



NEW POLL: Tennessee Republican Primary Voters Support School Choice, Improved School Performance



KEY FINDINGS OF A DECEMBER 2025 POLL OF TENNESSEE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS

School Choice

- 61% support expanding Education Freedom Scholarships
- 62% support growing high-performing charter schools
- 58% support increasing state funding for charter schools
- 68% support open enrollment across district and county lines

Accountability & Transparency

- 87% support A–F school letter grades
- 75% support state testing to measure student learning
- 84% support required reporting on how Tennessee's \$13B+ public education investment is spent
- 92% support encouraging districts to spend resources based on students' academic needs

Political Importance

- 69% say improving education is extremely or very important when voting for state legislative offices
- Among the most consistent primary voters, that rises to 76%
- Education ranks as the third most important issue statewide

SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION FREEDOM IS BROAD AND DEEP

- Statewide, Tennessee RPVs support expanding Tennessee's Education Freedom Scholarship program by a 61% - 31% margin.
- Support for expanding Education Freedom Scholarships remains strong across voter subgroups:
 - Trump-aligned Republicans: +45% support margin
 - Very conservative voters: +47% support margin
 - Rural voters: 60% support, 32% oppose
- By a 69%–20% margin, RPVs say they are more likely to vote for a state legislative candidate who supported Donald Trump's agenda to expand school choice over one who opposed Education Freedom Scholarships. Among very conservative voters, that margin grows to 80%–11%.

VOTERS PREFER CANDIDATES WHO SUPPORT SCHOOL CHOICE

- A total of 69% of RPVs say the issue of improving education is either extremely or very important to them when deciding who to vote for State Legislative offices.
- Among 3/4+ RPVs, a total of 76% say improving education is either extremely or very important to them.
- On the open-ended question asking voters, "What is the MOST important issue facing the state of Tennessee," the issue of education ranks as the third overall issue for RPVs.

VOTERS HAVE A CLEAR CONFIDENCE GAP IN SCHOOL QUALITY

- Traditional public schools: 62% rated fair or poor; 28% excellent or good
- Private schools: 57% rated excellent or good; 19% fair or poor.
- Regionally, RPVs in the Tri-Cities are most optimistic about public schools, while Memphis and Chattanooga voters are the most pessimistic. Perceptions of private education follow the opposite trend.

CHARTER SCHOOLS RECEIVE STRONG BACKING

- By a 62%–20% margin, RPVs support expanding high-performing charter schools. Support is strongest among Trump-aligned and very conservative voters. Voters also back increased state funding for charter schools by a 58%–31% margin.