



# FEA Statewide Survey

**Prepared for:** Andrew Spar, The Florida Education Association Solidarity Fund

**Prepared by:** Steven J. Vancore  
Karen M. Garner

**December 4, 2023**

# Overall Results

## Poll/Qualitative Questions:

**Q1.** Generally speaking, do you think that Florida’s public schools are on the right track or are going in the wrong direction?

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Right track     | 26% |
| Wrong direction | 55% |
| Unsure/refused  | 19% |

Next, I would like to ask your opinion of various people and groups. For each, please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable.

**Q2.** Governor Ron DeSantis

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very favorable       | 34% |
| Somewhat favorable   | 13% |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 9%  |
| Very unfavorable     | 42% |
| Unsure/refused       | 3%  |
| Favorable            | 46% |
| Unfavorable          | 50% |

**Q3.** The Florida Legislature

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very favorable       | 14% |
| Somewhat favorable   | 27% |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 17% |
| Very unfavorable     | 28% |
| Unsure/refused       | 15% |
| Favorable            | 40% |
| Unfavorable          | 45% |

|            |  |     |
|------------|--|-----|
| <b>Q4.</b> | Florida’s teachers’ union, the Florida Education Association |     |
|            | Very favorable   | 19% |
|            | Somewhat favorable   | 27% |
|            | Somewhat unfavorable   | 11% |
|            | Very unfavorable   | 13% |
|            | Unsure/refused   | 31% |
|            | Favorable  | 45% |
|            | Unfavorable  | 24% |
| <b>Q5.</b> | Florida’s public school teachers                             |     |
|            | Very favorable   | 39% |
|            | Somewhat favorable   | 34% |
|            | Somewhat unfavorable   | 10% |
|            | Very unfavorable   | 3%  |
|            | Unsure/refused   | 14% |
|            | Favorable  | 73% |
|            | Unfavorable  | 13% |
| <b>Q6.</b> | Teachers’ unions   |     |
|            | Very favorable   | 26% |
|            | Somewhat favorable   | 26% |
|            | Somewhat unfavorable   | 12% |
|            | Very unfavorable   | 16% |
|            | Unsure/refused   | 21% |
|            | Favorable  | 52% |
|            | Unfavorable  | 27% |

Next, I will read you a list of items that the Florida Legislature is considering. For each, please tell me if you find the item an excellent idea, a good idea, a fair idea, or a poor idea.

**Q7.** Ensuring we have highly qualified and certified teachers.

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| Excellent idea      | 69%  |
| Good idea           | 24%  |
| Fair idea           | 4%   |
| Poor idea           | - -% |
| Unsure/refused      | 2%   |
| Excellent/Good idea | 94%  |
| Fair/Poor idea      | 5%   |

**Q8.** Allowing experienced teachers the opportunity to sign long-term contracts with the school district.

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Excellent idea      | 32% |
| Good idea           | 34% |
| Fair idea           | 17% |
| Poor idea           | 13% |
| Unsure/refused      | 4%  |
| Excellent/Good idea | 66% |
| Fair/Poor idea      | 30% |

**Q9.** Strengthening the retirement system for teachers and professional educators.

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Excellent idea      | 49% |
| Good idea           | 36% |
| Fair idea           | 7%  |
| Poor idea           | 3%  |
| Unsure/refused      | 5%  |
| Excellent/Good idea | 85% |
| Fair/Poor idea      | 10% |

**Q10.** Raising the salaries of experienced teachers and not just the brand new ones.

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Excellent idea      | 57% |
| Good idea           | 27% |
| Fair idea           | 10% |
| Poor idea           | 4%  |
| Unsure/refused      | 2%  |
| Excellent/Good idea | 84% |
| Fair/Poor idea      | 14% |

**Q11.** Increasing the salaries of all teachers.

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Excellent idea      | 53% |
| Good idea           | 28% |
| Fair idea           | 9%  |
| Poor idea           | 6%  |
| Unsure/refused      | 3%  |
| Excellent/Good idea | 81% |
| Fair/Poor idea      | 15% |

**Q12.** Ensuring schools are appropriately funded so our children have the strongest schools in the nation.

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Excellent idea      | 63% |
| Good idea           | 27% |
| Fair idea           | 5%  |
| Poor idea           | 2%  |
| Unsure/refused      | 3%  |
| Excellent/Good idea | 90% |
| Fair/Poor idea      | 7%  |

**Q13.** Strengthening our workforce in our schools by making sure education staff can earn multi-year contracts.

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Excellent idea      | 36% |
| Good idea           | 35% |
| Fair idea           | 14% |
| Poor idea           | 7%  |
| Unsure/refused      | 7%  |
| Excellent/Good idea | 71% |
| Fair/Poor idea      | 22% |

Next, please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statements:

**Q14.** We should be spending more money on mental health support in our schools.

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strongly agree    | 70% |
| Somewhat agree    | 19% |
| Somewhat disagree | 5%  |
| Strongly disagree | 4%  |
| Unsure/refused    | 3%  |
| Agree             | 89% |
| Disagree          | 8%  |

**Q15.** Right now, Florida ranks 48th among U.S. states for teacher pay. We should push to put Florida among the top ten in teacher pay.

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strongly agree    | 66% |
| Somewhat agree    | 20% |
| Somewhat disagree | 6%  |
| Strongly disagree | 4%  |
| Unsure/refused    | 4%  |
| Agree             | 86% |
| Disagree          | 10% |

**Q16.** Right now, Florida ranks 48th among U.S. states for teacher pay. We should push to put Florida at the national average.

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strongly agree    | 74% |
| Somewhat agree    | 17% |
| Somewhat disagree | 3%  |
| Strongly disagree | 3%  |
| Unsure/refused    | 3%  |
| Agree             | 91% |
| Disagree          | 6%  |

**Q17.** If you're going to raise the pay of starting teachers, you must also raise the pay of more experienced teachers so that a teacher with ten years of experience is not paid the same amount as a brand-new, first-year teacher.

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strongly agree    | 77% |
| Somewhat agree    | 15% |
| Somewhat disagree | 4%  |
| Strongly disagree | 2%  |
| Unsure/refused    | 3%  |
| Agree             | 92% |
| Disagree          | 6%  |

Next, I will read you a few statements about taking books out of school libraries and classrooms. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statements:

**Q18.** Parents with children in schools should have the right to choose what their own children can and cannot read in school.

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strongly agree    | 47% |
| Somewhat agree    | 23% |
| Somewhat disagree | 14% |
| Strongly disagree | 14% |
| Unsure/refused    | 3%  |
| Agree             | 69% |
| Disagree          | 28% |

**Q19.** Parents with children in schools should have the right to ban a book for all students in the district from school libraries and classrooms if they feel the book’s content is inappropriate or offensive.

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strongly agree    | 24% |
| Somewhat agree    | 11% |
| Somewhat disagree | 11% |
| Strongly disagree | 51% |
| Unsure/refused    | 3%  |
| Agree             | 35% |
| Disagree          | 62% |

**Q20.** Parents should not have the right to tell the school board or other parents what children around the district can and cannot read in schools. That right should only apply to a parent and their own child.

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strongly agree    | 54% |
| Somewhat agree    | 17% |
| Somewhat disagree | 9%  |
| Strongly disagree | 16% |
| Unsure/refused    | 4%  |
| Agree             | 71% |
| Disagree          | 25% |

**Q21.** Even if they do not have a child in school, every citizen should have the right to remove a book from school libraries and classrooms if they feel the book’s content is inappropriate or offensive.

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strongly agree    | 18% |
| Somewhat agree    | 9%  |
| Somewhat disagree | 13% |
| Strongly disagree | 57% |
| Unsure/refused    | 3%  |
| Agree             | 27% |
| Disagree          | 70% |

**Q22.** What effect do teachers’ unions have on the quality of education?

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Very positive effect     | 19% |
| Somewhat positive effect | 39% |
| Somewhat negative effect | 14% |
| Very negative effect     | 13% |
| Unsure/refused           | 15% |
| Positive effect          | 58% |
| Negative effect          | 27% |

**Q23.** Have working conditions for teachers in our schools:

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Gotten better   | 9%  |
| Stayed the same | 17% |
| Gotten worse    | 57% |
| Unsure/refused  | 17% |

**Q24.** Next, I will read two statements about how we pay Florida’s teachers. After hearing each, please tell me which comes closer to your opinion:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| We should be paying Florida’s teachers more.                                 | 87% |
| Florida’s teachers do not work year-round, so their current pay is adequate. | 8%  |
| Unsure/refused   | 5%  |

**Q25.** Next, I will read two statements about Florida’s school curriculum. After hearing each, please tell me which comes closer to your opinion:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Public schools should just stick to teaching reading, writing, and math. Courses highlighting the importance of Black, Hispanic, or LGBTQ Americans are biased and should not be offered in Florida public schools as they interfere with the education of Florida’s students.                       | 33% |
| Public schools must offer a diverse and comprehensive curriculum that allows students to see themselves in their learning. Courses that allow students to experience and understand the various cultures and lifestyles that makeup America are needed to ensure we have the best-educated citizens. | 60% |
| Unsure/refused   | 7%  |

Next, I'd like to read you a possible constitutional amendment that may be on the upcoming 2024 General Election ballot. After I read the language, please tell me if you would vote Yes for or No against the amendment, if the election were today:

**Q26.** The ballot would be titled “Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards” and it would read:

“Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require members of a district school board to be elected in a partisan election rather than a nonpartisan election and to specify that the amendment only applies to elections held on or after the November 2026 general election. However, partisan primary elections may occur before the 2026 general election for purposes of nominating political party candidates to that office for placement on the 2026 general election ballot.”

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Definitely voting yes      | 14% |
| Leaning towards voting yes | 17% |
| Leaning towards voting no  | 18% |
| Definitely voting no       | 27% |
| Undecided/unsure/refused   | 24% |
| Voting yes                 | 31% |
| Voting no                  | 45% |

Now, please indicate whether you would be more or less likely to support the constitutional amendment based on each of the following:

**Q27.** If this amendment passed, most voters will be prohibited from casting a ballot in the election that will decide who will represent them on their local school board.

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Much more likely     | 9%  |
| Somewhat more likely | 9%  |
| Somewhat less likely | 17% |
| Much less likely     | 55% |
| Unsure/refused       | 11% |
| More likely          | 18% |
| Less likely          | 71% |

**Q28.** This would increase the control that political parties have over who represents our local school districts.

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Much more likely     | 10% |
| Somewhat more likely | 12% |
| Somewhat less likely | 19% |
| Much less likely     | 50% |
| Unsure/refused       | 9%  |
| More likely          | 22% |
| Less likely          | 69% |

**Q29.** This would introduce partisan politics into the public school system.

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Much more likely     | 10% |
| Somewhat more likely | 13% |
| Somewhat less likely | 17% |
| Much less likely     | 49% |
| Unsure/refused       | 12% |
| More likely          | 22% |
| Less likely          | 66% |

Next, I will list a few types of school programs. For each, please tell me if you think the program is important or unimportant for Florida students to have access to:

**Q30.** Advanced learning, such as advanced placement (also known as A.P.) courses, and college prep courses.

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very important       | 84% |
| Somewhat important   | 12% |
| Somewhat unimportant | 2%  |
| Very unimportant     | 1%  |
| Unsure/refused       | 1%  |
| Important            | 96% |
| Unimportant          | 3%  |

**Q31.** Extracurricular courses, such as art, music, and physical education.

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very important       | 81% |
| Somewhat important   | 15% |
| Somewhat unimportant | 2%  |
| Very unimportant     | 1%  |
| Unsure/refused       | 1%  |
| Important            | 96% |
| Unimportant          | 3%  |

**Q32.** Vocational and experiential courses such as construction, welding, computer, or medical classes.

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very important       | 87% |
| Somewhat important   | 10% |
| Somewhat unimportant | 1%  |
| Very unimportant     | 1%  |
| Unsure/refused       | 1%  |
| Important            | 97% |
| Unimportant          | 2%  |

**Demographic/Statistical Questions:**

I would like to ask you a few final questions just for statistical purposes to be sure we have included a good cross-section of people in our survey. First...

|            |   |     |
|------------|---|-----|
| <b>D1.</b> | How are you registered to vote?                         |     |
|            | As a Democrat   | 33% |
|            | As a Republican   | 37% |
|            | As something else                                       | 30% |
| <b>D2.</b> | How old are you?  |     |
|            | 18-29   | 15% |
|            | 30-39   | 16% |
|            | 40-49   | 14% |
|            | 50 or older   | 55% |
| <b>D3.</b> | How would you describe your ethnicity?                  |     |
|            | White/Caucasian   | 61% |
|            | Black/African-American                                  | 13% |
|            | Hispanic of Cuban descent                               | 8%  |
|            | Hispanic but NOT of Cuban descent                       | 10% |
|            | Other/unsure/refused                                    | 8%  |
| <b>D4.</b> | Do you have a child in a Florida public school?         |     |
|            | Yes, K-12   | 18% |
|            | Yes, college or university                              | 2%  |
|            | Yes, K-12 and college/university                        | 4%  |
|            | No  | 75% |
|            | Other/unsure/refused                                    | 1%  |
| <b>D5.</b> | How many of your children are in public school? (n=242) |     |
|            | 1   | 39% |
|            | 2-3   | 52% |
|            | 4+  | 7%  |
|            | Unsure/refused  | 2%  |

**Coded Questions:**

**Region:**

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Dade-Broward-WPB       | 30% |
| Southwest-West Central | 31% |
| Orlando/East Central   | 21% |
| North/Panhandle        | 18% |

**Geography:**

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Urban    | 21% |
| Suburban | 33% |
| Rural    | 46% |

**Gender:**

|        |     |
|--------|-----|
| Male   | 47% |
| Female | 53% |

**Call taken by:**

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Landline   | 24% |
| Cell phone | 76% |

