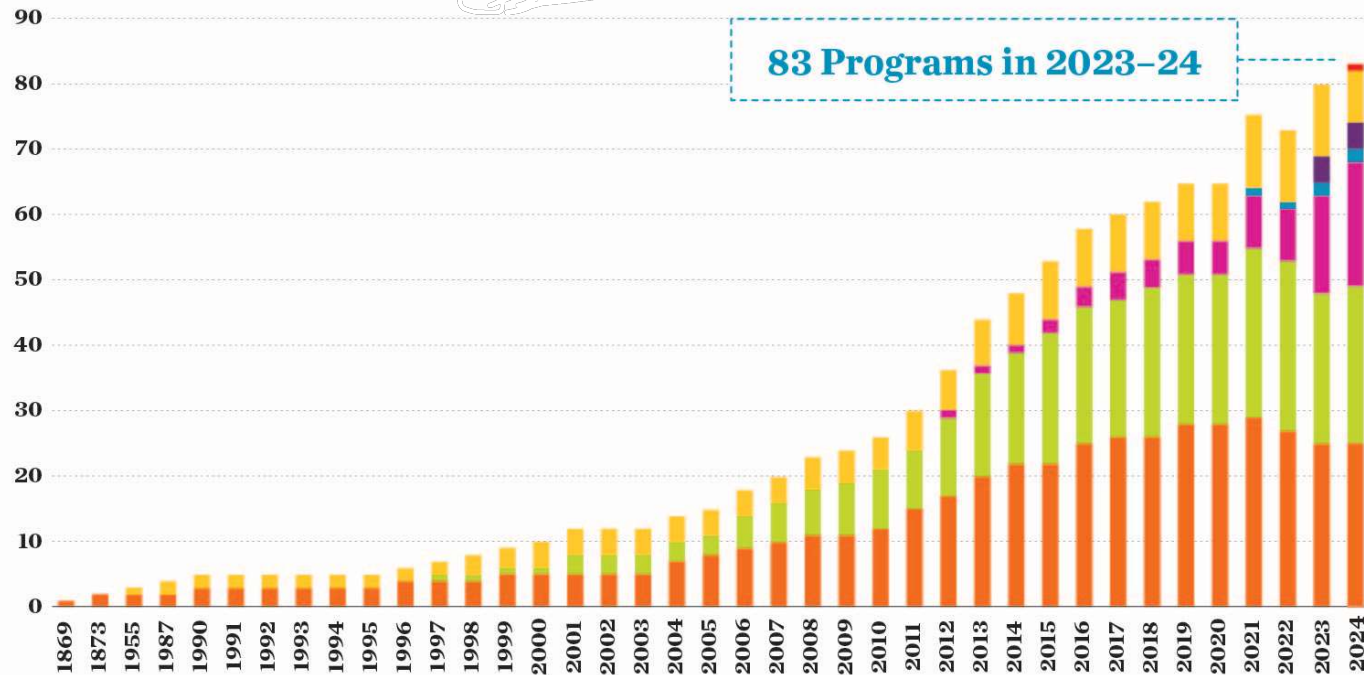




# THE ABCs OF SCHOOL CHOICE

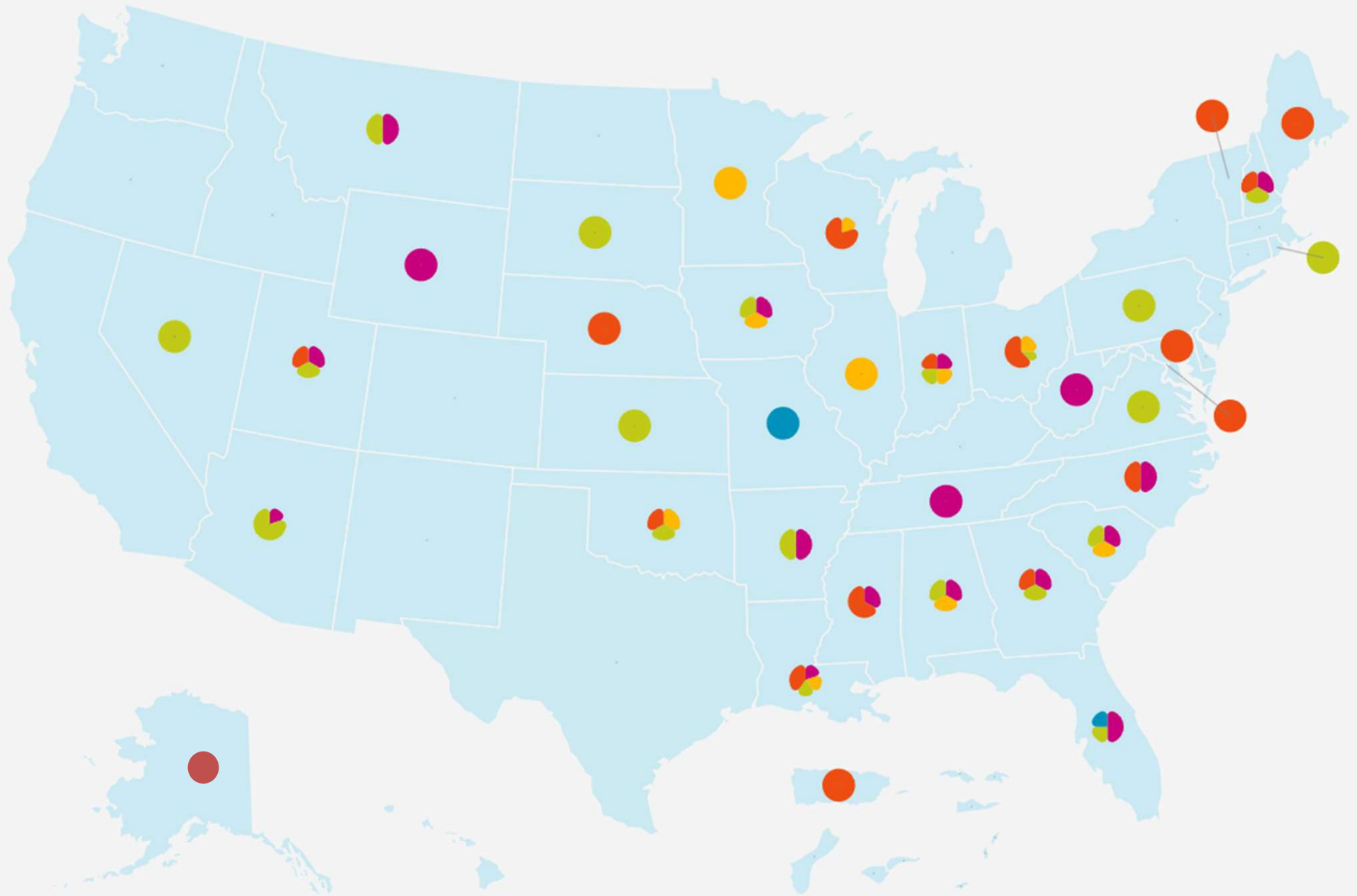
The comprehensive guide to every private  
school choice program in America

# Number of Currently Enacted Private School Choice Programs by Year



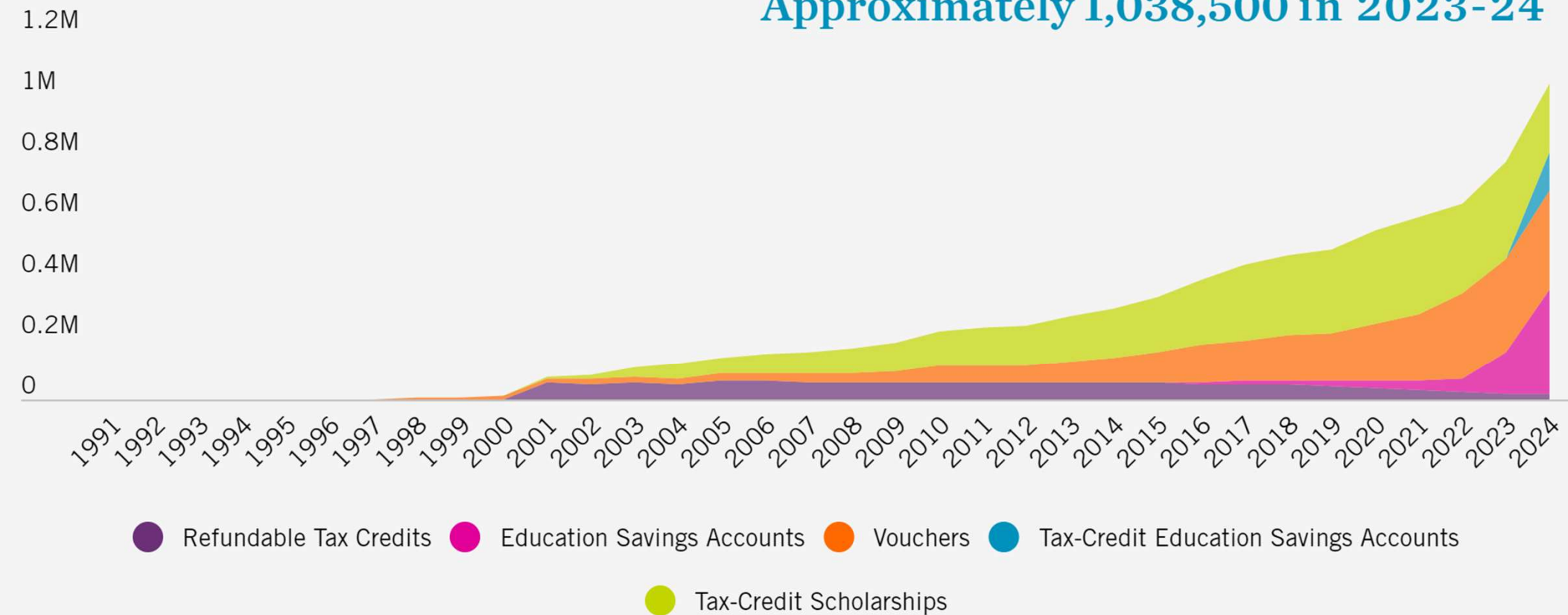
83 Programs in 2023-24





# Number of ESAs, Vouchers, Tax-Credit Scholarships, Tax-Credit ESAs, and Refundable Tax Credits

Approximately 1,038,500 in 2023-24

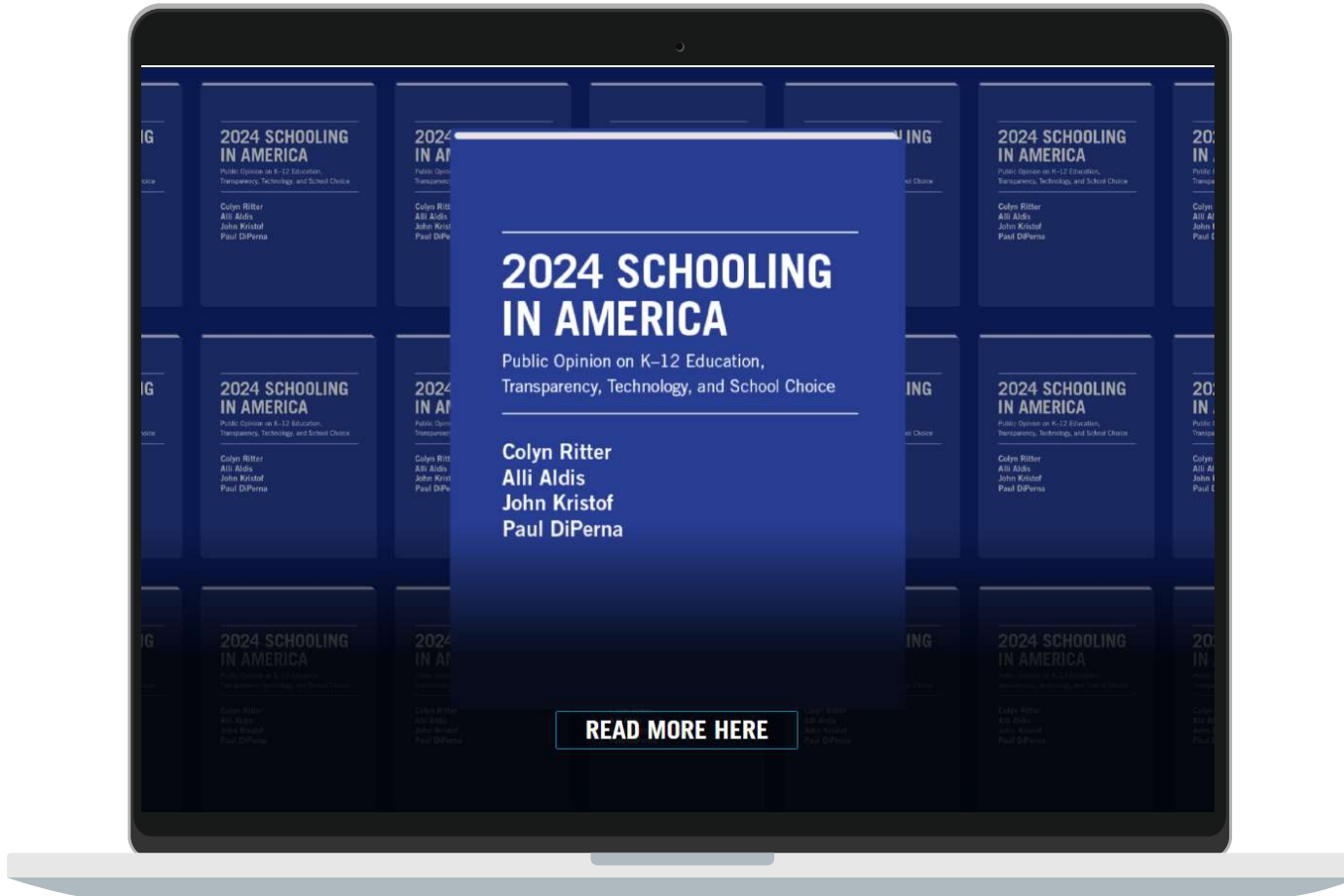




State	Type	Name	Total	Race/Ethnicity	Gender	Household Income	Disability Status	Prior Year Enrollment	Community Type
Arkansas	ESA	Children's Educational Freedom Account Program	4,795	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	44%	31% first-time kindergartner, 64% enrolled in private school upon application	Not Reported
Arizona	ESA	Empowerment Scholarship Accounts	74,996	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	18%	Not Reported	Not Reported
Florida	TCESA	Tax Credit Scholarship Program	100,025*	Hispanic 39%, Black 29%, White 27%*	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
Indiana	Voucher	Choice Scholarship Program	70,095	White 64%, Hispanic 17%, Black 9%, Multiracial 5%, Asian 4%	Female 51%, Male 49%	<\$50,000 20%, \$50,001-\$100,000 27%, \$100,001-\$150,000 22%, \$150,001-\$200,000 11%, >\$200,000 5%	9%	33% with record of attending Indiana public school, 67% no record of attending Indiana public school	Urban 51%, Suburban 32%, Rural 10%, Small Town 7%
West Virginia	ESA	Hope Scholarship Program	5,791	White 91%, Black 4%, Hispanic 2%, Asian 2%	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported

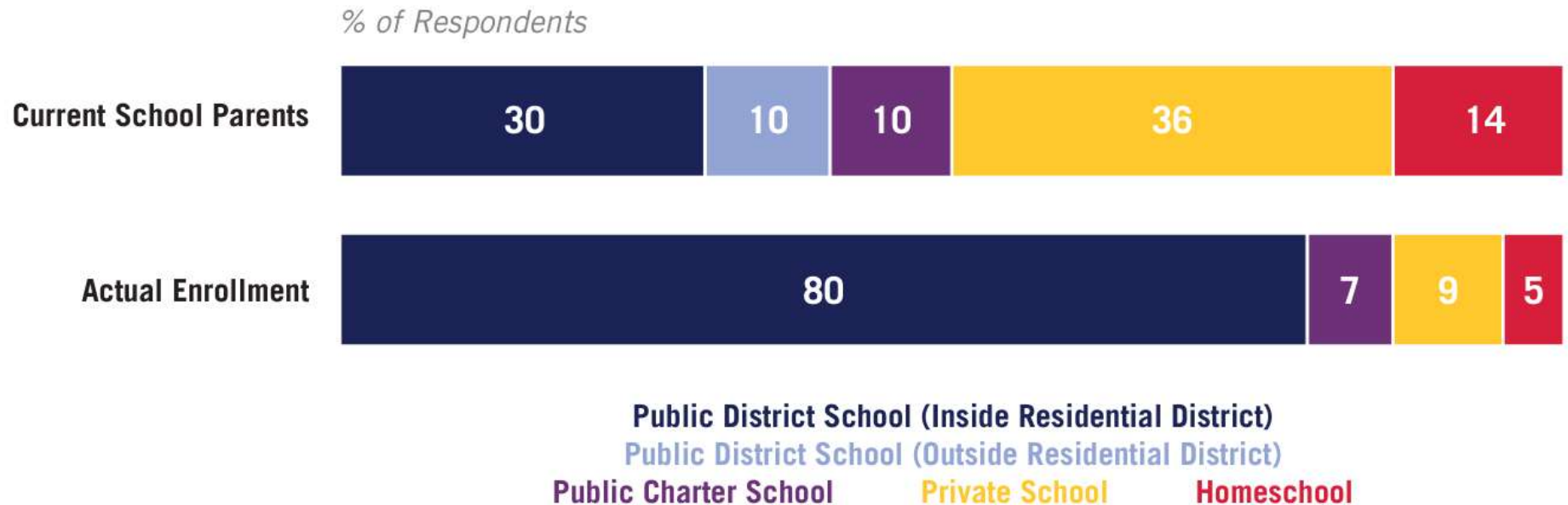
Private Educational Choice Programs: A State-by-State Comparison								
State	EdChoice Share Rank	Number of Programs	Private Educational Choice Programs Share (%)	Other Private School Share (%)	Traditional Public School Share (%)	Magnet School Share (%)	Public Charter School Share (%)	Homeschool Share (%)
Arizona	2	5	9.2	0.3	68.7	0.0	18.4	3.4
Ohio	3	8	7.5	3.3	80.0	0.0	6.3	2.8
Iowa	4	3	7.1	1.4	87.6	0.0	<0.1	3.7
Vermont	7	1	4.1	5.1	86.9	0.5	0.0	3.5
Pennsylvania	8	2	4.0	7.4	76.6	1.5	8.4	2.1
Maine	10	1	2.4	6.4	84.4	0.1	1.4	5.3
Louisiana	15	5	1.1	12.2	69.7	3.1	11.8	2.2
Montana	17	2	0.6	5.5	89.2	0.0	0.0	4.7
Oklahoma	18	3	0.4	4.2	84.9	0.0	6.8	3.8
Virginia	20	1	0.4	8.3	73.1	14.1	0.1	4.1
Alabama	21	2	0.3	7.1	84.6	2.0	0.4	5.5
Arkansas	26	3	0.2	4.3	80.7	3.4	6.5	4.9
Mississippi	30	3	0.1	8.8	85.1	0.7	0.7	4.5
South Carolina	31	3	0.1	6.8	73.6	10.0	5.8	3.7
Minnesota	32	2	0.0	8.1	78.3	3.7	7.1	2.8
Nebraska	33	1	0.0	10.0	86.8	0.0	0.0	3.2
Wyoming	34	1	0.0	1.8	93.4	0.0	0.7	4.1
Michigan	37	0	0.0	7.9	72.5	9.5	10.1	0.0
Alaska	40	0	0.0	3.1	68.8	12.2	5.8	10.3
Colorado	41	0	0.0	5.8	76.5	1.3	15.4	1.0
Kentucky	43	0	0.0	8.9	79.3	6.6	0.0	5.2
North Dakota	51	0	0.0	8.7	87.6	0.0	0.0	3.6

# School Choice: Who Supports it?



**FIGURE 1****SCHOOL TYPE PREFERENCE VS. ENROLLMENT, 2024**

There continues to be a substantial disconnect between parents' schooling preferences and actual enrollment patterns. Three in five parents would choose a school type other than public school.



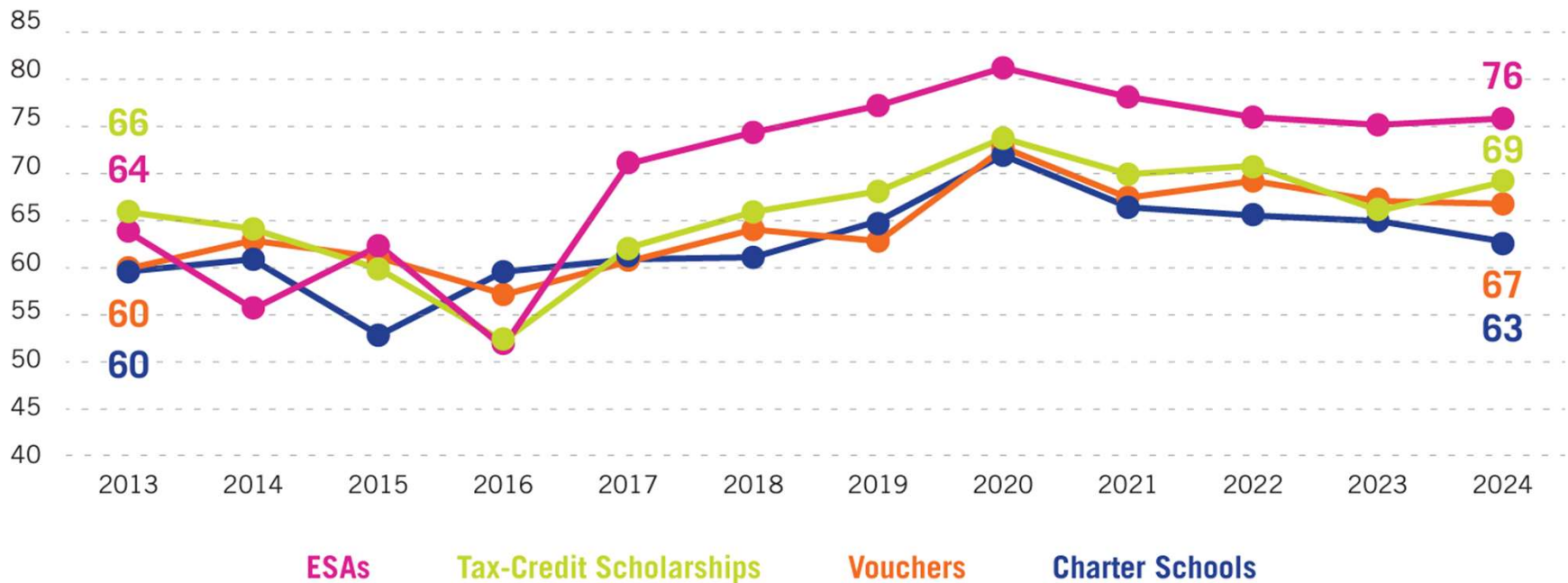
*Notes:* The percentages in this chart reflect a composite that averages split samples' responses to two slightly different versions of this question. Responses within parentheses were volunteered; "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question. NCES does not split out inter- and intra-district choice.

*Sources:* Authors' calculations; Colyn Ritter, January 17, 2024, 2024 EdChoice Share: Exploring Where America's Students Are Educated, EdChoice; 2024 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 9–April 30, 2024), Q13

**FIGURE 20 PUBLIC FAVORABILITY OF K-12 CHOICE POLICIES, 2013-2024**

About two-thirds of Americans support school vouchers, charter schools, and tax-credit scholarships. Support for ESAs is much higher at 76%.

*% of General Population*

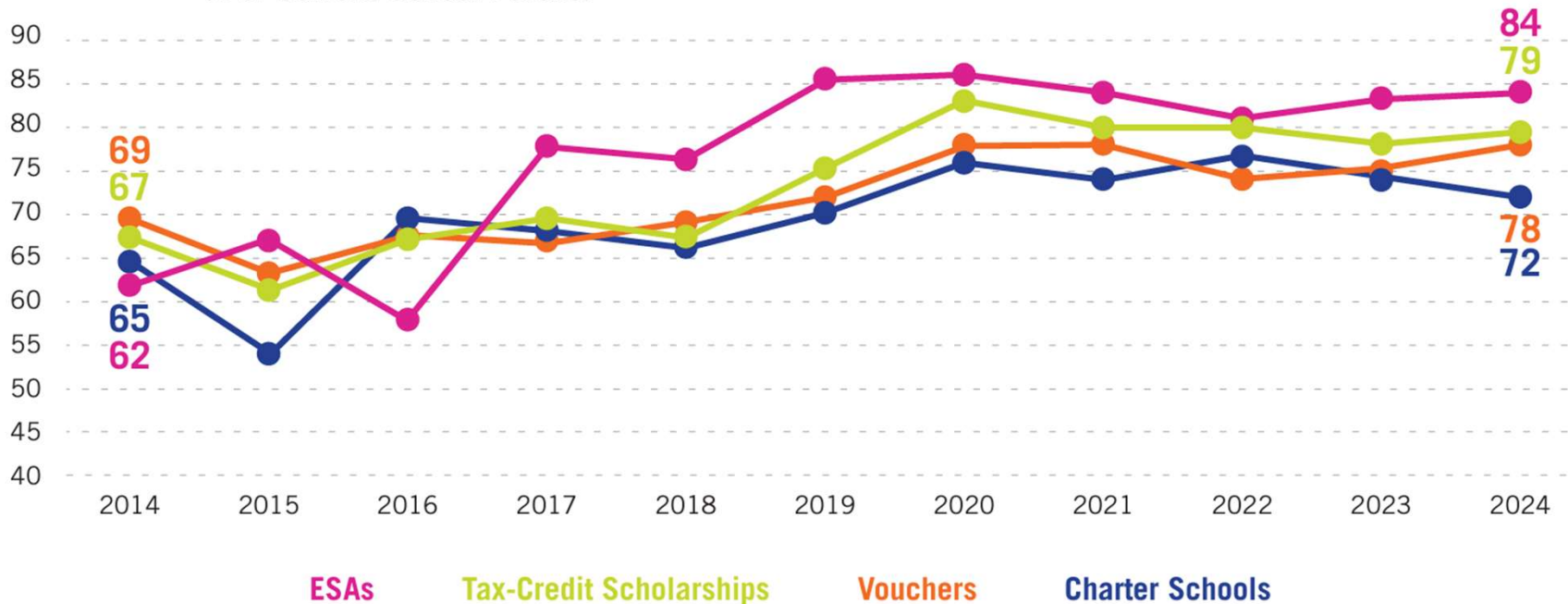


*Notes:* From 2013–2015 we slightly changed question wording to more accurately reflect the features of an education savings account (ESA) program and to avoid the inclusion of potentially loaded words or limiting ESA uses. Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2024.  
*Sources:* EdChoice, *2024 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 9–April 30, 2024), Q17, Q19, Q21, and Q25; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2024; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2013–2015

**FIGURE 21****PARENTS' FAVORABILITY OF K-12 CHOICE POLICIES, 2014-2024**

Parent support for K-12 choice policies is consistently high. ESAs remain the most popular school choice policy for the eighth consecutive year.

*% of Current School Parents*



*Notes:* From 2014–2015 we slightly changed question wording to more accurately reflect the features of an education savings account (ESA) program and to avoid the inclusion of potentially loaded words or limiting ESA uses. Phone-only survey results shown for 2014–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2024.  
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**FIGURE 23****DEMOGRAPHIC SUPPORT FOR ESAs**

Support for ESAs is strongest amongst school parents, Hispanic adults, and Millennials. Respondents from rural areas are least likely to support ESAs.

*% of Respondents*

Most Supportive, Top 10 Groups	
School Parents	84%
Hispanic	83%
Millennials	81%
Urban	81%
Education: Bachelors+	78%
Age: 18-34	78%
Midwest	78%
Black	78%
Democrat	77%
Gen Z	77%

Least Supportive, Bottom 10 Groups	
Gen X	75%
Suburban	75%
Male	75%
South	74%
Education: <College Grad	74%
Republican	73%
White/Non-Hispanic	73%
Baby Boomers	73%
Age: 55+	72%
Rural	72%

Source: EdChoice, 2024 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 9–April 30, 2024), Q21



**FIGURE 26** DEMOGRAPHIC SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL VOUCHERS

School parents, millennials, and Republicans are the most likely groups to support school vouchers. Adults with at least a bachelor's degree show the least support.

*% of Respondents*

Groups Most Supportive, Top 10 Groups	
School Parents	78%
Millennials	76%
Republican	75%
Hispanic	75%
Age: 35-54	74%
Education: <College Grad	71%
Urban	71%
Age: 18-34	71%
Northeast	69%
Gen X	69%

Groups Least Supportive, Bottom 10 Groups	
Independent	66%
Midwest	65%
White/Non-Hispanic	65%
Male	64%
Rural	63%
Democrat	60%
Baby Boomers	58%
Income: 80K+	57%
Age: 55+	57%
Education: College Grad+	57%

Source: EdChoice, 2024 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 9–April 30, 2024), Q21

**FIGURE 7** PARENTS' REASONS FOR CHOOSING A SCHOOL

Safety and academic quality continue to be top priorities for private, homeschool, and charter school parents when choosing their child's school, while public school parents are more likely to consider location and socialization.

*% of Current School Parents Providing Ranking 1, 2, or 3 by Experience With School Type*

Factors	Public District School	Public Charter School	Private School	Homeschool
Location/Close to Home or Work	44%	25%	19%	19%
Socialization/Peers/Other Kids	34%	21%	19%	15%
Our Assigned District/Neighborhood School	31%	9%	9%	9%
Safe Environment	25%	37%	36%	53%
Academic Quality or Reputation	26%	36%	36%	23%
Extracurricular Activities	22%	20%	16%	10%
Diversity	17%	13%	9%	7%
Structure, Discipline	13%	21%	24%	24%
Morals/Character/Values Instruction	16%	23%	31%	30%
School Size	11%	18%	16%	9%
Individual/One-on-One Attention	11%	19%	20%	38%
Class Size	12%	21%	17%	14%
Test Scores	10%	16%	15%	11%
Religious Environment/Instruction	5%	8%	19%	13%

*Note:* For more information about school type subgroup samples, see the full report at [EdChoice.org/SIAashboard](https://EdChoice.org/SIAashboard).  
*Source:* EdChoice, 2024 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 9–April 30, 2024), Q5-8

# What Do Parents Want?



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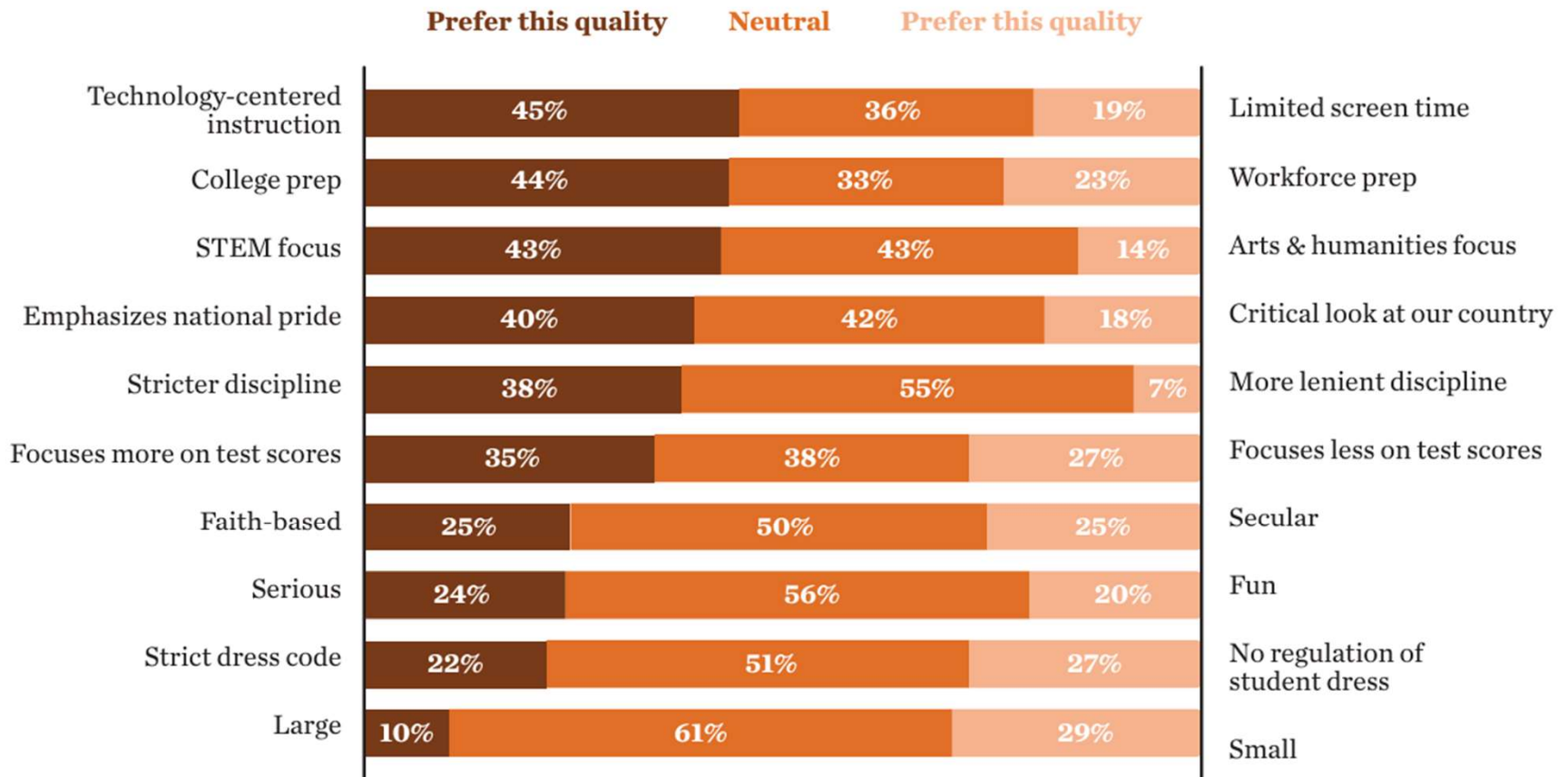
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# WHAT DO PARENTS WANT?

Information, Choices, and Constraints

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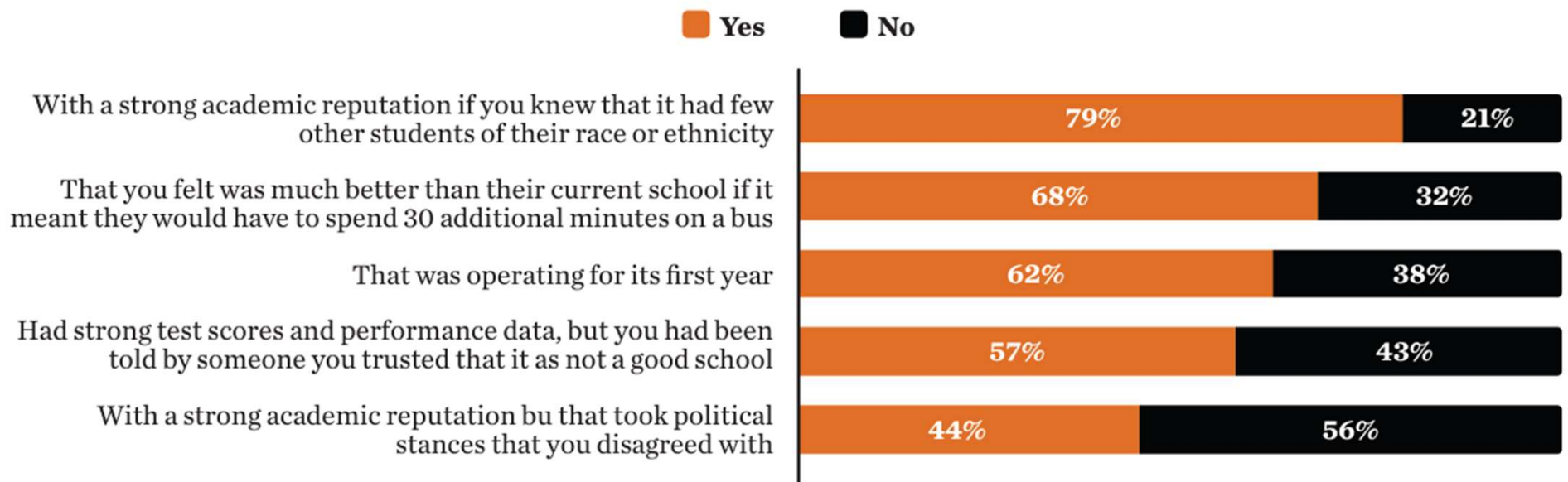
Michael Q. McShane, Ph.D.

**FIGURE 6****Preferred School Qualities***When it comes to your child's school, which of the following qualities do you want in the school that they attend?*

Source: EdChoice/Morning Consult survey conducted November 3 to 7, 2023, among U.S. K-12 School Parents

**FIGURE 7****Choosing a School**

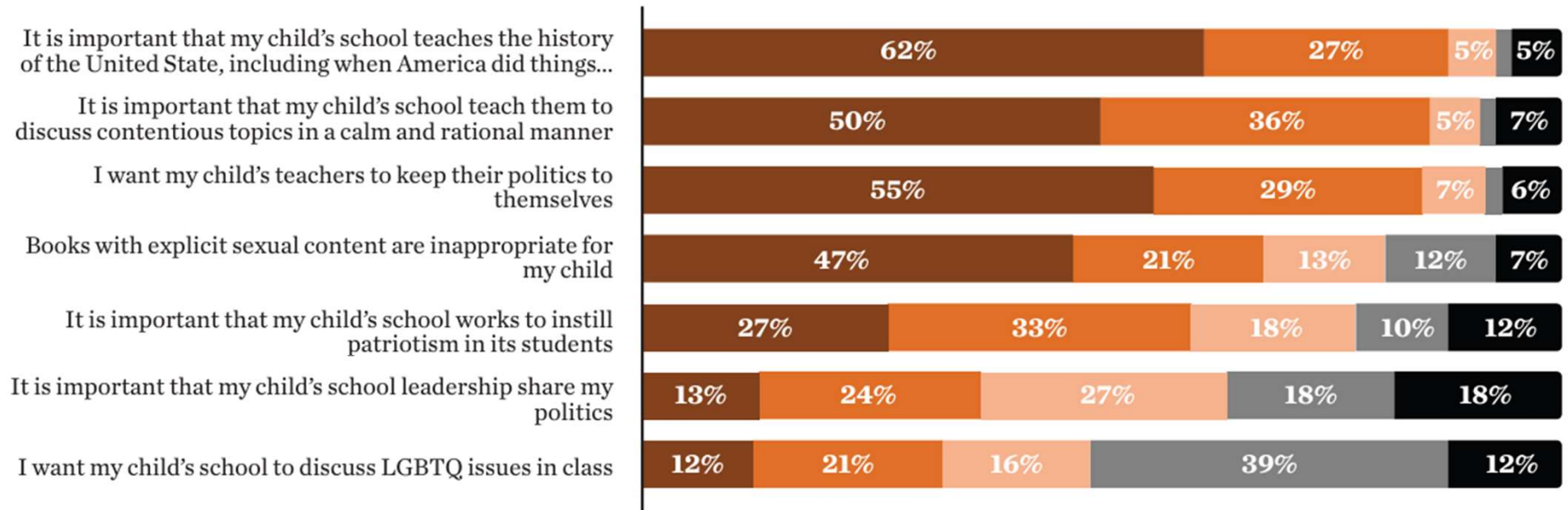
*Would you send your child to a school.. (the various options complete the sentence)*



Source: EdChoice/Morning Consult survey conducted November 3 to 7, 2023, among U.S. K-12 School Parents

**FIGURE 8****Preferences Regarding Classroom Content***To what degree do you agree with the following statements? (the various options are the statements)*

**Strongly agree**    
  **Somewhat agree**    
  **Somewhat disagree**  
 **Strongly disagree**    
  **Don't know / no opinion**



Source: EdChoice/Morning Consult survey conducted November 3 to 7, 2023, among U.S. K-12 School Parents





## K-12 Education in America

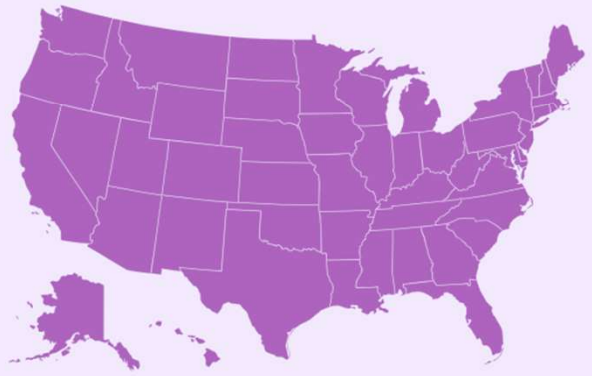
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# Questions?

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