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**BARBARA
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PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH
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**TEXAS PUBLIC OPINION ON
K-12 EDUCATION**

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TEXAS PUBLIC OPINION ON K-12 EDUCATION

The Barbara Jordan Public Policy Research and Survey Center at Texas Southern University conducted a survey of 1,706 Texas registered voters (margin of error of +/- 2.37%) to better understand their political attitudes, preferences and opinions on a wide variety of public policy and political topics. The survey was conducted in English and Spanish between April 22 and May 6, 2026. These YouGov respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race/ethnicity and education, and are representative of the Texas registered voter population. The analysis in this report focuses on these registered voters' opinions related to K-12 education in Texas.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

15% of Texans rate the quality of K-12 public school education in their ISD as excellent, 41% as good, 22% as only fair and 9% as poor, with 13% unsure.

Parents of current K-12 students (71%) are significantly more likely than Texans who are not parents of current K-12 students (49%) to rate the quality of the public school education provided by their ISD as either excellent or good.

10% of Texans rate the quality of K-12 public school education in Texas as excellent, 38% as good, 31% as only fair and 12% as poor, with 9% unsure.

Parents of current K-12 students (67%) are significantly more likely than Texans who are not parents of current K-12 students (41%) to rate the quality of the public school education provided in Texas as either excellent or good.

44% of Texas parents of children at the K-12 level rate the quality of the education provided by their child's school as excellent, while 24% say the quality of public school education provided by their ISD is excellent and 17% say the quality of public education provided in Texas is excellent.

66% of Texas parents whose children attend a private school, a charter school or who is home schooled rate the quality of the education received by their children as excellent, compared to 35% of parents whose children attend a traditional public school.

57% of Texas parents of children currently attending a K-12 school are either very familiar (21%) or somewhat familiar (36%) with the Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) program, while 43% are either not too familiar (25%) or not at all familiar (18%) with the TEFA program.

Parents of current K-12 students who have a four-year college degree or an advanced degree (68%) are notably more likely than parents of current K-12 students who do not have a four-year college degree (48%) to be either very familiar or somewhat familiar with the TEFA program.

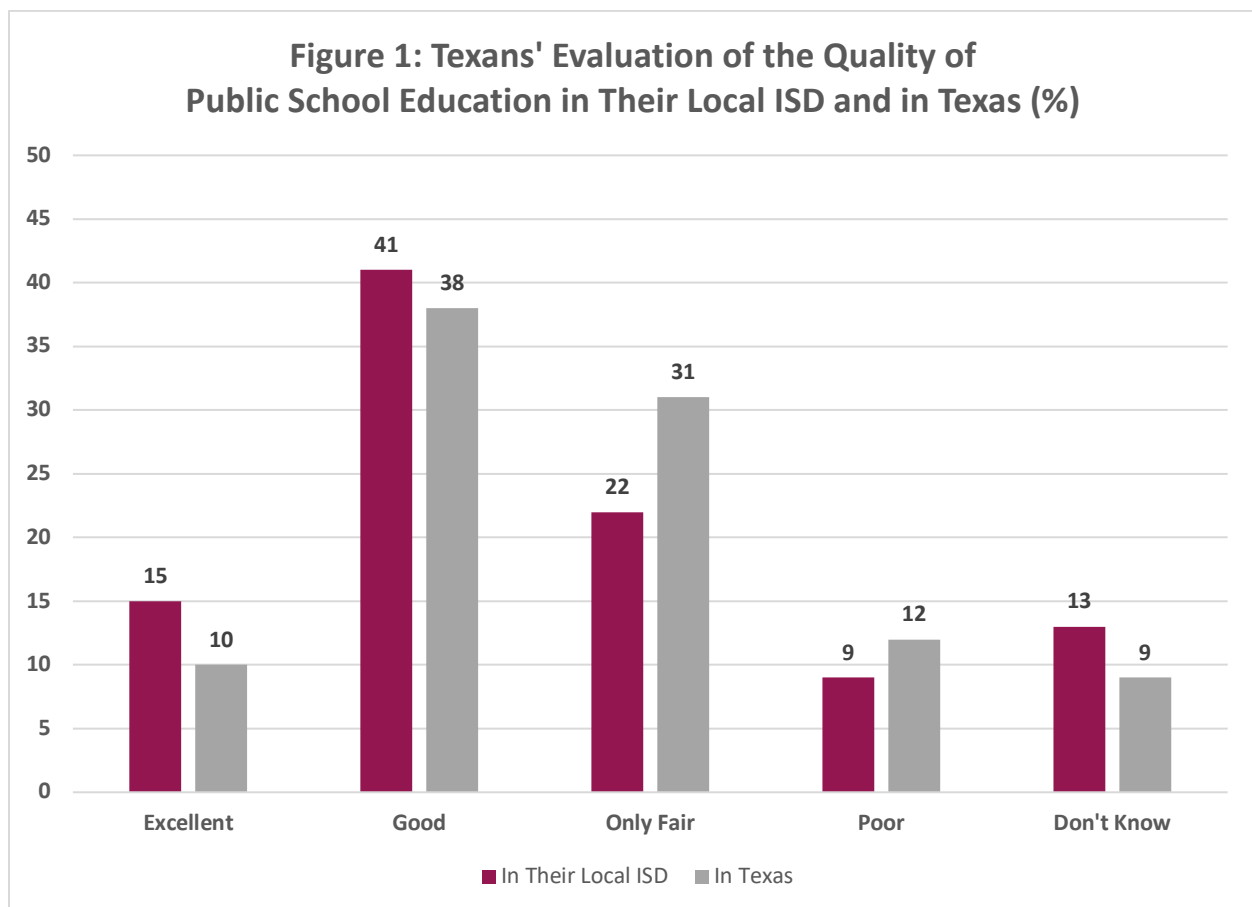
SURVEY POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

White registered voters account for 54% of this population, Latino registered voters for 26%, Black registered voters for 14%, and others for 6%. Women represent 52% of this population and men 48%. Regarding generations, 29% of this population belongs to the combined Silent Generation (born between 1928-1945) and Baby Boomer (1946-1964) cohort, 26% to Generation X (Gen-X) (1965-1980), 28% to the Millennial (1981-1996) generation, and 17% to Generation Z (Gen-Z) (1997-2012). The highest level of educational attainment of 38% of the population is a four-year college degree or a post-graduate degree, of 42% of the population is a two-year college degree or some college, and of 20% of the population is a high school degree or less. More than two-fifths (43%) of these registered voters have an annual family income of less than \$60,000, while 29% have an annual family income of between \$60,000 and \$99,999 and 28% have an annual family income of \$100,000 or more. More than two-fifths (42%) of these registered voters live in the state's large urban counties (Bexar, Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, Travis), 21% in the suburban counties adjacent to these large urban counties (e.g., Collin, Denton, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Williamson), 15% in regional-urban hub counties (e.g., Bell, Hidalgo, Lubbock, Nueces, Smith), and 22% in rural and semi-rural counties. Republicans account for 47% of this population, Democrats for 38% and Independents for 13%, with 2% unsure of their partisan identification.

THE QUALITY OF K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION IN TEXANS' LOCAL ISD & IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

These Texas registered voters were asked two questions related to the quality of K-12 education in Texas. First, "Overall, how would you rate the quality of K through 12 (Kindergarten through 12th grade) public education provided by the Independent School District (ISD) in which you live?" Second, "Overall, how would you rate the quality of K through 12 public education provided in the state of Texas?" For both questions the response options were: excellent, good, only fair, poor, and don't know.

Figure 1 provides the proportion of these Texas registered voters who believe that the quality of K-12 education in their local ISD and the quality of K-12 education in Texas is excellent, good, only fair and poor. Also included is the proportion of registered voters who answered "don't know" to each of these questions.



More than half (56%) of these Texas registered voters rate the quality of K-12 public education in their local ISD as either excellent (15%) or good (41%), compared to the slightly less than half (48%) of these same registered voters who rate the quality of K-12 public education in Texas as either excellent (10%) or good (38%). More than two-fifths (43%) of these registered voters think the quality of public education in Texas is either only fair (31%) or poor (12%), compared to the

less than one-third (31%) who think the quality of K-12 public education in their local ISD is either only fair (22%) or poor (9%).

Table 1 provides the proportion of Texas registered voters who rate the quality of education provided by K-12 public schools in their local ISD as excellent, good, only fair and poor (along with don't know), broken down by ethnicity/race, gender, generation, education, household income, county geography, K-12 student parental status and partisanship.

Socio Demographic	Sub-Group	Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor	Don't Know
Overall		15	41	22	9	13
Ethnicity/Race	White	14	41	22	9	14
	Latino	18	41	20	10	11
	Black	11	42	23	9	15
Gender	Women	15	41	23	8	13
	Men	16	40	21	10	13
Generation	Silent/Boomer	12	40	23	9	16
	Gen-X	12	37	26	12	13
	Millennial	18	41	19	8	14
	Gen-Z	20	45	21	6	8
Education	High School	19	33	22	7	19
	2-Yr/Some College	12	39	26	11	12
	4-Yr/Advanced	16	46	19	8	11
Household Income	Less than \$60,000	17	35	23	11	14
	\$60,000 to \$99,999	11	45	22	8	14
	\$100,000 +	17	46	20	9	8
County Geography	Urban	18	42	20	9	11
	Suburban	17	39	21	8	15
	Regional Urban Hub	11	35	28	13	13
	Rural/Semi-Rural	10	40	24	10	16
Parent of K-12 Student	Yes	23	49	20	5	3
	No	12	37	23	11	17
Partisanship	Democratic	14	44	22	6	14
	Independent	10	33	22	15	20
	Republican	18	39	22	10	11

Overall, there do not exist any noteworthy sub-group differences in these registered voters' evaluations of the quality of K-12 public school education in their ISD, with one exception. While

72% of Texas registered voters who are parents of current K-12 students rate the quality of public education in their ISD as either excellent (23%) or good (49%), only 49% of Texas registered voters who are not parents of current K-12 students rate the quality of public education in their ISD as either excellent (12%) or good (37%).

Table 2 provides the proportion of Texas registered voters who rate the quality of education provided by K-12 public schools in Texas as excellent, good, only fair and poor (along with don't know), broken down by ethnicity/race, gender, generation, education, household income, county geography, K-12 student parental status and partisanship. Overall, there do not exist any noteworthy sub-group differences in these registered voters' evaluations of the quality of K-12 public school education in Texas, with three exceptions.

Socio Demographic	Sub-Group	Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor	Don't Know
Overall		10	38	31	12	9
Ethnicity/Race	White	7	38	33	12	10
	Latino	15	40	26	12	7
	Black	10	34	29	15	12
Gender	Women	11	37	30	13	9
	Men	8	39	32	11	10
Generation	Silent/Boomer	4	35	38	12	11
	Gen-X	6	36	32	17	9
	Millennial	15	40	25	11	9
	Gen-Z	15	46	27	5	7
Education	High School	13	37	27	9	14
	2-Yr/Some College	8	38	32	13	9
	4-Yr/Advanced	9	38	32	13	8
Household Income	Less than \$60,000	14	36	29	12	9
	\$60,000 to \$99,999	7	38	34	12	9
	\$100,000 +	8	43	29	13	7
County Geography	Urban	13	39	27	13	8
	Suburban	5	43	31	11	10
	Regional Urban Hub	10	31	37	11	11
	Rural/Semi-Rural	5	35	36	13	11
Parent of K-12 Student	Yes	17	50	24	7	2
	No	7	34	33	14	12
Partisanship	Democratic	6	36	34	15	9
	Independent	8	32	28	17	15
	Republican	12	42	29	9	8

First, while 67% of Texas registered voters who are parents of current K-12 students rate the quality of public education in Texas as either excellent (17%) or good (50%), only 41% of Texas registered voters who are not parents of current K-12 students rate the quality of public education in Texas as either excellent (7%) or good (34%).

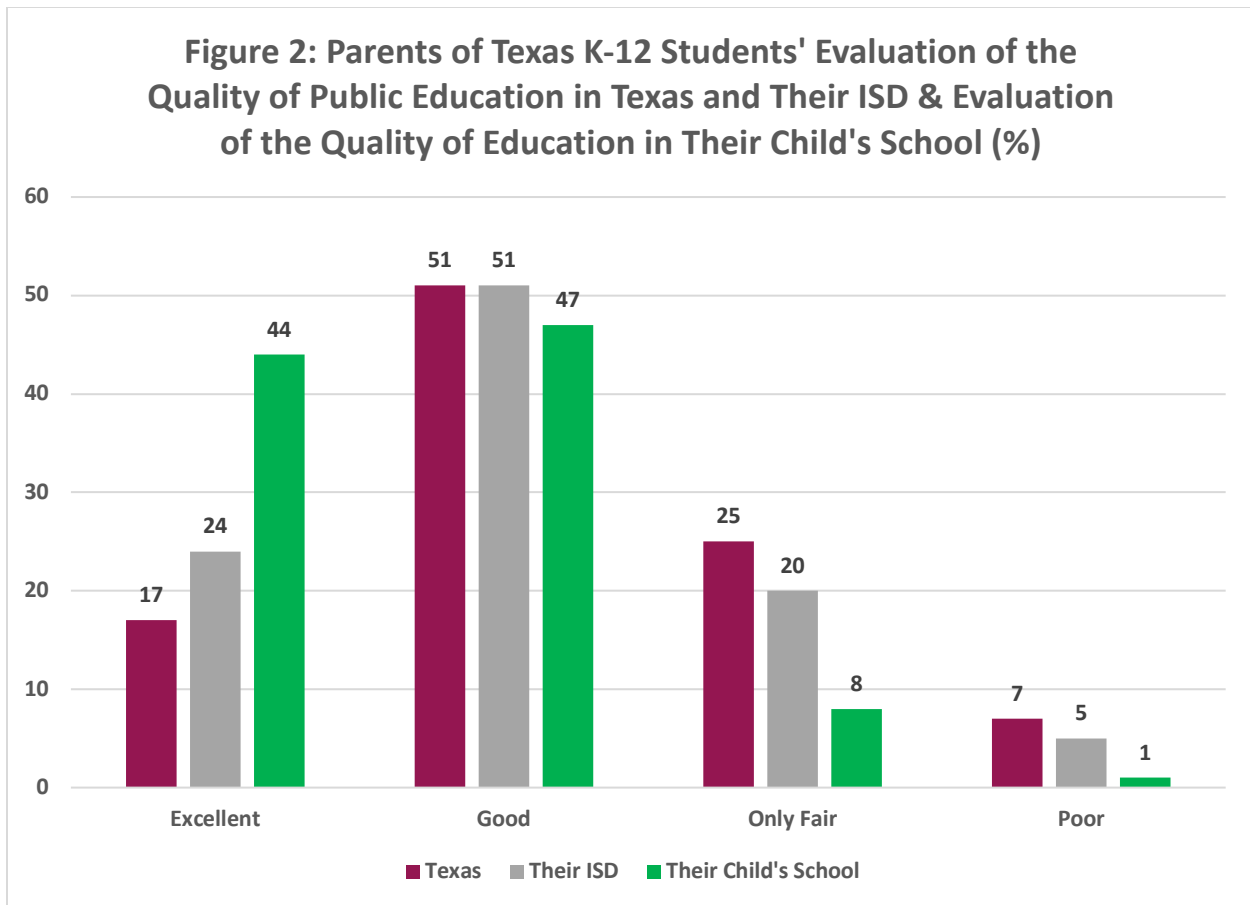
Second, younger Texans belonging to Generation Z and the Millennial generation are notably more likely than older Texans belonging to Generation X and the Baby Boomer/Silent Generation cohort to consider the quality of Texas K-12 public schools to be either excellent or good. While 61% of Gen Zs and 55% of Millennials believe the quality of K-12 public education in Texas is either excellent (15% and 15%) or good (46% and 40%), only 42% of Gen-Xers and 39% of the members of the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer cohort consider the quality of K-12 education in Texas to be either excellent (6% and 4%) or good (36% and 35%).

Third, Republicans (54%) are significantly more likely than Democrats (42%) to rate the quality of public education in Texas as either excellent (12% vs. 5%) or good (42% vs. 36%).

TEXAS PARENTS' EVALUATION OF THE QUALITY OF K-12 EDUCATION

Included as part of the survey population was an oversample of Texas registered voters who are the parent or guardian of a child age 18 or younger who as of April 2026 was a K-12 student in Texas. In all, there are 614 parents or guardians in this survey sub-population (with a margin of error +/- 3.95%). In addition to the two questions discussed in the previous section, these parents were also asked: "How would you rate the overall quality of education your child is receiving at their school?" The response options were: excellent, good, only fair, and poor. For parents with more than one child currently attending a K-12 school, the survey asked about the quality of the education each of their respective children is receiving. Here we focus solely on the quality of the education being received by their oldest child.

Figure 2 provides the proportion of these Texas parents of K-12 students who rate the quality of K-12 public education in Texas and in the ISD where they live as excellent, good, only fair or poor, as well as the proportion who rate the quality of education in their child's school as excellent, good, only fair or poor. The small proportion (2% and 3%) of Texas parents of school-age children who responded "don't know" to the former two questions is excluded from the analysis in this section.



While 44% of these parents rate the quality of the education being provided by their child's K-12 school as excellent, only 24% and 17% rate the quality of K-12 public education in their ISD and in Texas as excellent, respectively. Conversely, while 32% and 25% of these K-12 student parents rate the quality of K-12 public education in Texas and their ISD as either only fair (25% and 20%) or poor (7% and 5%), respectively, only 9% of these same Texas K-12 student parents rate the quality of education provided by their child's school as either only fair (8%) or poor (1%). Comparable proportions of these Texas parents rate the quality of K-12 education in Texas public schools (50%), in public schools in their ISD (51%), and in their child's school (47%) as good.

Table 3 provides the proportion of these Texas parents of K-12 students who rate the quality of education provided by their child's school as excellent, good, only fair and poor, broken down by ethnicity/race, gender, generation, education, household income, county geography, the type of school attended by their child (traditional public school or private/charter/home school) and partisanship. The only noteworthy sub-group differences in how parents rate the quality of education provided by their child's school are related to educational attainment, and, especially, the type of school their child attends.

Table 3. Parents' Evaluation of the Quality of Education Provided by Their Child's School, Among Key Sub-Groups

Socio Demographic	Sub-Group	Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor
Overall		44	47	8	1
Ethnicity/Race	White	46	45	8	1
	Latino	46	45	8	1
	Black	39	53	7	1
Gender	Women	45	46	7	2
	Men	44	47	9	0
Generation	Silent/Boomer/Gen-X	40	45	13	2
	Millennial	44	48	7	1
	Gen-Z	53	45	2	0
Education	High School	30	59	11	0
	2-Yr/Some College	42	46	10	2
	4-Yr/Advanced	52	43	4	1
Household Income	Less than \$60,000	45	47	7	1
	\$60,000 to \$99,999	39	52	7	2
	\$100,000 +	47	44	8	1
County Geography	Urban	51	43	5	1
	Suburban	39	54	7	0
	Regional Urban Hub	45	43	8	4
	Rural/Semi-Rural	38	45	17	0
School Attended by Child	Traditional Public	35	53	10	2
	Private/Charter/Home	66	32	2	0
Partisanship	Democratic	42	49	8	1
	Independent	45	45	9	1
	Republican	46	45	8	1

First, parents whose highest level of educational attainment is a high school degree (30%) are notably less likely than those parents whose highest level of educational attainment is a four-year degree or an advanced degree (52%) to rate the quality of their child's education as excellent. Note, however, that there is no significant relationship between household income and a parents' evaluation of the quality of education provided by their child's school.

Second, parents whose child attends a charter or private school, or who is home schooled, (66%) are significantly more likely than parents whose child attends a traditional public school (35%) to rate the quality of the education their child receives as excellent. Note, home school parents

(who are generally rating the quality of the education that their family is providing), are not any more or less likely than parents whose child attends a charter school or a private school to rate the quality of the education their child is receiving as excellent, with 65% rating the quality of education as excellent, 33% who rate it as good, 2% who rate it as only fair, and 0% who rate the quality of education provided to their child by their school as poor.

TEXAS PARENTS' FAMILIARITY WITH THE TEXAS EDUCATION FREEDOM ACCOUNT PROGRAM

These parents and guardians were also asked: "How familiar are you with the Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) program, a new Pre-Kindergarten through High School education savings account (ESA) program launched for the 2026-27 School Year that provides public funds for eligible students to use for expenses such as private school tuition, tutors, textbooks and special services for students with disabilities." The response options were: very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar and not at all familiar.

Figure 3 provides the proportion of these parents of K-12 students who are very familiar (21%), somewhat familiar (36%), not too familiar (25%) and not at all familiar (18%) with the Texas Education Freedom Account (TEFA) program. Of note, only one in five (21%) parents are very familiar with the TEFA program, while two in five (43%) are not too or not at all familiar with it.

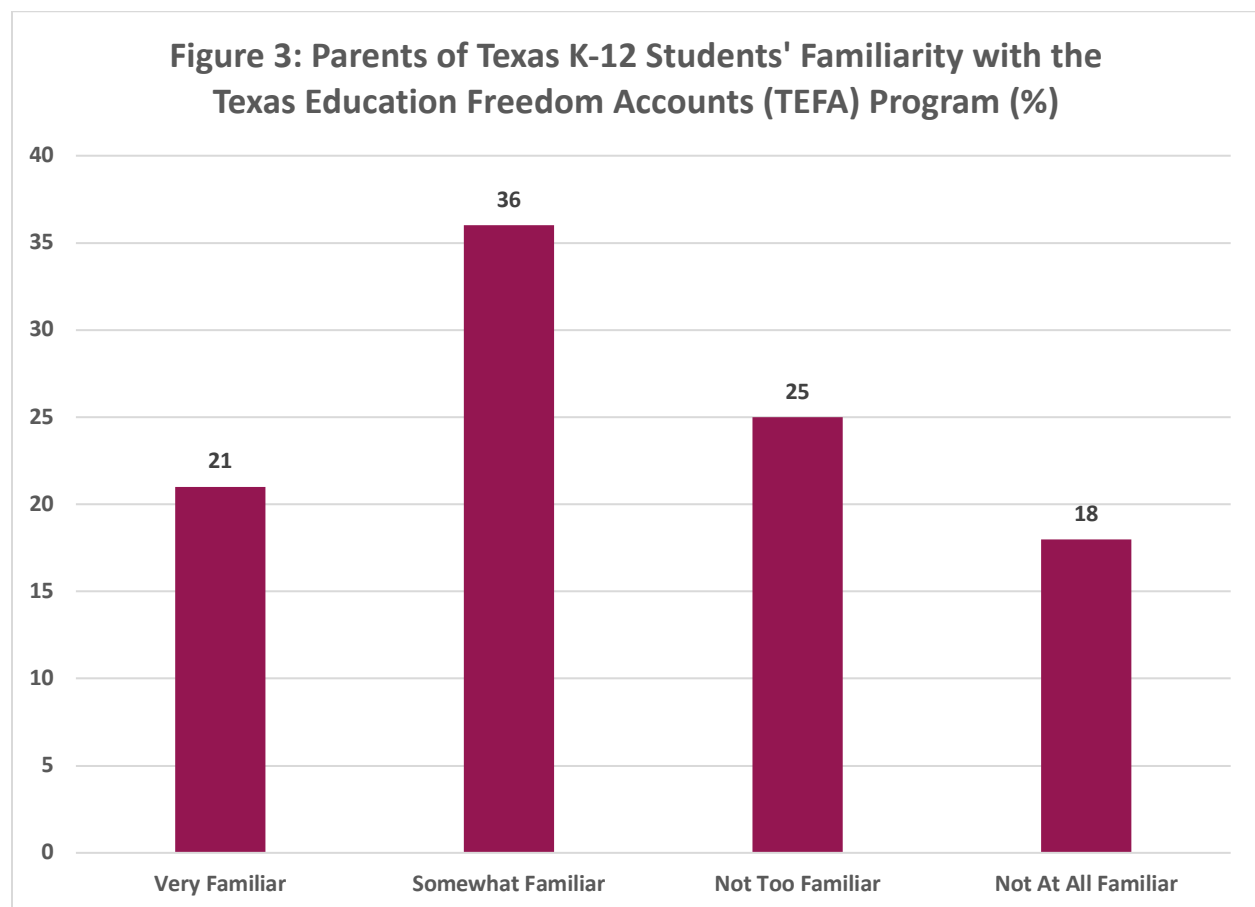


Table 4 provides the proportion of Texas parents of K-12 students who are either very or somewhat familiar with the TEFA program and who are either not too familiar or not at all familiar with the TEFA program, broken down by ethnicity/race, gender, generation, education, household income, county geography, the type of school attended by their child (traditional public school or private/charter/home school) and partisanship. The only noteworthy sub-group differences in familiarity with the TEFA program revolve around generation, educational attainment, and the type of school attended by the parent's child.

		Very or Somewhat Familiar	Not Too or Not At All Familiar
Socio Demographic	Sub-Group		
Overall		57	43
Ethnicity/Race	White	58	42
	Latino	52	48
	Black	66	34
Gender	Women	53	47
	Men	61	39
Generation	Silent/Boomer/Gen-X	40	60
	Millennial	65	35
	Gen-Z	61	39
Education	High School	44	56
	2-Yr/Some College	50	50
	4-Yr/Advanced	68	32
Household Income	Less than \$60,000	53	47
	\$60,000 to \$99,999	53	47
	\$100,000 +	63	37
County Geography	Urban	63	37
	Suburban	55	45
	Regional Urban Hub	50	50
	Rural/Semi-Rural	46	54
School Attended by Child	Traditional Public	51	49
	Private/Charter/Home	69	31
Partisanship	Democratic	59	41
	Independent	41	59
	Republican	60	40

Parents of K-12 students who are Millennials (65%) or Gen-Zs (61%) are significantly more likely than parents who belong to the older generations (40%), predominantly Gen-X, but with a small number of Baby Boomers, to be either very familiar or somewhat familiar with the TEFA program.

Parents of K-12 students whose highest level of educational attainment is a four-year college degree or an advanced degree (68%) are significantly more likely than parents whose highest level of educational attainment is a high school degree (44%) or a two-year degree/some college (50%) to be either very familiar or somewhat familiar with the TEFA program.

Parents of K-12 students whose child attends a private school, a charter school, or who is home-schooled (69%) are significantly more likely than parents of K-12 students who attend a traditional public school (51%) to be either very familiar or somewhat familiar with the TEFA program.




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