

NORC AmeriSpeak Omnibus Survey:

Should Some Students Have Priority in Returning to School? 49 Percent of Americans Say No

Interview Dates

January 28 - February 1, 2021

Nationally representative sample of 1,000 English-speaking adults age 18 and over, conducted using the AmeriSpeak Panel, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago. Of the 1,000 respondents, 97 completed the survey by phone and 903 via the web.

The self-funded poll was conducted during a monthly Omnibus survey. It included 1,000 interviews with a nationally representative sample (margin of error +/- 3.91 percent) of adult Americans age 18+ using the AmeriSpeak Panel. AmeriSpeak® is NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97 percent of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings

NOTE: All results show percentages among respondents. "Other" includes don't know, skipped, and refused responses. Frequencies may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

To reopen safely, some schools may only open for in-person instruction for some students and not others. Which students do you think should receive *the highest priority* to return to school first?

AmeriSpeak (01/28/21-02/01/21)	All adults (N=1,000)
Students with disabilities or special needs	16
Students who receive free or reduced price lunch	7
Students who are in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten	6
Students who don't have internet at home	21
No group should be given priority over another	49
Other	1

During the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers expect that *many* students will have not learned as much as is expected during this school year. Which of the following best describes how schools should handle students who have not met their current grade level requirements because of the pandemic?

AmeriSpeak (01/28/21-02/01/21)	All adults (N=1,000)
Most students should be passed to the next grade level, regardless of pandemic-related learning losses	10
Most students should be passed to the next grade level, and grade level requirements should be somewhat relaxed	47
Pre-pandemic grade level requirements should be strictly maintained, even if many students need to repeat a grade	39
Other	3

COMBINED. During the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers expect that *many* students will have not learned as much as is expected during this school year. Which of the following best describes how schools should handle students who have not met their current grade level requirements because of the pandemic?

AmeriSpeak (01/28/21-02/01/21)	All adults (N=1,000)
*Most students should not be held back for COVID-19 related learning losses	58
Pre-pandemic grade level requirements should be strictly maintained, even if many students need to repeat a grade	39
Other	3

*"Most students should not be held back" includes those who said most students should be passed to the next grade level, regardless of pandemic-related learning losses, and most students should be passed to the next grade level, and grade level requirements should be somewhat relaxed.

AGE

AmeriSpeak (01/28/21-02/01/21)	All adults (N=1,000)
18-29	21
30-44	27
45-59	23
60+	30

GENDER

AmeriSpeak (01/28/21-02/01/21)	All adults (N=1,000)
Male	48
Female	52

Highest Priority to Return to School First by Age

AmeriSpeak (01/28/21-02/01/21)	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+
Students with disabilities or special needs	17	20	15	12
Students who receive free or reduced price lunch	11	6	5	6
Students who are in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten	5	8	7	4
Students who don't have internet at home	27	22	20	18
No group should be given priority over another	38	42	54	58
Other	1	2	0	2

Students Who Have Not Met Their Current Grade Level Requirements by Age

AmeriSpeak (01/28/21-02/01/21)	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+
Most students should be passed to the next grade level, regardless of pandemic-related learning losses	13	13	12	6
Most students should be passed to the next grade level, and grade level requirements should be somewhat relaxed	59	52	47	35
Pre-pandemic grade level requirements should be strictly maintained, even if many students need to repeat a grade	24	33	38	56
Other	4	2	3	3

COMBINED. Students Who Have Not Met Their Current Grade Level Requirements by Age

AmeriSpeak (01/28/21-02/01/21)	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+
*Most students should not be held back for COVID-19 related learning losses	71	65	59	41
Pre-pandemic grade level requirements should be strictly maintained, even if many students need to repeat a grade	24	33	38	56
Other	4	2	3	3

*"Most students should not be held back" includes those who said most students should be passed to the next grade level, regardless of pandemic-related learning losses, and most students should be passed to the next grade level, and grade level requirements should be somewhat relaxed.

Students Who Have Not Met Their Current Grade Level Requirements by Gender

AmeriSpeak (01/28/21-02/01/21)	Male	Female
Most students should be passed to the next grade level, regardless of pandemic-related learning losses	12	9
Most students should be passed to the next grade level, and grade level requirements should be somewhat relaxed	45	49
Pre-pandemic grade level requirements should be strictly maintained, even if many students need to repeat a grade	40	38
Other	4	4

COMBINED. Students Who Have Not Met their Current Grade Level Requirements by Gender

AmeriSpeak (01/28/21-02/01/21)	Male	Female
*Most students should not be held back for COVID-19 related learning losses	57	58
Pre-pandemic grade level requirements should be strictly maintained, even if many students need to repeat a grade	40	38
Other	3	4

*"Most students should not be held back" includes those who said most students should be passed to the next grade level, regardless of pandemic-related learning losses, and most students should be passed to the next grade level, and grade level requirements should be somewhat relaxed.