

# POLL RESULTS:

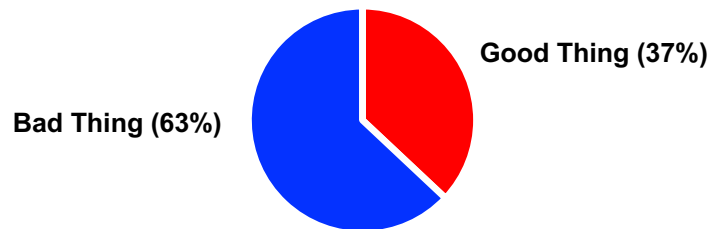
## CULTURE WARS IN AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1. The Big Picture -- Big majorities reject recent having schools become the battleground in culture wars and want professional educators in charge.

Majorities think the current culture war political fights overtaking our public schools are a BAD IDEA (63%) and want "PROFESSIONAL CLASSROOM EDUCATORS" (77%) not activist parents or elected politicians in charge of what kids are taught in schools.

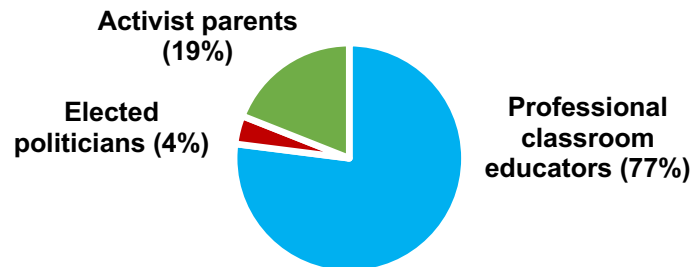
### Opinion of Culture War Fights in Schools.

*In the past couple of years, America's public schools have become a front-line for political fights over issues like Covid lockdowns, mask mandates, teaching racial history, and library books. In your opinion, is this...?*



### Who Should Be in Charge?

*In general, who do you think should be in charge of how and what our kids are taught in school?*



*These results show that the clear majority are on the side of fighting back and stopping the wave of attacks from the radical right that are undermining the foundation of public education. This means those on the side of fighting back have the "tailwind" of majority opinion on their side to restore sanity and stability to our schools.*

2. Best Messages -- No political agenda in schools; kids should not be pawns and School Board members should focus on excellence.

Near-universal majorities -- including those across the partisan political spectrum -- agree with the following two message statements:

- **“Adults should not be using school kids as pawns in fighting for their political agenda.” -- 93% agree (80% strongly agree)**
- **“Anyone who serves on a local school board should be focused on problem solving and academic excellence, not troublemaking and promoting a narrow partisan political agenda.” -- 94% agree (74% strongly agree)**

The three-fourths plus intense agreement to these statements rejecting adults who use public schools and students to further their political agendas provides a strong framework within which to FIGHT BACK against the extremists and argue against specific policies.

Always leading and framing with one (or both) of these two statements sets the stage for nearly all voters to be open to follow-up examples of how a specific restrictive right wing policy is just “troublemaking,” “promoting a narrow partisan agenda,” or using “kids as pawns.”

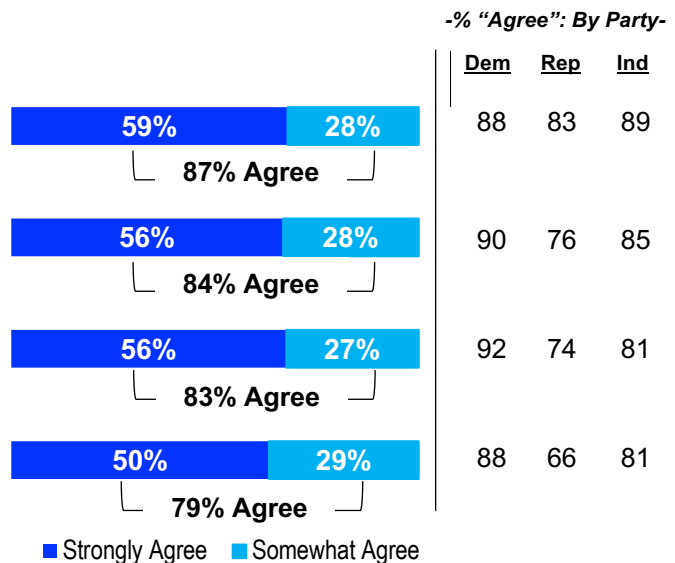
3. Other Strong Messages -- Teach kids to think for themselves, bullying is wrong, racial history is real, banning books is un-American -- all score near or over 80% total agreement; over 50% strong agreement and consistently strong by partisanship.

It is better to teach kids to **think for themselves** and make informed moral judgements rather than have one narrow minded group of adults seize control of school districts; limit what kids can be taught; and dictate moral behavior... especially in this age of the internet and kids' easy access to the entire adult world.

If we give into the tactics of fear, intimidation and **bullying** that are presenting themselves at school board meetings today, this send our children the wrong and dangerous message that bullying and even threats of violence are acceptable and appropriate behavior.

**America's history** of systemic racism, the Civil Rights movement, and racial economic inequity is simply a fact. The best way to advance as a culture and have equal opportunity for all Americans is to honestly study the past, understand its context and make needed changes.

When America starts **banning books**, it becomes more like Nazi Germany and dictatorships than the nation of free speech and free thought that should be America.



*These four strong scoring value-oriented messages provide the opportunity to FIGHT BACK against the anti-public education radical right now employing the term "parent's rights" with moral authority. They provide us with the ability to provide a clear comparison between their scary, restrictive vision of education versus a vision embodying responsibility, empowerment, freedom, and the protection of rights and opportunity -- values that win for progressives and Democratic candidates.*

**Poll Methodology:**

- n=600 responses.
- Registered voters in Texas, Florida and Colorado (n=200 each).
- Each state sample fits a model by geo area, ethnicity, partisan affiliation.
- Interview Method: Online.
- Timing: February 24-27, 2022.
- Client: COMPETE Digital / Parents & Teachers United.