

Magellan Strategies

Colorado Public Education Survey Key Findings Part 2

Magellan Strategies and Chalkbeat Colorado are pleased to present this key findings document from an online public education issues survey of 882 Colorado registered voters. The interviews were conducted from April 26th through May 1st, 2022. This survey has a +/- 3.3% margin of error at the 95 percent confidence interval.

The survey data were weighted to be representative of the voter registration demographics within the state of Colorado. The survey questions were developed in collaboration with Chalkbeat Colorado. We sincerely appreciate their thoughts and insights regarding important topics related to public education in Colorado. This analysis is Part 2 of our Colorado public education survey release.

Opinion of Charter Schools

- ♦ Among all respondents, 52% have a favorable opinion of charter schools, 30% have an unfavorable opinion, and 18% have no opinion. Among households with a student, 65% have a favorable opinion of charter schools compared to 46% of respondent households that do not have a student.
- ◆ There are dramatic differences in charter school favorability ratings by party affiliation. Seventy-nine percent of Republican voters favor charter schools, followed by 47% of Unaffiliated voters, and just 36% of Democratic voters have a favorable opinion of charter schools. Among Hispanic voters, just 43% have a favorable opinion of charter schools compared to 49% of African American respondents.

Opinion of School District Funding for Charter Schools

♦ Respondents were asked if they thought charter schools were funded by their local school district in a true or false question format. Among all respondents, 40% said it was a true statement, 29% said it was false, and 30% were unsure or did not have an opinion. Interesting outliers to this question included urban men (30% true/35% false) compared to urban women (49% true/24% false), Denver (52% true/19%

false), Douglas County (57% true/25% false), and El Paso County 31% True/42% false.)

What Voters Think the Difference is Between a Charter School and a District Run School Respondents were asked what they thought the differences are between a charter school and a district-run school. Many of the comments have a positive or negative tone representing their political affiliation or age group. For example, many Republican and Republican-leaning respondents praise charter schools as having more freedom, higher standards, and being free from a biased and liberal agenda.

Among Democratic respondents, charter schools are for-profit entities that restrict enrollment and do not serve all students in a school district. Furthermore, Democratic voters believe charter schools take money away from families and children in need. However, many respondents have less biased opinions and believe charter schools have more freedom in their curriculum and few state requirements than public schools.

Opinion of Charter Schools Weakening District Schools by Diverting Students & Funding A plurality of respondents, 45%, disagree with the viewpoint that charter schools weaken district-run schools by diverting students and funding, and 40% agree. The table below shows responses by voter subgroup.

Some people say charter schools weaken district-run schools by diverting students and funding. Do you agree or disagree with this viewpoint?

	All						18-	45-		18 in	No 18
	<u>Voters</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Wom</u>	<u>Unaf</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>HH</u>	<u>HH</u>
Agree	40%	40%	39%	39%	62%	17%	44%	32%	39%	27%	45%
Disagree	45%	46%	45%	41%	24%	76%	35%	58%	51%	57%	40%
No Opinion	15%	14%	16%	20%	14%	7%	21%	10%	10%	16%	5%

<u>Voters Overwhelmingly Support Broader Standards to Evaluate School Performance</u>

♦ Among all respondents, 70% think the state should develop a broader set of standards and criteria to evaluate a school's performance. Only 23% believe schools should continue to be judged primarily on standardized student test scores. Nearly nine in ten Democratic voters, 88%, think the state should use a broader set of standards, compared to 69% of Unaffiliated voters and 52% of Republicans.

54% Oppose Policy to Allow School Districts to Prevent New Charter Schools

• A majority of voters oppose a policy that would allow school districts to prevent new charter schools from opening, so they do not compete with existing run schools.

Many school districts in Colorado are facing declining student enrollment and closing schools. Knowing this, do you support or oppose a policy that would allow school districts to prevent new charter schools from opening so they do not compete with existing district-run schools?

	All						18-	45-		18 in	No 18
	<u>Voters</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Wom</u>	<u>Unaf</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>HH</u>	<u>HH</u>
Support	33%	35%	32%	32%	53%	13%	37%	26%	34%	22%	38%
Oppose	54%	54%	54%	53%	30%	83%	49%	61%	54%	68%	48%
No Opinion	13%	11%	14%	15%	17%	4%	14%	13%	12%	12%	14%

Voters are Evenly Split on Policy Allowing State to Intervene in Low-Performing Districts

♦ A plurality of voters, 44%, support a policy that allows the state to intervene in low-performing school districts and have the legal right to close schools or convert them to charter schools. Forty percent oppose the policy, and 16% do not have an opinion. Among Hispanic voters, 50% support the policy, compared to just 31% of African Americans.

Voter Opinion of Four-Day School Weeks Being a Reflection of a Community

- ♦ Among all respondents, 48% have a favorable opinion of four-day school weeks, and 42% have an unfavorable opinion. Favorable opinions of four-day school weeks are strongest among voters aged 18 to 34 (65%), rural voters (52%), urban women (55%), African Americans (70%), and respondents without a college degree (57%). Unfavorable opinions are strongest among households with incomes of \$150K or more (51%), male seniors aged 65 or older (62%), and Republicans (53%).
- ♦ A majority of respondents, 52%, believe four-day school weeks reflect how local communities want to manage their public education system. Thirty-one percent believe four-day school weeks provide a lower-quality education for students, and 17% of respondents did not have an opinion.

Opinion of Allocating 0.33% of Annual State Revenue Toward State Education Fund

Among all respondents, two-thirds said they would vote yes and approve a ballot measure that would allocate 0.33% of all state revenue or about \$983.9 million toward the state education fund in the 2023-2024 budget year. Just 22% of voters would oppose it, and 14% were undecided.

One ballot measure would direct the state legislature to allocate 0.33% of annual revenue received by the state from individuals, corporations, estate, and trust federal taxable income to the state education fund. This ballot measure would not raise taxes and is estimated to allocate \$983.9 million in the 2023-2024 budget year toward public education. Furthermore, this revenue would not be subject to the TABOR amendment, meaning the state would be able to keep and retain these funds in fiscal years when a TABOR refund is paid to taxpayers. If the election were being held today, would you vote yes and approve this ballot measure or vote no and reject it?

	All						18-	45-		18 in	No 18
	<u>Voters</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Wom</u>	<u>Unaf</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>HH</u>	<u>HH</u>
Approve	64%	63%	65%	61%	82%	51%	67%	60%	61%	60%	66%
Reject	22%	23%	20%	24%	9%	30%	15%	28%	27%	28%	19%
Undecided	14%	14%	15%	15%	9%	19%	18%	12%	12%	12%	15%

Voter Opinion Evenly Split on Capping Property Valuations to 3% a Year

The survey measured voter support and opposition for a ballot measure that would have capped residential and commercial property valuations to 3% a year.

Another ballot measure, if approved by voters, would cap the growth of residential and commercial property valuations to 3% a year. This ballot measure aims to reduce the cost of rising property tax bills due to surging home and commercial property values in Colorado. However, residential, and commercial property taxes are primary funding sources for public schools, special districts (fire, library, recreation), and local governments. An analysis from the non-partisan Director of Research of the Legislative Council estimated the decline in property tax revenue to these entities in the 2023-2024 budget year would be \$1.3 billion.

The analysis states the following: "This measure will decrease property taxes for homeowners and nonresidential property owners, increasing the money that households will save or spend.... The measure will also decrease revenue to cities, counties, special districts, and school districts, resulting in lower levels of local government services, including police and fire protection, hospital, transportation, education, and library, among other services."

If the election were being held today, would you vote yes and approve this ballot measure or vote no and reject it?

	All						18-	45-		18 in	No 18
	<u>Voters</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Wom</u>	<u>Unaf</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>HH</u>	<u>HH</u>
Approve	40%	51%	30%	40%	28%	53%	38%	47%	41%	43%	39%
Reject	43%	39%	48%	42%	60%	28%	44%	38%	45%	43%	44%
Undecided	17%	10%	22%	118%	12%	19%	18%	15%	14%	14%	17%

Survey Methodology

This survey was conducted by sending an MMS text message to registered voters in Colorado, inviting them to participate in an online survey. The survey response data was weighted to reflect the voter registration demographics for the state of Colorado. The interviews were conducted from April 26th through May 1st, 2022. This survey has a +/-3.3% margin of error at the 95 percent confidence interval.

The survey toplines, crosstabs, verbatim responses, and presentation can be downloaded at https://magellanstrategies.com/blog/ by clicking on the Colorado Public Education Spring 2022 Survey, Part 2 post.



Magellan Strategies

Colorado Public Education Survey Topline Results

Magellan Strategies are pleased to present the topline results of an online survey of 882 registered voters from the state of Colorado. The interviews were conducted from April 26th through May 1st, 2022. This survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.3% at the 95 percent confidence interval. The survey data were weighted to be representative of the voter registration demographics within the state of Colorado. The survey questions were developed in collaboration with Chalkbeat Colorado. We sincerely appreciate their thoughts and insights regarding important topics related to public education in Colorado. This document contains all survey questions and is Part 2 of our Colorado public

education survey release.

T1. First, could you please verify that you are registered to vote in Colorado?					
Yes100%					
T2. Do you approve or disapprove of the job your local school district is doing educating students?					
Total Approve40%					
Total Disapprove42%					
Unsure or No Opinion18%					
Strongly Approve10%					
Somewhat Approve30%					
Strongly Disapprove23%					

T3. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the teachers in your local school district?

Total Favorable	58%
Total Unfavorable	22%
Unsure or No Opinion	20%
Very Favorable	24%
Somewhat Favorable	
Very Unfavorable	9%
Somewhat Unfavorable	

T4. Do you think the public schools in your area are heading in the right direction, or do you feel they are off on the wrong track?

Wrong Track	44%
Right Direction	
Unsure or No Opinion	28%

T5. Please describe the reasons why you think public schools in your area are headed in the right direction.

T6. Please describe the reasons why you feel the public schools in your area are off on the wrong track.

^{*}Verbatim responses attached in separate document.

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T7. Among the following challenges facing public schools in Colorado, please choose up to three that you think school districts should be addressing the most.

Attracting and retaining high-quality teachers	48%
Preparing students for the workforce	48%
Increasing teacher pay, keep up inflation, cost of living.	48%
Student mental health	33%
Preparing students for college	25%
Address student "learning loss" created during COVID	25%
Teacher mental health	16%
Improve student safety measures in school buildings	8%
Declining student enrollment	4%
Other challenge not mentioned	25%
Unsure or No Opinion	1%

T8. Do you think your local school district manages its financial resources efficiently and spends taxpayer money wisely?

Total Yes Total No Unsure or No Opinion	42%
Yes, Definitely Yes, Probably	
No, Definitely Not No, Probably Not	20% 22%

T9. Please describe how you think public education is funded in Colorado.

^{*}Verbatim responses attached in separate document.

T10. Do you think school districts in Colorado have the financial resources needed to provide students with a good education?

Total Yes	43%
Total No	49%
Unsure or No Opinion	8%
Yes, Definitely	19%
Yes, Probably	
No, Definitely Not	18%
No, Probably Not	31%

T11. Do you think additional funding for public education in Colorado will result in a better education for students?

Total Yes Total No Unsure or No Opinion	37%
Yes, Definitely Yes, Probably	34% 22%
No, Definitely Not No, Probably Not	14%

T12. Would you vote for a modest property tax increase to fund school building maintenance and improvements in your local school district?

Total No	46%
Undecided	9%
Yes, Definitely	
Yes, Probably	21%
No, Definitely Not	270/
No, Probably Not	19%

T13. Would you vote for a modest property tax increase to fund raising teacher salaries in your local school district?

Total Yes Total No Undecided	37%
Yes, Definitely Yes, Probably	
No, Definitely Not No, Probably Not	24% 13%

T14. Please indicate if you think the following statement is true or false. School district revenue from marijuana sales taxes can be used to pay teacher salaries.

True	43%
False	32%
Unsure or No Opinion	25%

T15. Would you support or oppose a statewide ballot measure to fund public education that would keep a portion of future TABOR refunds?

Total Support Total Oppose Unsure or No Opinion	30%
Strongly SupportSomewhat Support	24% 17%
Strongly Oppose	23% 7%

T16. When considering a statewide ballot measure to fund public education in Colorado, are you more likely to vote for a ballot measure that requires funds to be spent on a specific education need like recruiting and retaining teachers? Or are you more likely to vote for a ballot measure that lets the school district decide how the funding would be spent?

Funding specific education needs	64%
Allowing districts to decide how funding is spent	
Unsure or No Opinion	9%

T17. When you consider candidates in future school board elections, will you judge them based on their COVID policies, such as wearing masks, remote learning, and vaccination requirements, or are those things less important to you now?

COVID policies are less important now	48%
COVID policies still matter to me	45%
Unsure or No Opinion	7%

T18. Please indicate how much trust you have in the following groups to address public education in Colorado. A lot, some, a little bit, do not trust at all.

Ranked by A Lot and Some Trust Combined

Teacher Unions	51%
Your Local School Board	
Governor's Office	46%
State Board of Education	41%
Democrats	40%
State Legislature	38%
Republicans	37%

A. Republicans

A Lot and Some Trust Combined	37%
A Lot of Trust	11%
Some Trust	26%
A Little Bit of Trust	22%
Do Not Trust at All	41%

B. Democrats

A Lot and Some Trust Combined.

7 Cot and some Trust combined	10 70
A Lot of Trust	14%
Some Trust	26%
A Little Bit of Trust	15%
Do Not Trust at All	45%

40%

C. Your Local School Board

A Lot and Some Trust Combined499	%
A Lot of Trust89	%
Some Trust41°	
A Little Bit of Trust279	%
Do Not Trust at All24°	%
D. <u>Teacher Unions</u>	
A Lot and Some Trust Combined519	%
A Lot of Trust219	%
Some Trust	%
A Little Bit of Trust149	%
Do Not Trust at All359	%
E. The State Board of Education	
A Lot and Some Trust Combined419	%
A Lot of Trust69	%
Some Trust359	%
A Little Bit of Trust289	%
Do Not Trust at All319	%
F. <u>The State Legislature</u>	
A Lot and Some Trust Combined389	%
A Lot of Trust49	%
Some Trust	%
A Little Bit of Trust289	
Do Not Trust at All349	%

G. The Governor's Office

A Lot and Some Trust Combined	46%
A Lot of Trust	14%
Some Trust	32%
A Little Bit of Trust	17%
Do Not Trust at All	37%

T19. Colorado is in the process of designing a Universal Preschool Program funded in part by a nicotine tax voters approved in 2020. The program's mission is to provide at least 10 hours a week of high-quality preschool for every 4-year-old in the state. However, total funding for the program may be limited and not able to meet that goal.

Knowing this, do you think the program should pay for 10 hours a week for every 4-yearold, regardless of a child's socioeconomic circumstances, or should the program prioritize and provide more than 10 hours for children with certain risk factors, such as those with teen parents or those who have language delays?

Provide 10 hours all children, regardless circumstance	49%
Prioritize children with risk factors	41%
Unsure or No Opinion	10%

T20. Some people believe the "learning loss" among Colorado students due to remote learning and COVID education policies justify giving tax dollars directly to parents to pay for tutoring, tuition at another school, or other educational needs. Do you agree or disagree with this viewpoint?

Total Agree	34%
Total Disagree	60%
Unsure or No Opinion	
Strongly Agree	13%
Somewhat Agree	21%
Strongly Disagras	420/
Strongly Disagree	
Somewhat Disagree	17%

T21. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of charter schools?

Total Favorable	.52%
Total Unfavorable	.30%
Unsure or No Opinion	.18%
'	
Very Favorable	.21%
Somewhat Favorable	
Very Unfavorable	.15%
Somewhat Unfavorable	

T22. Please describe what you think the differences are between a charter school and a district-run school.

T23. Please indicate if you think the following statement is true or false. Most charter schools in Colorado are funded by their local school district.

True	40%
False	29%
Unsure or No Opinion	31%

T24. Some people say charter schools weaken district-run schools by diverting students and funding. Do you agree or disagree with this viewpoint?

Total Disagree	45%
Unsure or No Opinion	
Strongly AgreeSomewhat Agree	
Strongly Disagree	
Somewhat Disagree	

Total Agree40%

^{*}Verbatim responses attached in separate document.

T25. Many school districts in Colorado are facing declining student enrollment and closing schools. Knowing this, do you support or oppose a policy that would allow school districts to prevent new charter schools from opening, so they do not compete with existing district-run schools?

Total Support Total Oppose	
Unsure or No Opinion	
Strongly Support	17%
Somewhat Support	16%
Strongly Oppose	40%
Somewhat Oppose	14%

T26. Colorado is currently conducting an audit of its school accountability system, which primarily evaluates a school by using standardized student test scores. Under the current system, schools with several years of low performance qualify for extra help from the state. These schools can be closed or converted into charter schools if they do not improve.

Knowing this, do you think schools should continue to be judged primarily from standardized student test scores, or should the state develop a broader set of standards and criteria to evaluate a school's performance?

Judge school performance using broader set standards	70%
Cont. judging schools by standardized tests	23%
Unsure or No Opinion	7%

T27. Do you support or oppose a policy that allows the state to intervene in low-performing school districts and have the legal right to close schools or convert them to charter schools?

Total Support Total Oppose Unsure or No Opinion	40%
Strongly SupportSomewhat Support	16%
Strongly Oppose	

T28. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of four-day school weeks?

Total Favorable	48%
Total Unfavorable	42%
Unsure or No Opinion	10%
Very Favorable	25%
Somewhat Favorable	
Very Unfavorable	27%
Somewhat Unfavorable	

T29. More than 100 Colorado school districts have four-day school weeks due to low funding or to make up for low teacher pay. These school districts are primarily in rural areas but also include Brighton 27J and Pueblo 60 (Pueblo City Schools). Knowing this, do you think four-day school weeks provide a lower-quality education for students or are they just a reflection of how local communities want to manage their public education system?

Several statewide ballot measures are being considered that would impact public education funding. We will now summarize two of them for you. After reading about each ballot measure, please indicate if you would vote yes and approve it or vote no and reject it.

T30. One ballot measure would direct the state legislature to allocate 0.33% of annual revenue received by the state from individuals, corporations, estate, and trust federal taxable income to the state education fund. This ballot measure would not raise taxes and is estimated to allocate \$983.9 million in the 2023-2024 budget year toward public education.

Furthermore, this revenue would not be subject to the TABOR amendment, meaning the state would be able to keep and retain these funds in fiscal years when a TABOR refund is paid to taxpayers.

If the election were being held today, would you vote yes and approve this ballot measure or vote no and reject it?

Total Yes, Approve	64%
Total No, Reject	
Undecided	
Definitely Yes, Approve	28%
Probably Yes, Approve	23%
Lean Towards Voting Yes, Approve	
Definitely No, Reject	13%
Probably No, Reject	5%
Lean Towards Voting No, Reject	

T31. Another ballot measure, if approved by voters, would cap the growth of residential and commercial property valuations to 3% a year. This ballot measure aims to reduce the cost of rising property tax bills due to surging home and commercial property values in Colorado.

However, residential, and commercial property taxes are primary funding sources for public schools, special districts (fire, library, recreation), and local governments. An analysis from the non-partisan Director of Research of the Legislative Council estimated the decline in property tax revenue to these entities in the 2023-2024 budget year would be \$1.3 billion. The analysis states the following:

"This measure will decrease property taxes for homeowners and nonresidential property owners, increasing the money that households will save or spend.... The measure will also decrease revenue to cities, counties, special districts, and school districts, resulting in lower levels of local government services, including police and fire protection, hospital, transportation, education, and library, among other services."

If the election were being held today, would you vote yes and approve this ballot measure or vote no and reject it?

Total Yes, Approve	40%
Total No, Reject	
Undecided	
Definitely Yes, Approve	16%
Probably Yes, Approve	
Lean Towards Voting Yes, Approve	12%
Definitely No, Reject	15%
Probably No, Reject	14%
Lean Towards Voting No, Reject	14%

And now we have a few questions for statistical purposes only.

T32. Are you a parent or guardian of one or more students that attend a school or are homeschooled in kindergarten through 12th grade?

1964. 195	
No	70%
Yes, One Student	14%
Yes, More than One Student	16%

T33. If you have more than one student, please answer the following question for the oldest student in your household.

Does your student attend: (Among respondents that have a child attending grades kindergarten through 12th, 269n)

Public School	72%
Charter School	10%
Homeschooled	9%
Private School	5%
Other	4%

T34. Which gender do you most identify with?

Female	50%
Male	49%
Identify Differently	1%

T35. Are you between the ages of:

18 to 34	29%
35 to 44	18%
45 to 54	15%
55 to 64	16%
65 or Older	22%

T36. Which race or ethnicity do you most identify with?

White or Caucasian	67%
Hispanic or Latino	20%
Black or African American	5%
Asian or Asian American	3%
Other	5%

T37. Are you married or single?

Married	.58%
Single	.39%
Prefer Not to Say	

T38. For statistical and weighting purposes only, are you registered to vote as an Unaffiliated voter, a Democrat, a Republican, or are you registered with another party?

Unaffiliated	45%
Democrat	28%
Republican	25%
Other party	
1 /	

T39. How likely are you to vote in this year's November election? Are you:

Extremely Likely	92%
Very Likely	
Somewhat Likely	
Unlikely	

T40. How would you describe the area where you currently live?

Suburban Area	39%
City or Urban Area	36%
Rural Area	
Small Town	11%
Prefer Not to Say	2%
,	

T41. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

Did Not Complete High School	1%
High School Graduate, GED	
Technical, Vocational School Training	3%
Attended Some College, No Degree	17%
Associates Degree, Two-Year College	9%
Bachelor's Degree, Four-Year College	38%
Masters, Ph.D., Other Professional Degree	24%
Prefer Not to Say	2%

T42. Last year, what was your total family income before taxes?

Less than \$30,000	6%
\$30,000 to \$49,999	
\$50,000 to \$74,999	
\$75,000 to \$99,999	
\$100,000 to \$124,999	11%
\$125,000 to \$149,999	7%
More than \$150,000	19%
Prefer Not to Say	14%

Survey Methodology

This survey was conducted by sending an MMS text message to registered voters in Colorado inviting them to participate in an online survey. The survey response data was weighted to reflect the voter registration demographics for the state of Colorado. The interviews were conducted from April 26th through May 1st, 2022. This survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.3% at the 95 percent confidence interval.