What grade(s) is/are your child(ren) currently in? **ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. PROBE IF NEEDED:** And your other children?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninth</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenth</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleventh</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twelfth</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know / Refused</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IF NO CHILDREN IN GRADES 6-12, TERMINATE**

Which of the following best describes the school where your child(ren) is/are enrolled this year? **ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A public school run by a school district</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A public charter school</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A parochial or Catholic school</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A non-Catholic private or independent school</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeschooling</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another format</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know / Refused</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To the best of your knowledge, are any of your children enrolled in a vocational technical school? Vocational technical schools teach students the skills they need for a trade or occupation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know / Refused</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IF HAVE MORE THAN ONE CHILD IN GRADES 6-12, READ THE FOLLOWING. OTHERWISE, SKIP THIS DIRECTION AND DO NOT SPECIFY GRADE LEVEL IN THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. You mentioned you had a child in the SELECT GRADE LEVEL FOR RANDOM CHILD. The following several questions will be about this child’s school.

IF ONLY ONE CHILD, SKIP FOLLOWING, AND RECORD ANSWERS FROM PREVIOUS SCHOOL TYPE QUESTION IN THEIR PLACE

First, which of the following best describes the school where your GRADE LEVEL child is enrolled this year?

- A public school run by a school district 79%
- A public charter school 8%
- A parochial or Catholic school 4%
- A non-Catholic private or independent school 5%
- Home school 2%
- Another format 3%
- Don’t Know / Refused <1%

Students are often graded on the quality of their work using the letters A, B, C, D, and F. Suppose your GRADE LEVEL child’s school was graded in the same way. Considering all parts of the school experience, such as communications, academic support, curriculum, counselors, teachers, extracurriculars, and so on, how would you grade your GRADE LEVEL child’s school so far this year? Or is it too early in the year to tell?

- A 26%
- B 31%
- C 8%
- D 3%
- F 1%
- Too early to tell 30%
- Don’t Know / Refused 1%

ASK IF RESPONDENT ASSIGNED A LETTER GRADE

Thinking about the letter grade you just gave to your GRADE LEVEL child’s school, what were you thinking of in particular when you gave the grade you did? OPEN-END, RECORD VERBATIM.

- Workload / curriculum 22%
- Grades / student performance 21%
- Teacher / administration performance 20%
- School resources (academic support, shortages, AP classes, extracurriculars, infrastructure etc.) 17%
- Communication / support among staff and parents 13%
- Individualized attention / meeting child’s needs 9%
- General comments 6%
- School community / environment 4%
- School safety 2%
- Other (lack of diversity, politics, location, IEP support, etc.) 10%
- Don’t know / too early to tell / school just started 5%
ASK IF RESPONDENT DID NOT ASSIGN A LETTER GRADE

When thinking about a grade for your child’s school, what factors will be most important to you? OPEN-END, RECORD VERBATIM.

- Quality of education (content of curriculum, workload, specific classes, etc.) 40%
- Quality teachers 20%
- Learning life skills & post HS preparation 15%
- Communication 14%
- Environmental norms (supportive, no bullying, community, respect, fairness, DEI etc.) 13%
- School resources (extracurriculars, counselors, staffing etc.) 12%
- Grades / student performance / academic standing 11%
- School safety 9%
- Support for students with IEP’s & disabilities 6%
- Other / don’t know 9%

ASK ALL

To the best of your knowledge, is your GRADE LEVEL child reading at the level expected for students in their age group?

- Yes, they are 87%
- No, they are not 10%
- Don’t Know / Refused 3%

How about in terms of math? Is your GRADE LEVEL child working at the level expected for students in their age group when it comes to math?

- Yes, they are 82%
- No, they are not 14%
- Don’t Know / Refused 4%

Does your GRADE LEVEL child have an Individualized Education Plan, sometimes called an IEP?

- Yes 28%
- No 66%
- Don’t Know / Refused 6%

Does your GRADE LEVEL child receive services for English Language Learners, sometimes called ELL?

- Yes 13%
- No 82%
- Don’t Know / Refused 6%
Thinking about your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s mental and emotional health this year, would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

- Very concerned: 12%
- Somewhat concerned: 27%
- Not too concerned: 31%
- Not at all concerned: 30%
- Don't Know / Refused: 1%

How much have you discussed your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s hopes and plans for after high school with them?

- A great deal: 38%
- A fair amount: 37%
- Just a little: 20%
- Not at all: 4%
- Don't Know / Refused: 1%

Which of the following do you think your **GRADE LEVEL** child **would be interested in doing** once they finish high school?

- Begin an Associate degree: 13%
- Begin a Bachelor's degree: 57%
- Begin a training program for a trade job: 20%
- Enter the workforce: 9%
- Something else (specify: ____________) 6%
- Don’t Know / Refused: 10%

**IF RESPONDENT CHOOSES MORE THAN ONE OPTION, FILTER TO OPTIONS SELECTED. SKIP IF DON’T KNOW / REFUSED**

What would your **GRADE LEVEL** child **most like to do** after high school?

- Begin an Associate degree: 9%
- Begin a Bachelor's degree: 53%
- Begin a training program for a trade job: 14%
- Enter the workforce: 6%
- Something else (specify: ____________) 6%
- Don’t Know / Refused: 12%

How well is your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s school preparing your child to pursue their goals after high school?

- Very well: 41%
- Somewhat well: 35%
- Not too well: 10%
- Not at all well: 5%
- Don’t Know / Refused: 9%
What would you say are the most significant challenges ahead for your child as they work to achieve their post-high school goals? **OPEN END, RECORD VERBATIM.**

- Education pathways (acceptance, application, grades, determining what they want to do) 32%
- Life skills (self-organization, self-motivation, scheduling) 16%
- Career pathways (finding a job, determining what they want to do, making enough money) 13%
- Cost of higher education 12%
- Social / emotional factors (network to rely on, ability to make friends) 8%
- Disabilities, physical and mental health concerns 8%
- Societal change (economy, pandemic, political) 8%
- No Challenges 4%
- Other 10%
- NA / don't know / not sure 6%

You said your **GRADE LEVEL** child would most like to **READ WHAT STUDENT WOULD MOST LIKE TO DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.** How confident are you that your child will be in a position to do this after high school?

- Very confident 63%
- Somewhat confident 30%
- Not too confident 5%
- Not at all confident 1%
- Don’t Know / Refused 1%

**ASK ALL**

When thinking about the possibility of your **GRADE LEVEL** child attending college, how much of a concern is each of the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROTATE ORDER</th>
<th>Major concern</th>
<th>Minor concern</th>
<th>Not a concern</th>
<th>Don’t know / Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The cost of books</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total tuition cost</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The cost of applying to college</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The cost of room and board</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you believe the potential long-term benefits of a college degree make the cost worthwhile for nearly everybody, most people, some people, just a few people, or nobody?

- Nearly everybody 10%
- Most people 33%
- Some people 43%
- Just a few people 10%
- Nobody 3%
- Don’t Know / Refused 3%
As you may know, vocational-technical or voc tech programs provide hands-on skills and training for future careers. Does your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s school offer vocational training?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, they do</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, they do not</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know / Refused</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASK RESPONDENT IF SCHOOL DOES NOT OFFER VOC TECH

Do you think vocational technical programs in your GRADE LEVEL child’s school would benefit your child’s future career opportunities, or not?

- Yes, they would: 63%
- No, they would not: 23%
- Don’t Know / Refused: 13%

ASK ALL

Would you be open to exploring vocational programs for your GRADE LEVEL child after they finish high school?

- Would consider: 50%
- Might or might not consider: 26%
- Would not consider: 17%
- Don’t Know / Refused: 6%

What would your hesitations be about considering vocational programs for your GRADE LEVEL child? OPEN-END, RECORD VERBATIM.

- No hesitations: 29%
- What child wants / Best fit: 16%
- Child isn't interested (prefers another path, college, career, sports): 15%
- Bad fit (capability, intelligence, age, mental health, disability, IEP): 7%
- Not enough career or college prep / Limited learning / Opportunities: 6%
- Resource limitations (cost, location, transportation, acceptance, availability, access): 6%
- Don't know / Needs to do research / unaware of available programs: 6%
- Parent prefers college / Another path: 6%
- Perceptions (income, social concerns, stigma, quality): 3%
- Other: 9%
When thinking about post-high school plans for your GRADE LEVEL child, how important do you believe READ FIRST is/are in helping make their plans? How about READ NEXT?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROTATE ORDER</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Not too important</th>
<th>Not at all important</th>
<th>Don’t Know / Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guidance counselors</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your influence as a parent</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends' and peers' plans</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family members</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College prep programs</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASK HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS ONLY. CHOSE OLDEST HIGH SCHOOL CHILD TO ASK ABOUT IN THIS SECTION. IF THIS IS DIFFERENT THAN THE CHILD FROM PREVIOUS SECTIONS, SAY “Now I’d like to ask about your GRADE LEVEL child.”

How well is your GRADE LEVEL child’s school preparing students academically for the possibility of attending college?

- Very well: 47%
- Somewhat well: 36%
- Not too well: 7%
- Not at all well: 4%
- Don’t Know / Refused: 7%

Which opportunities, if any, does your GRADE LEVEL child’s high school offer? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

- Advanced Placement or International: 55%
- Baccalaureate courses: 26%
- Dual enrollment courses: 37%
- Early college courses: 29%
- Work-based learning or internship opportunities: 21%

ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTION IF CURRENT CHILD IS IN GRADES 11 OR 12

Which of the following best describes your GRADE LEVEL child?

- They have already started applying to college: 23%
- They will likely apply to college later: 58%
- They will likely not apply to college: 12%
- Don’t Know / Refused: 7%
ASK RESPONDENT THE FOLLOWING THREE QUESTIONS IF STUDENT HAS STARTED APPLYING TO COLLEGE, WILL APPLY LATER, OR DON’T KNOW / REFUSED

How much would you say you know about the college admissions process?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Knowledge</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A great deal</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A fair amount</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just a little</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing at all</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know / Refused</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How much would you say you know about the financial aid process for college?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Knowledge</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A great deal</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A fair amount</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just a little</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing at all</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know / Refused</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To what extent do you believe the cost of college might impact your GRADE LEVEL child’s choice of what college to attend?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Impact</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A great deal</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A fair amount</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just a little</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know / Refused</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESUME ASKING ALL HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS

Has your GRADE LEVEL child participated in college preparation programs while in high school or not?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation Status</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes they did</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not they did not</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know / Refused</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Has your GRADE LEVEL child taken any courses that offered college credit while in high school?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit Status</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes they have</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, they have not</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know / Refused</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the following career development activities has your GRADE LEVEL child participated in while in high school? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career fairs</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job shadowing opportunities</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resume building workshops</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock interviews</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internships or co-op programs</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know / Refused</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASK ALL

To the best of your knowledge, does your **GRADE LEVEL** child identify as LGBTQIA+ or not?

- Yes they do: 9%
- No, they do not: 82%
- Don't Know / Refused: 9%
### Demographics

#### Age:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 to 34 years old</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 39 years old</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 44 years old</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 49 years old</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50+</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Know / Refused</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Gender:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-binary</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some other way: ______</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Know / Refused</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Race:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black / African-American</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic / Latino</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other / more than one</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Know / Refused</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Education:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High school or less</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College degree</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced degree</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Know / Refused</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**About the Poll**

These results are based on a survey of 1,018 Massachusetts parents with children in grades 6 through 12. Live telephone interviews and online interviewing were conducted in English and Spanish September 14 - October 1, 2023. Telephone respondents were reached by both landline and cell phone. Oversamples of Black, Latino, and Asian respondents were obtained to bring the total interview count up to at least 200 for each group. Results within race and ethnicity were weighted to population parameters for age, gender, and education level within each group. Groups were then combined and weighted to population parameters for the state as a whole. The credibility interval for this survey is 4.0 percentage points for the entire sample, including the design effect. The poll was sponsored by The Education Trust.