



EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025, at 6:00 pm ET

**The MassINC Polling Group
Ed Trust in Massachusetts
High-level survey key takeaways
Statewide survey of 1,545 K-12 parents in Massachusetts**

Parent concerns/perceptions of math performance

- About half of parents (54%) say their child is “doing well” in math right now, and over a third of parents (36%) think their child is “doing okay.”
 - Lower-income parents (incomes under \$50K) are less likely to say their child is “doing well” (46%) compared to higher-income parents (incomes above \$100K) (62%).
- About one-third of parents (35%) are concerned about their child’s math progress this year.
 - Concern is higher among parents of children who are multilingual learners (56%), parents of students with dyslexia (65%), and parents of children in grades 5-8 (42%).
- Additionally, among parents concerned about their child’s math progress this school year, 78% say their child is “doing ok” or “doing well.”
- Yet, when parents are presented with state-level data on actual math performance in Massachusetts, concern is significantly higher (74%).
- Most parents see their children’s school as somewhat or very effective at teaching math (87%).

Understanding children’s performance

- Most parents (62%) rely on report cards, conversations with their child (58%), and conversations with their child’s teacher (52%) to understand their child’s math performance. Fewer parents rely on standardized assessments, like the Math MCAS (22%) or Math screeners (18%).

Resources and support

- Overall, one-third of parents say they seek additional math help outside of school.
 - Tutoring (45%) is the most common resource parents are looking for to support their child’s math progress.
- Parents with incomes under \$50K (25%) are less likely to seek outside help compared to parents with incomes between \$75K and \$99K (36%) or \$100K or more (38%).
- Over half (61%) of parents of multilingual learners say they have sought additional math help outside of school.
- Most parents of middle school students (63%) say their child’s school has not discussed with them or their child what math courses they should take in high school.

Access to Rigorous coursework

- Overall, a majority of parents (78%) say their child’s school offers AP or Honors math courses.

- However, Latino parents (56%), parents with lower education levels (HS or less) (60%), and parents with lower incomes (66%) are less likely to say their child's school offers Honors or AP math courses.
- Parents of high school students were asked when their child took Algebra if they had already done so. Black (30%), Latino (30%), and Asian (31%) parents were less likely to say their child took Algebra by 8th grade or before compared to White parents (43%). Lower-income parents (29%) were also less likely to say the same compared to higher-income parents (44%).

Perceived math interests and parental support

- Just under half of parents with children in middle school or above (44%) say their child is interested in a career in STEM.
 - Parents with advanced degrees (55%) are more likely to say their child is interested in a STEM career than those with some college (35%).
 - Additionally, parents with incomes above \$100K (50%) are more likely to say so than those with incomes under \$50K (37%).
 - Asian parents (58%) are more likely to say their child is interested in STEM.
 - However, most (63%) of middle school parents say their child's school has not discussed which math courses their child should take in high school.
- Overall, 40% of parents say their child is "very interested" in learning math. Interest is higher among parents with higher incomes and higher levels of education.
 - Additionally, parents of children in higher grade levels are less likely to think their children are interested in math.
- When asked what parents think their child will most likely do after high school, over half (52%) say they will begin a bachelor's degree. However, parents with degrees are more likely to see the same path for their kids.
 - Parents with college degrees or higher are more likely to say their child will obtain a bachelor's degree post-high school. Additionally, parents with incomes above \$100K are more likely to say the same.
- Most parents are not confident in helping their children with their math homework. Only 39% say they are "very confident" they can help with math homework. This number slowly dwindles as children advance to higher grades.