

To: Interested Parties
Fr: Lake Research Partners
Re: School Integration Survey Findings
Date: April 26, 2024

Our national [poll of adults](#) for Brown’s Promise found widespread support for integrating public schools. People are more likely to support integration when they learn that schools are as segregated as they were in the 1960’s. Support for integration rests in the benefits people see of increasing critical thinking and problem-solving skills, which they believe can help all children prepare for their futures and to lead independent lives.

- **A 71 percent majority of Americans favor integrating public schools, with only 12 percent who oppose.** This includes elements of both integration (“re-organizing school districts to have more racially and economically diverse student bodies”) and equity (“providing more resources to the school districts that serve students who need the most help”).
 - **Americans across racial and party lines support integration** – a majority of white (65 percent), Black (85 percent), Latine (78 percent), Asian American or Pacific Islander (75 percent), and Indigenous adults (71 percent) support this proposal, as well as Democrats (84 percent), independents (65 percent), and Republicans (59 percent).
- **A majority (62 percent) also favor integration by itself** (“re-organizing school districts to have more racially and economically diverse student bodies”), and just 20 percent are opposed.
 - This includes 55 percent of white adults, 79 percent of Black adults, 72 percent of Latine adults, 68 percent of AAPI adults, and 60 percent of Indigenous adults. Over three-quarters of Democrats (78 percent) and half of independents (53 percent) and Republicans (50 percent) favor this.
- **Most adults incorrectly think that schools are less segregated than they were in the 1960’s.** The poll asked if people think schools are more/less/as segregated as they were in the 1960’s and a 61 percent majority think they are less segregated. Communicating that schools are as racially segregated today as they were back then successfully counters the argument that integration is no longer necessary.
 - **After learning that schools are as racially segregated as they were in the 1960s, a 56 percent majority say they are more likely to favor integration.**
- **Majorities favor all policy proposals we tested to achieve integration, with highest intensity for allowing parents to send their children to schools in nearby districts and provide transportation for those who need it (74 favor, 45 percent strongly favor), revising how we assign students to school districts so that more students can attend well-resourced school districts (71 percent favor, 42 percent strongly favor), and investing in magnet schools that accept students from a large region and provide transportation for those who need it (73 percent favor, 41 percent strongly favor).**
 - Black adults are especially likely to favor investing in magnet schools (78 percent favor, 53 percent strongly favor), while Latine adults most strongly favor allowing parents to send their children to schools in nearby districts (81 percent favor, 53 percent strongly favor).

- **People see a strong role for public education in preparing children for their future, and this focus on skills and preparation for adulthood and the real world carries over to how adults perceive benefits of school integration.** The top goals of public education are:
 - **Teaching children basic skills like reading, writing, and math** (94 percent important, 78 percent extremely important),
 - **Helping children get skills to be independent adults** (93 percent important, 72 percent extremely important), and
 - **Preparing children for the real world** (94 percent important, 70 percent extremely important).
- **People want children to get a good education that prepares them to succeed and support integration to accomplish that** – the top benefits of integration that people find important are:
 - **It helps prepare children to succeed after high school** (88 percent important, 45 percent extremely important).
 - **Increases critical thinking and problem-solving skills** (88 percent important, 43 percent extremely important),
 - **Increases confidence and leadership skills** (87 percent important, 41 percent extremely important), and
 - **Increases chances of finding a well-paying job** (86 percent important, 42 percent extremely important).
- To that end, **centering aspirational benefits that focus on positive outcomes for kids underscores support for integration.**
 - Emphasizing the proven track record of integration working and benefiting students in the past is also important – a majority agree with a statement about how research shows desegregation was one of the most successful education policies over the past 50 years for helping students graduate, attend college, and earn more over a statement that desegregation is no longer necessary and does not work, while only 31 percent agree that desegregation does not work and is no longer necessary.

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Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey that was conducted online from October 27 – November 3, 2023. The survey reached a total of 1000 adults nationwide with additional samples of 100 Black adults, 100 Latine adults, 100 Asian American and Pacific Islander adults and 100 Indigenous adults. The data were weighted slightly by gender, region, region by gender, age, race and ethnicity, race and ethnicity by gender, educational attainment, and party ID. The additional samples of Black, Latine, Asian American and Pacific Islander and Indigenous adults were weighted slightly by gender and age. The additional samples of Black, Latine, Asian American and Pacific Islander and Indigenous adults were weighted down into the Base to reflect the actual proportion of adults nationwide. The margin of error for the total sample is +/-3.1 percentage points.