



**The MassINC Polling Group
The Education Trust
2024 Fall K-12 Parent Survey**

Topline Results

Statewide Survey of 1,545 K-12 Parents in Massachusetts

Field dates: November 15 – December 2, 2024

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

Kindergarten	17%
First	10%
Second	10%
Third	11%
Fourth	11%
Fifth	11%
Sixth	14%
Seventh	13%
Eighth	12%
Ninth	16%
Tenth	12%
Eleventh	11%
Twelfth	12%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

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

A public school run by a school district	83%
A public charter school	9%
A parochial or Catholic school	4%
A non-Catholic private or independent school	4%
Home schooling	2%
Another format	3%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

IF HAVE MORE THAN ONE CHILD READ THE FOLLOWING. OTHERWISE SKIP THIS DIRECTION AND DO NOT SPECIFY GRADE LEVEL IN THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. You mentioned you had a child in **SELECT GRADE LEVEL FOR RANDOM CHILD.** The next several questions will be about this child's school.

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	80%
A public charter school	8%
A parochial or Catholic school	3%
A non-Catholic private or independent school	4%
Home school	2%
Another format	2%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

When it comes to your **GRADE LEVEL** child's progress in math this school year, would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, not at all concerned, or don't know enough?

Very concerned	13%
Somewhat concerned	22%
Not too concerned	27%
Not at all concerned	35%
Don't know enough	2%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

How would you say your **GRADE LEVEL** child is doing in math right now?

Doing well	54%
Doing ok	36%
Not doing well	8%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

What, if anything, is your **GRADE LEVEL** child struggling with most in math? **Select all that apply. ROTATE ORDER.**

Understanding concepts: Making sense of the main ideas	24%
Problem solving: Figuring out steps to solve problems	23%
Memorization: Remembering math facts and formulas	21%
Application: Using skills to solve problems and tasks	18%
Word problems: Math questions written in a sentence or story	26%
Something else (please specify):	5%
None of the above	28%
Don't Know / Refused	5%

How interested is your **GRADE LEVEL** child in learning math? **ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP.**

Very interested	40%
Somewhat interested	40%
Not too interested	15%
Not at all interested	4%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

What information do you use to understand your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s progress in math? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. ROTATE ORDER.**

Grades / report cards	62%
Math MCAS	22%
Math screeners (such as iReady, DIBELS math, STAR)	18%
Parent teacher conferences	51%
Information from my child’s teacher	52%
Conversations with my child	58%
Other (please specify:)	4%
None of the above	1%
Don’t Know / Refused	1%

Thinking back to last school year, do you think your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s grades in math reflected their actual math skills and understanding? **READ AND ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP.**

Completely	28%
Mostly	45%
Just a little	17%
Not at all	6%
Don’t Know / Refused	5%

ASK FOLLOWING QUESTION IF ANSWERED “JUST A LITTLE” OR “NOT AT ALL” IN PREVIOUS QUESTION.

Why do you think your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s grades did not really reflect their actual math skills and understanding last school year?

Their grades were higher than where their skills and understanding were at	31%
Their grades were lower than where their skills and understanding were at	44%
None of the above	15%
Don’t Know / Refused	11%

ASK ALL

Does your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s school separate students into different math classes or sections based on their ability, prior performance, or test scores?

Yes	42%
No	41%
Don’t Know / Refused	17%

Does your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s school provide any of the following resources to children who need help with math? **Select all that apply. ROTATE ORDER.**

One on one tutoring	35%
Small group tutoring	39%
Online resources to use at home to help practice math	38%
Something else (please specify):	5%
None of the above	12%
Don’t Know / Refused	16%

Have you ever looked for help outside of school to support your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s math progress? (For example, hired a tutor, enrolled in extra math classes outside of school, got an outside assessment, used online tutorials, math apps, math workbooks, etc.)

Yes	33%
No	66%
Don’t Know / Refused	2%

ASK FOLLOWING QUESTION IF LOOKED FOR SUPPORT OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL.

What kind of help outside of school have you looked for to support your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s math progress? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. ROTATE ORDER.**

A tutor	45%
Math programs or classes outside of school (such as Kumon, Russian School of math, etc.)	35%
Online tutorials	35%
Math apps (such as Khan Academy, DoodleMaths, etc.)	32%
Math workbooks	33%
Something else (please specify):	4%
None of the above	2%
Don’t Know / Refused	1%

ASK FOLLOWING QUESTION IF USED SPECIFIC SUPPORT. PIPE IN PREVIOUS RESPONSE.

You mentioned you looked for the following kind of help to support your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s math progress outside of school. Which support(s), if any, did you end up using? **READ LIST.**

A tutor	40%
Math programs or classes outside of school (such as Kumon, Russian School of math, etc.)	26%
Online tutorials	25%
Math apps (such as Khan Academy, DoodleMaths, etc.)	24%
Math workbooks	23%
Something else (please specify):	2%
None of the above	5%

ASK ALL

Does your **GRADE LEVEL** child get the support they need in math from their teachers and school?

Yes	83%
No	10%
Don't Know / Refused	6%

How effective do you think your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school has been so far at teaching your child math?
READ AND ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP.

Very effective	45%
Somewhat effective	42%
Not too effective	9%
Not at all effective	2%
Don't Know / Refused	3%

Do you know what type of math curriculum is used in your **GRADE LEVEL** child's math classes? By curriculum we mean the types of instructional materials, methods, and classes the school uses to teach a specific subject.

Yes	50%
No	32%
Don't Know / Refused	18%

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? My **GRADE LEVEL** child's school does a good job of informing parents about the math curriculum.

Strongly agree	32%
Somewhat agree	41%
Somewhat disagree	14%
Strongly disagree	9%
Don't Know / Refused	3%

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? My **GRADE LEVEL** child's school does a good job of informing parents about teaching strategies used in math class.

Strongly agree	28%
Somewhat agree	39%
Somewhat disagree	19%
Strongly disagree	9%
Don't Know / Refused	4%

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? My **GRADE LEVEL** child's school does a good job of informing parents about tips for supporting their child's math progress at home.

Strongly agree	32%
Somewhat agree	35%
Somewhat disagree	19%
Strongly disagree	9%
Don't Know / Refused	4%

How confident are you in your ability to help your **GRADE LEVEL** child with their math homework? **ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP.**

Very confident	39%
Somewhat confident	37%
Not too confident	13%
Not at all confident	9%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

Thinking ahead to the future, what do you think your **GRADE LEVEL** child is most likely to do right after high school? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. ROTATE ORDER.**

Begin an Associate degree	18%
Begin a Bachelor's degree	52%
Begin a training program for a trade job	20%
Enter the workforce	17%
Something else (please specify):	4%
Don't Know / Refused	11%

As you may know, 61% of students in Massachusetts in 3rd through 8th grade are not meeting grade-level expectations in math. Knowing this, would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned about students' overall math levels in Massachusetts?

Very concerned	33%
Somewhat concerned	41%
Not too concerned	17%
Not at all concerned	7%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

Has your **GRADE LEVEL** child been diagnosed with dyslexia

Yes	7%
No	91%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

Has your **GRADE LEVEL** child been diagnosed with dyscalculia?

Yes	4%
No	93%
Don't Know / Refused	3%

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

Yes	28%
No	69%
Don't Know / Refused	3%

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

Yes	12%
No	86%

Don't Know / Refused 2%

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

Yes, they do 9%
No, they do not 87%
Don't Know / Refused 4%

ASK FOLLOWING QUESTION OF PARENTS WITH KIDS 5TH GRADE AND ABOVE. IF RANDOM CHILD WAS ALREADY 5TH GRADE OR ABOVE, KEEP ASKING ABOUT THE SAME CHILD. IF RANDOM CHILD WAS NOT 5TH OR ABOVE, BUT PARENT HAS ANOTHER CHILD 5TH OR ABOVE ASK ABOUT THAT CHILD & ADD: We'd now like to ask you about your **GRADE LEVEL child.**

How confident do you think your **GRADE LEVEL** child is at doing basic math calculations without using technology (such as calculators, apps, or online tools)? **ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP.**

Very confident 46%
Somewhat confident 40%
Not too confident 10%
Not at all confident 3%
Don't Know / Refused 1%

ASK FOLLOWING QUESTION OF PARENTS WITH CHILDREN IN GRADES 6 THRU 12. IF RANDOM CHILD WAS ALREADY 6TH GRADE OR ABOVE, KEEP ASKING ABOUT THE SAME CHILD. IF RANDOM CHILD WAS NOT 6TH OR ABOVE, BUT PARENT HAS ANOTHER CHILD 6TH OR ABOVE ASK ABOUT THAT CHILD & ADD: We'd now like to ask you about your **GRADE LEVEL child.**

This may be far out, but is your **GRADE LEVEL** child interested in a career in STEM, which means a job in the Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics field?

Yes 44%
No 35%
Don't Know / Refused 21%

ASK FOLLOWING 3 QUESTIONS OF PARENTS WITH CHILDREN IN GRADES 9 THRU 12. IF RANDOM CHILD WAS ALREADY 9TH GRADE OR ABOVE, KEEP ASKING ABOUT THE SAME CHILD. IF RANDOM CHILD WAS NOT 9TH OR ABOVE, BUT PARENT HAS ANOTHER CHILD 9TH OR ABOVE ASK ABOUT THAT CHILD & ADD: We'd now like to ask you about your **GRADE LEVEL child.**

Does your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school offer Honors or Advanced Placement, sometimes called AP, math courses?

Yes 78%
No 15%
Don't Know / Refused 8%

In what grade did your **GRADE LEVEL** child take Algebra, if they have taken it already?

8 th grade or before	40%
9 th grade	33%
10 th grade	13%
Has not taken algebra yet	4%
Don't Know / Refused	10%

Has your **GRADE LEVEL** child ever been excluded from a science class or other courses because of poor grades in a math class?

Yes	6%
No	91%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

ASK FOLLOWING 2 QUESTIONS OF PARENTS WITH CHILDREN IN GRADES 6-8. IF RANDOM CHILD WAS ALREADY 6TH – 8TH GRADE, KEEP ASKING ABOUT THE SAME CHILD. IF RANDOM CHILD WAS NOT 6TH – 8TH, BUT PARENT HAS ANOTHER CHILD IN 6TH – 8TH, ASK ABOUT THAT CHILD & ADD: We'd now like to ask you about your **GRADE LEVEL child.**

Has your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school discussed with you or your child what math courses they should take in high school?

Yes	31%
No	63%
Don't Know / Refused	5%

Have you or your **GRADE LEVEL** child ever taken part in selecting their math courses?

Yes	26%
No	68%
Don't Know / Refused	7%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Age

18 to 34 years old	16%
35 to 39 years old	19%
40 to 44 years old	24%
45 to 49 years old	23%
50+	19%
Don't Know / Refused	<1%

Gender

Men	44%
Women	55%
Non-binary	1%
Some other way: _____	<1%
Prefer not to say	<1%

Race

White	69%
Black / African-American	6%
Hispanic / Latino	13%
Asian	8%
All other	2%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

Education

High school or less	26%
Some college, no degree	23%
College degree	27%
Advanced degree	23%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 1,545 parents of K-12 students in Massachusetts. Live telephone interviews and online interviewing were conducted in English and Spanish November 15 – December 2, 2024. 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 250 for each group for the base sample. Results within race and ethnicity were weighted to age, gender, geography, and education level for each group. Groups were then combined and weighted to the population parameters by race for the state as a whole. The credibility interval for this survey is +/- 3.0 percentage points for the entire sample, including the design effect. The poll was sponsored by The Education Trust.