

**University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll – Topline Results**  
**Parents split on preferred school types for their children**  
**February 4, 2026**  
**November poll of U.S. Adults**

**Sample:** 1002 voting-age residents in the United States, margin of error +/-3.3%.

**About:** The Hawkeye Poll was fielded November 14 - November 20, 2025.

The poll was conducted by the Hawkeye Poll Cooperative, comprised of University of Iowa faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students in the Political Science departments. The poll is a teaching, research, and service project, and is directed by Frederick J. Boehmke, professor of political science. The Department of Political Science provides financial support for the poll.

The Iowa Center for Social Science Innovation (CSSI) assisted with survey programming and data collection. The CSSI contracted with Verasight to field the survey to a demographically representative sample of about 1000 respondents. Respondents invited to complete the web survey were U.S. adults, aged 18+, recruited for participation via web panel.

To further ensure data quality, the Verasight data team implements a number of post-data collection quality assurance procedures, including confirming that all responses correspond with U.S. IP addresses, confirming no duplicate respondents, verifying the absence of non-human responses, and removing any respondents who failed in-survey attention and/or straight-lining checks. The Verasight data team also reviewed open-ended items to ensure no responses contained nonsensical, inappropriate, or non-sequitur text. Respondents that completed the survey in less than 30% of the median completion time were removed.

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**Respondent Identification:** Verasight recruited participants from their community members of U.S. adults 18 years or older via email. All respondents who provided active consent and who passed a series of data quality assurance checks were included in the sample.

**Weighting:** The data are weighted to match the August 2025 Current Population Survey on age, race/ethnicity, sex, income, education, region, and metropolitan status, as well as to a running three-year average of partisanship distributions from the Pew Research Center NPORS benchmarking surveys and population benchmarks of 2024 vote.

**Questions:**

*Imagine you could send your child to any of the following kinds of schools, and cost and location weren't an issue. If you had to choose one, which would you pick?*

	%
Private, Religious	20.2
Private, Non-religious	27.8
Public	26.7
Homeschool	11.6
Charter	5.9
Don't Know	7.1
Decline	0.7
Total	100.0

*Respondent's area of residence from RUCA codes. Coded from respondent zip code by merging with RUCA information.*

	%
Metropolitan Area	84.3
Micropolitan Area	7.7
Small Town	3.9
Rural	2.8
Missing	1.3
Total	100.0

*Schooling choice against respondents' area of residence.*

	Metropolitan Area	Micropolitan Area	Small Town	Rural	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Private, Religious	20.1	28.6	13.6	10.5	16.6
Private, Non-religious	28.8	18.4	21.1	29.9	38.7
Public	25.8	30.9	31.1	39.8	23.0
Homeschool	11.3	14.0	18.4	6.8	5.8
Charter	6.7	2.3	0.0	5.7	0.0
Don't Know	6.7	5.9	15.9	7.4	15.9
Decline	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*When it comes to politics, do you consider yourself to be liberal, conservative, or somewhere in between?*

Ideology - 3 point	%
Liberal	26.7
Moderate	36.4
Conservative	31.7
Don't Know	4.3
Decline	0.9
Total	100.0

*Schooling choice against respondent's political ideology*

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Total
	%	%	%	%
Private, Religious	6.0	15.8	38.5	9.9
Private, Non-religious	36.2	30.1	19.0	21.9
Public	39.6	26.0	17.7	25.3
Homeschool	6.1	12.4	14.5	14.3
Charter	5.0	5.7	6.5	11.2
Don't Know	6.1	9.6	3.6	17.4
Decline	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Does respondent have children, recoded from "How many children do you have, if any?"*

	%
No Children	35.8
One or More Children	63.4
Decline	0.8
Total	100.0

*Against respondent's number of children*

	No Children	One or More Children	Total
	%	%	%
Private, Religious	13.2	24.0	24.5
Private, Non-religious	30.0	26.5	35.2
Public	29.0	25.5	25.5
Homeschool	12.0	11.3	14.7
Charter	4.3	7.0	0.0
Don't Know	10.4	5.4	0.0
Decline	1.2	0.4	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0