

UNDER THE DOME

back the future



2016 Advocacy Survey

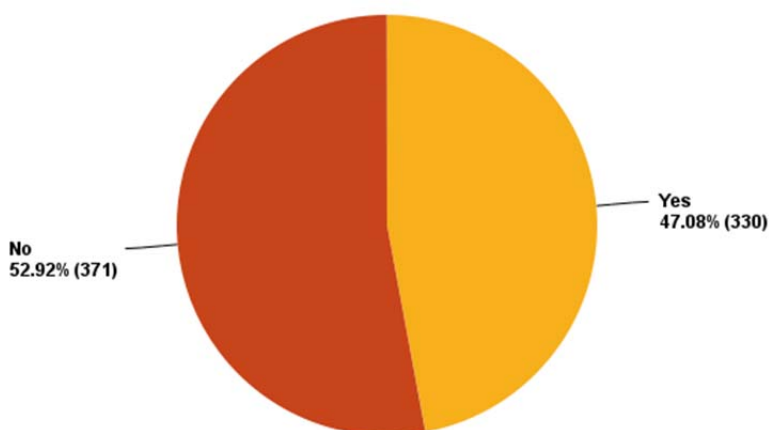
Member Results

Texas PTA has worked for several sessions to reduce the emphasis of state-mandated test scores on school performance ratings. Beginning in 2017 the weight of state-mandated test scores will be reduced to 55% of a school’s overall performance rating. In its place, schools will be rated on the following:

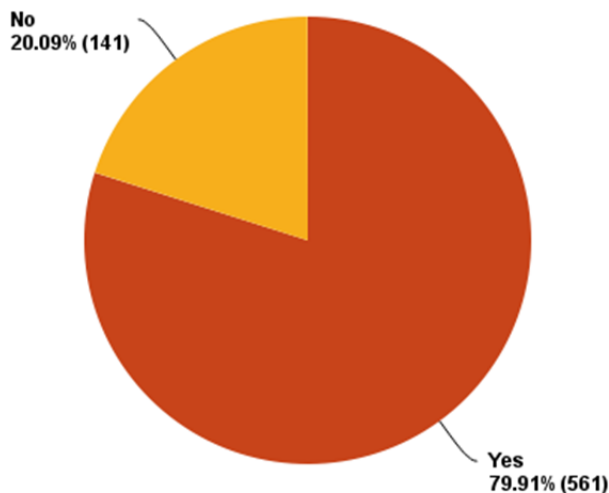
- Community and student engagement
- Indicators of preparedness for college and workforce
- Percentage of students participating in AP courses
- Percentage of students who have completed an industry certification
- Other indicators of a well-rounded school program

While all the above areas are characteristics of a strong school, Texas PTA is particularly interested in community and student engagement

Q1. Have you been surveyed by your school district about the level of community, parent and student engagement at your child’s school?

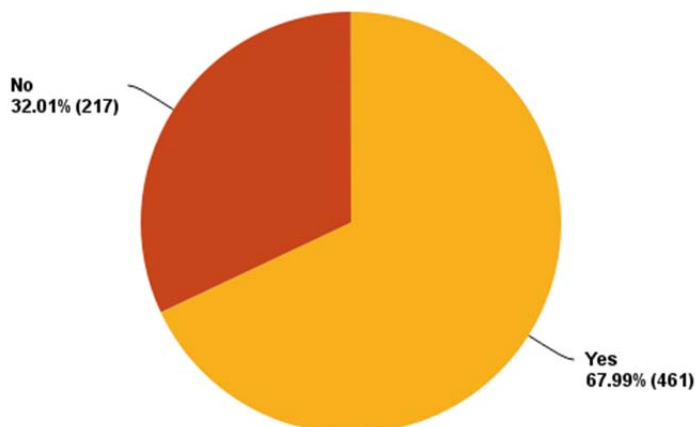


Q2. Does your school do a good job of engaging parents and the community in the life of the school?



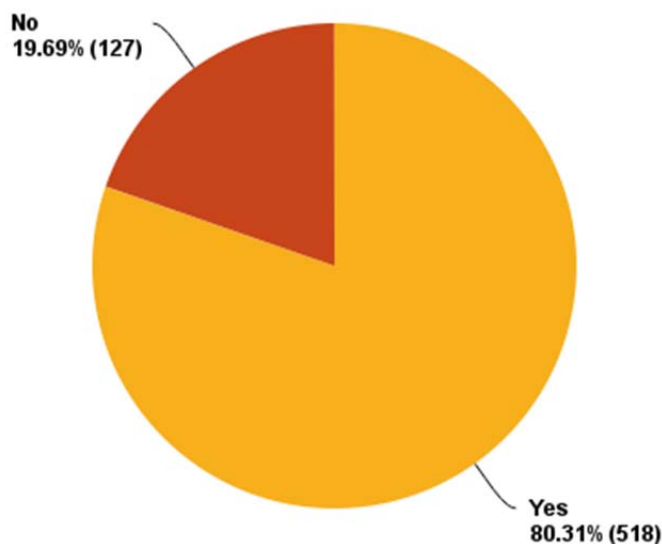
The Texas Legislature voted to change the way that schools are rated beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. Instead of the current rankings of “Met Standard”, “Met Alternative Standard”, “Improvement Required”, or “Not Rated”, schools and school districts will be ranked using letters A – F. Proponents of this change believe that these descriptors of school and district performance will be easier for parents to understand.

Q3. Do you support the A-F rating system of rating schools and school districts?

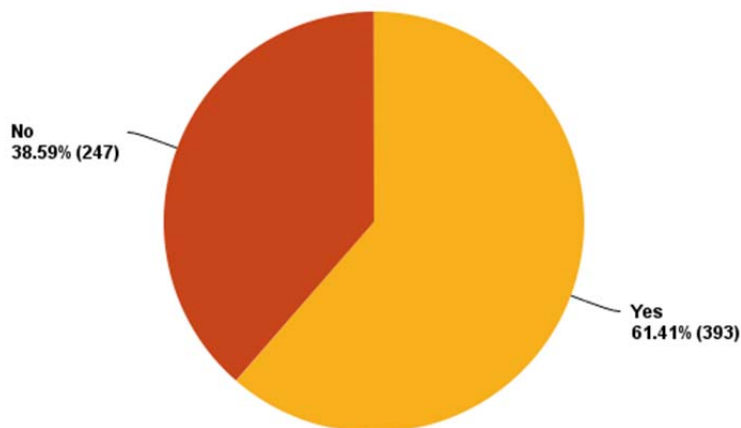


Texas PTA supports educational choices within public schools including open enrollment within a school district, and charter schools. Texas PTA opposes voucher systems, tuition credits, and taxpayer savings grants for nonpublic school tuition and other education-related expenses.

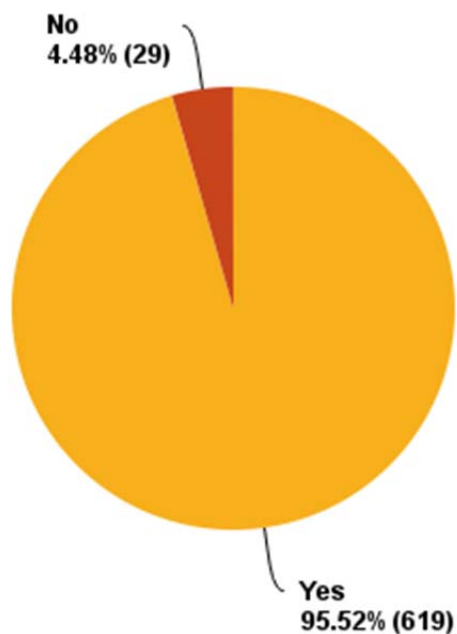
Q4. Should Texas continue to only provide funding to public schools that are accountable to the state for what they teach, how their students perform, and how they spend the state's money?



Q5. Do you support expanding parental choice within the public school setting by expanding open enrollment policies in public schools and opening more public charter schools?

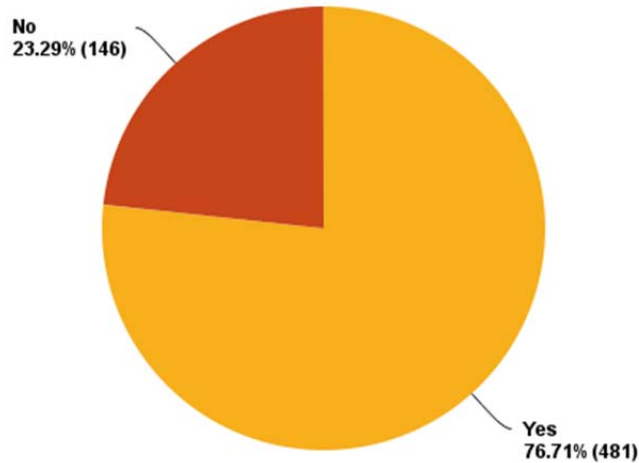


Q6. Should charter schools, a form of public school, be required to guarantee parents the same rights and responsibilities as traditional public schools, right such as to see their students test scores and other student records, to request reassignment of their student to a different class, to attend school board meetings, to allow their student to graduate early if the student has completed all coursework?



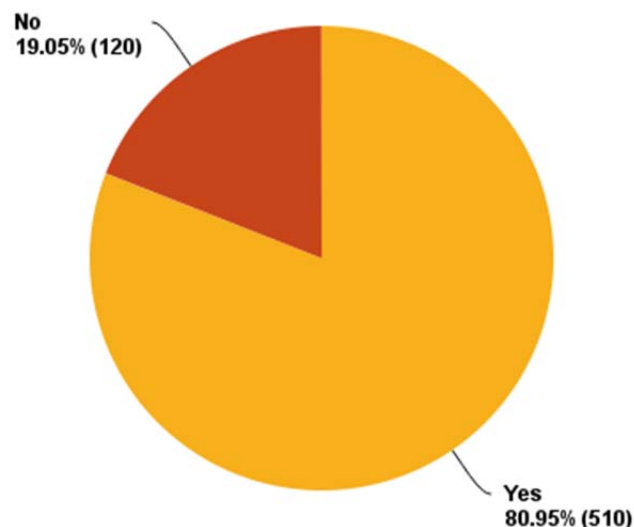
Texas PTA has worked to reduce the number of juveniles who enter the Juvenile Justice system by strengthening the in-school interventions and community services available to at-risk youth and their families.

Q7. Do you support the way youth who are truant, who are out after curfew, and who commit low-level offenses are dealt with in our schools, requiring in-school interventions prior to ticketing students?



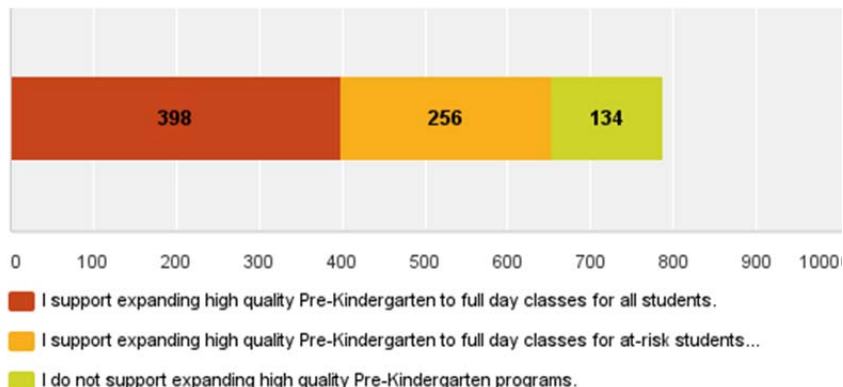
Texas is one of only 11 states that treat 17 year-olds as adults when they commit a crime. This results in 17 year-olds being held in jails and incarcerated in prisons with adults who are often hardened criminals. The juvenile system is better suited for teens who commit non-violent offenses because it offers more access to rehabilitative programs, schooling, counseling, community-based programming and supervision by juvenile probation officers.

Q8. Do you support raising the age of adulthood to 18 for youth who commit non-violent crimes?

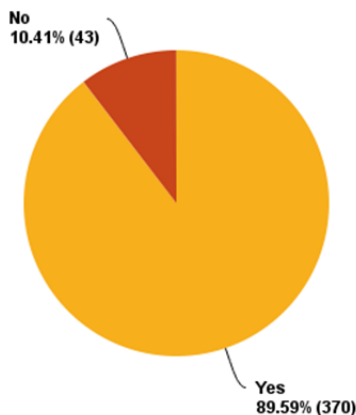


Research indicates that students who begin school ready to learn perform better and are better able to advance academically with their peers. The years before kindergarten are critical to the healthy development of all children. Quality pre-kindergarten programs help to prepare students for success by addressing deficits in oral language and physical and social development. Half day pre-kindergarten is currently available to students who meet certain criteria and who are at-risk of not being ready for kindergarten.

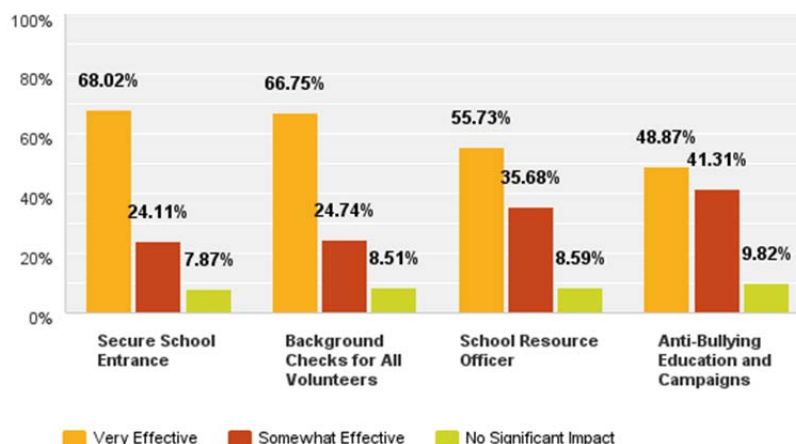
Q9. Please select as many of the statements below that apply to your views on pre-kindergarten.



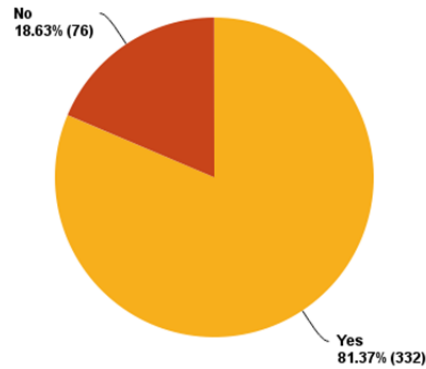
Q12. Do you feel your child's campus is safe?



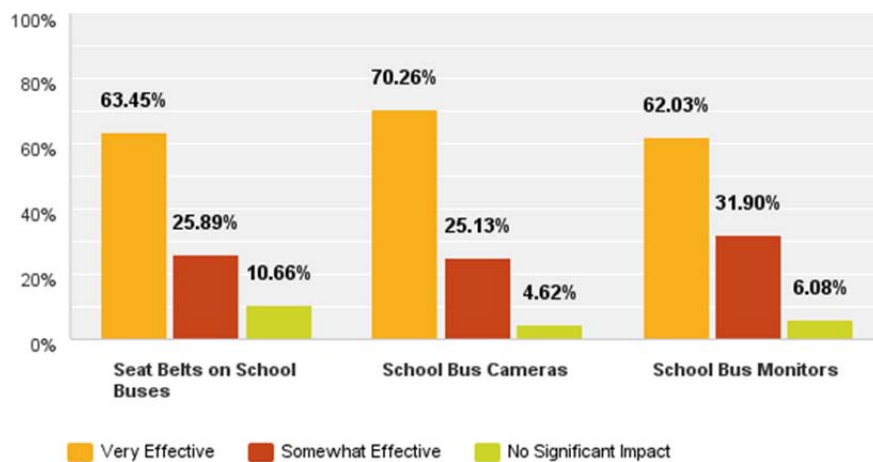
Q13. What factors below would make your child's campus safer?



Q14. Do you feel your child's school transportation is safe?

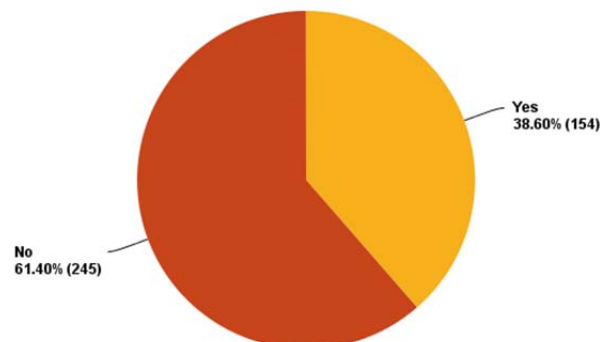


Q15. Which of the factors below would make your child's school transportation safer?

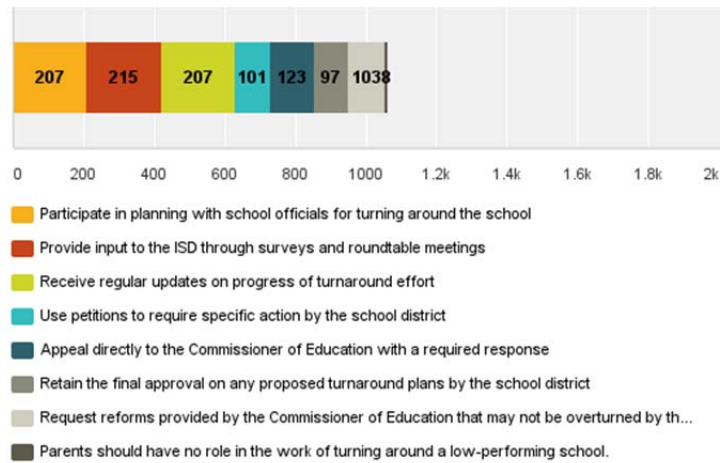


This year, the Texas Legislature strengthened the law to require improvement in low-performing schools or face potential closure by the commissioner of Texas Education Agency. The law allows a low-performing school to operate for up to five years under a required school turnaround plan, before allowing a majority of parents at the school to request specific reforms through a petition process. Even with a majority of parents signing the petition, the commissioner of TEA can still take other action if the school district makes that recommendation.

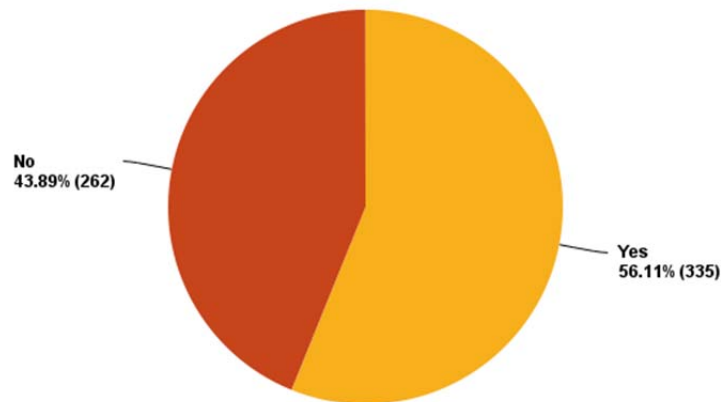
Q16. Do you believe parents currently have enough ways to intervene in their children's low-performing schools and participate in the turnaround plan?



Q17. If no, select the actions below that should be available to parents in improving the performance of their school.



Q10. Do you utilize Texas PTA's website, www.txpta.org, as a resource for local and state advocacy?



Q11. Do you receive Texas PTA's Under the Dome alerts and newsletters on current advocacy issues?

