



## PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

### NPR/Ipsos Poll on K-12 Teachers

Conducted by Ipsos using KnowledgePanel®  
**A survey of the American adult K-12 teachers (ages 18+)**  
Interview dates: May 8-12, 2023  
Number of K-12 teachers interviews: 510

Margin of error: +/- 5.0 percentage points at the 95% confidence level for all respondents

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled. Reduced bases are unweighted values.

NOTE: \* = less than 0.5%, - = no respondents

#### Annotated Questionnaire:

1. Do you currently work as a teacher in...\*

	<b>K-12 Teachers (N=510)</b>	<b>K-12 Teachers March 2019 (N=505)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>K-12 Teachers April 2018 (N=504)</b>
Pre-K	5%	NA	NA
Kindergarten	19%	12%	14%
1-6 grade	48%	42%	44%
7-8 grade	27%	12%	12%
9-10 grade	33%	33%	21%
11-12 grade	35%	32%	25%
None of the above	-	NA	NA
Skipped	-	NA	NA

\*Note: In the April 2018 and March 2019 polls, this question was asked as, “Do you currently work as an educator in...”

<sup>1</sup> When assessing trends in the data, please note the impact of potential mode effects. While this most recent poll utilizes a nationally representative probability sample using the KnowledgePanel®, the April 2018 and March 2019 polls used non-probability opt-in samples that calibrated respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments.





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2. Which three of the following topics do you find the most worrying? (Select up to three)

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<i>K-12 Teachers April 2018</i>
Crime or gun violence	47%	41%
Inflation or increasing costs	35%	NA
Education	33%	49%
Political extremism or polarization	31%	17%
Climate change	24%	14%
Racial injustice	15%	NA
Healthcare	15%	32%
Opioid or drug addiction	14%	NA
Abortion	14%	NA
Government budget and debt	12%	14%
Immigration	10%	16%
Social inequality	8%	17%
Taxes	7%	12%
LGBTQ issues	6%	NA
Terrorism	4%	24%
Nuclear conflict	3%	9%
Foreign conflicts	2%	10%
COVID-19/coronavirus	2%	NA
Unemployment	1%	7%
Natural disasters	1%	3%
Other	4%	2%
Skipped	-	NA

3. What words come to mind for you to describe teachers? Please write the first few words or short phrases that you think of.

*Open-ended responses provided separately.*

4. To what extent are you happy or unhappy that you became a teacher?

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>
Very happy	37%
Somewhat happy	44%
Somewhat unhappy	15%
Very unhappy	4%
Don't know	1%
Skipped	*
<i>Happy (Net)</i>	<i>80%</i>
<i>Unhappy (Net)</i>	<i>18%</i>





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### 5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

#### Total Agree Summary

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<b>K-12 Teachers April 2018</b>
I became a teacher because I like educating	96%	92%
I became a teacher because I wanted to do good	95%	93%
I became a teacher because I wanted a stable career	80%	74%
I became a teacher because it was an obtainable job	59%	53%

#### a. I became a teacher because I wanted to do good

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<b>K-12 Teachers April 2018</b>
Strongly agree	70%	72%
Somewhat agree	25%	21%
Somewhat disagree	3%	2%
Strongly disagree	1%	2%
Don't know	1%	3%
Skipped	*	NA
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<b>95%</b>	<b>93%</b>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>

#### b. I became a teacher because I like educating

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<b>K-12 Teachers April 2018</b>
Strongly agree	76%	72%
Somewhat agree	19%	20%
Somewhat disagree	2%	2%
Strongly disagree	2%	1%
Don't know	*	4%
Skipped	1%	NA
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<b>96%</b>	<b>92%</b>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>





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5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Continued)

c. I became a teacher because I wanted a stable career

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<b>K-12 Teachers April 2018</b>
Strongly agree	33%	28%
Somewhat agree	46%	47%
Somewhat disagree	13%	15%
Strongly disagree	6%	5%
Don't know	1%	5%
Skipped	*	NA
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>74%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>21%</i>

d. I became a teacher because it was an obtainable job

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<b>K-12 Teachers April 2018</b>
Strongly agree	22%	15%
Somewhat agree	37%	38%
Somewhat disagree	23%	22%
Strongly disagree	16%	19%
Don't know	2%	6%
Skipped	1%	NA
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>53%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>41%</i>

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the following?

Total Approve Summary

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<b>K-12 Teachers April 2018</b>
Your local teachers' union	60%	65%
National teachers' unions	59%	61%
Your local school board	58%	NA
The governor in your state	56%	NA
Your state Department of Education leadership	50%	43%
The U.S. Department of Education leadership	43%	24%





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### 6. Do you approve or disapprove of the following? (Continued)

#### a. Your local teachers' union

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<b>K-12 Teachers April 2018</b>
Strongly approve	20%	25%
Somewhat approve	20%	21%
Lean toward approve	20%	19%
Lean toward disapprove	8%	5%
Somewhat disapprove	5%	3%
Strongly disapprove	7%	4%
Don't know	20%	22%
Skipped	1%	NA
<i>Approve (Net)</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>65%</i>
<i>Disapprove (Net)</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>13%</i>

#### b. National teachers' unions

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<b>K-12 Teachers April 2018</b>
Strongly approve	18%	19%
Somewhat approve	23%	21%
Lean toward approve	18%	21%
Lean toward disapprove	10%	9%
Somewhat disapprove	5%	5%
Strongly disapprove	9%	7%
Don't know	16%	18%
Skipped	*	NA
<i>Approve (Net)</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>61%</i>
<i>Disapprove (Net)</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>21%</i>

#### c. Your state Department of Education leadership

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<b>K-12 Teachers April 2018</b>
Strongly approve	4%	8%
Somewhat approve	22%	15%
Lean toward approve	24%	20%
Lean toward disapprove	15%	19%
Somewhat disapprove	13%	13%
Strongly disapprove	14%	13%
Don't know	8%	12%
Skipped	*	NA
<i>Approve (Net)</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>43%</i>
<i>Disapprove (Net)</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>45%</i>





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6. Do you approve or disapprove of the following? (Continued)

d. The U.S. Department of Education leadership

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<b>K-12 Teachers April 2018</b>
Strongly approve	3%	5%
Somewhat approve	18%	10%
Lean toward approve	22%	10%
Lean toward disapprove	16%	17%
Somewhat disapprove	16%	16%
Strongly disapprove	14%	33%
Don't know	10%	9%
Skipped	1%	NA
<i>Approve (Net)</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>24%</i>
<i>Disapprove (Net)</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>66%</i>

e. Your local school board

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>
Strongly approve	9%
Somewhat approve	23%
Lean toward approve	26%
Lean toward disapprove	13%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	11%
Don't know	5%
Skipped	*
<i>Approve (Net)</i>	<i>58%</i>
<i>Disapprove (Net)</i>	<i>37%</i>

f. The governor in your state

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>
Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	21%
Lean toward approve	17%
Lean toward disapprove	9%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	21%
Don't know	6%
Skipped	1%
<i>Approve (Net)</i>	<i>56%</i>
<i>Disapprove (Net)</i>	<i>38%</i>





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7. Which of the following groups do you believe should be primarily responsible for decisions about what is taught in public schools in the United States?

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>
Teachers	60%
School boards	15%
Parents	10%
State legislators	7%
Federal legislators	7%
Local activists	*
Skipped	1%

8. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

### Total Agree Summary

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>
Teaching is a worthwhile profession that deserves respect	97%
Teachers are professionals who should be trusted to make decisions about classroom curriculum	93%
Teachers are asked to do <u>too much</u> work for the pay they receive	93%
Teachers' unions improve the quality of teachers	59%
Teaching is a prestigious profession	59%
You can be an effective teacher without a bachelor's degree	33%
Public school teachers are paid fairly	19%

a. Public school teachers are paid fairly

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>
Strongly agree	3%
Somewhat agree	16%
Somewhat disagree	29%
Strongly disagree	51%
Don't know	1%
Skipped	*
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>19%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>79%</i>





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8. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (Continued)

b. Teachers' unions improve the quality of teachers

	K-12 Teachers	K-12 Teachers April 2018
Strongly agree	19%	22%
Somewhat agree	40%	39%
Somewhat disagree	16%	17%
Strongly disagree	9%	10%
Don't know	16%	11%
Skipped	*	NA
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>62%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>28%</i>

c. Teachers are professionals who should be trusted to make decisions about classroom curriculum

	K-12 Teachers
Strongly agree	72%
Somewhat agree	22%
Somewhat disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	*
Don't know	*
Skipped	1%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>93%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>5%</i>

d. Teaching is a prestigious profession

	K-12 Teachers
Strongly agree	29%
Somewhat agree	30%
Somewhat disagree	26%
Strongly disagree	11%
Don't know	3%
Skipped	*
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>59%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>37%</i>







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8. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (Continued)

e. Teaching is a worthwhile profession that deserves respect

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>
Strongly agree	90%
Somewhat agree	7%
Somewhat disagree	1%
Strongly disagree	2%
Don't know	*
Skipped	*
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>97%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>2%</i>

f. Teachers are asked to do too much work for the pay they receive

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>
Strongly agree	71%
Somewhat agree	23%
Somewhat disagree	3%
Strongly disagree	1%
Don't know	2%
Skipped	*
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>93%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>4%</i>

g. You can be an effective teacher without a bachelor's degree

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>
Strongly agree	11%
Somewhat agree	22%
Somewhat disagree	33%
Strongly disagree	32%
Don't know	1%
Skipped	*
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>33%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>65%</i>





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9. Based on what you may know or feel, in the last ten years, has each of the following gotten better, worse, or stayed the same?

### Total Better Summary

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>
The quality of public education in your area	12%
Working conditions for teachers in your area	10%
The public's perceptions of teachers	10%

a. The public's perceptions of teachers

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>
Better	10%
Worse	73%
Stayed the same	16%
Skipped	*

b. Working conditions for teachers in your area

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>
Better	10%
Worse	66%
Stayed the same	24%
Skipped	*

c. The quality of public education in your area

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>
Better	12%
Worse	46%
Stayed the same	41%
Skipped	*



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10. In the last year, have you done any of the following?

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<b>K-12 Teachers April 2018</b>
Purchased school supplies with your own money	86%	78%
Devoted your own time outside of school hours to helping a student or students	77%	69%
Worked a second job to make ends meet	35%	42%
Run up debt to make ends meet	24%	36%
None of these	4%	9%
Skipped	*	NA

11. How many years have you taught in K-12 education?

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<b>K-12 Teachers April 2018</b>
5 years or less	24%	38%
6-10 years	20%	21%
11-20 years	28%	26%
20+ years	28%	15%
Skipped	1%	NA
<i>Up to 10 years (Net)</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>59%</i>
<i>11+ years (Net)</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>41%</i>

12. Is the school where you do most of your teaching...

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<b>K-12 Teachers March 2019</b>	<b>K-12 Teachers April 2018</b>
Public	82%	84%	77%
Private – Parochial	9%	6%	11%
Private – Non-parochial	6%	5%	7%
Charter	3%	5%	5%
Skipped	*	NA	NA
<i>Public school (Net)</i>	<i>85%</i>	<i>89%</i>	<i>82%</i>
<i>Private school (Net)</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>18%</i>



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13. Do you currently have student debt, and if so approximately how much?

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<i>K-12 Teachers April 2018</i>
No	67%	50%
Yes, less than \$10,000	6%	5%
Yes, between \$10,000 and \$25,000	10%	14%
Yes, between \$25,001 and \$50,000	9%	18%
Yes, more than \$50,000	8%	12%
Skipped	*	NA
<b>Yes (Net)</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>49%</b>

14. Do you belong to a teachers' union?

	<b>K-12 Teachers</b>	<i>K-12 Teachers March 2019</i>	<i>K-12 Teachers April 2018</i>
Yes	47%	46%	46%
No	48%	47%	48%
Don't know	3%	2%	1%
Prefer not to say	1%	4%	4%
Skipped	1%	NA	NA





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### About the Study

These are the findings of an NPR/Ipsos poll conducted May 8-12, 2023, by Ipsos using our KnowledgePanel®. This poll is based on a representative probability sample of 510 K-12 teachers who are adults aged 18 or older.

The survey was conducted using KnowledgePanel, the largest and most well-established online probability-based panel that is representative of the adult US population. Our recruitment process employs a scientifically developed addressed-based sampling methodology using the latest Delivery Sequence File of the USPS – a database with full coverage of all delivery points in the US. Households invited to join the panel are randomly selected from all available households in the U.S. Persons in the sampled households are invited to join and participate in the panel. Those selected who do not already have internet access are provided a tablet and internet connection at no cost to the panel member. Those who join the panel and who are selected to participate in a survey are sent a unique password-protected log-in used to complete surveys online. As a result of our recruitment and sampling methodologies, samples from KnowledgePanel cover all households regardless of their phone or internet status and findings can be reported with a margin of sampling error and projected to the general population.

The study was conducted in English. The data were weighted to adjust for gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, household income, Census region, and metropolitan status. The demographic benchmarks came from the 2021 American Community Survey.

- Gender (Male, Female)
- Age (18-29, 30-44, 45-59, 60+)
- Race/ethnicity (White, Non-Hispanic; Black, Non-Hispanic; Other/2+ races, Non-Hispanic; Hispanic)
- Education (Some college or lower, Bachelor or higher)
- Household Income (Under \$25,000; \$25,000-\$49,999; \$50,000-\$74,999; \$75,000-\$99,999; \$100,000-\$149,999; \$150,000 and over)
- Census Region (Northeast, Midwest, South, West)
- Metropolitan Status (Metro, non-Metro)

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 5.0 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, for results based on the entire sample of K-12 teachers. The margin of sampling error takes into account the design effect, which was 1.34. The margin of sampling error is higher and varies for results based on sub-samples. In our reporting of the findings, percentage points are rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. In questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total substantially more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.

This topline includes trended data from two previous NPR/Ipsos polls. The first poll was conducted from April 6<sup>th</sup> to April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and it included a non-probability opt-in sample of 504 teachers ages 18+. The second poll was conducted from March 21<sup>st</sup> to March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, and it included a non-probability opt-in sample of 505 teachers ages 18+. In the April 2018 poll, the credibility interval is plus or minus 5.0 percentage points for all respondents. In the March 2019 poll, the credibility interval is plus or minus 5.0 percentage points for all respondents. More information about the April 2018 poll can be found [here](#). More information about the March 2019 poll can be found [here](#).





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### About Ipsos

Ipsos is the world's third largest market research company, present in 90 markets and employing more than 18,000 people.

Our passionately curious research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide true understanding and powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees. We serve more than 5000 clients across the world with 75 business solutions.

Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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