

The MassINC Polling Group
 The Shah Family Foundation
 Boston Public School Parent Survey
 Topline Results

Field dates	Interview Count
July 15 – August 2, 2021	721
November 9 – 21, 2021	701
March 22 – April 12, 2022	736
July 21 - August 4, 2022	700
November 16 – 28, 2022	850
March 22 – April 10, 2023	828
July 17 – August 3, 2023	841
November 13 – 29, 2023	883

Which of the following best describes the school your child(ren) will attend this coming school year? **[ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]**

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22	Nov 22	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
One of the district public schools in Boston	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
A charter school	7%	4%	4%	4%	6%	5%	5%	5%
A public school outside Boston	3%	1%	2%	2%	2%	3%	5%	1%
A private school	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	5%
Home school	<1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Don't know / Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Thinking specifically of your children who are enrolled in Boston Public Schools, what grade(s) is/are your child(ren) entering this fall? **[ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. PROBE IF NEEDED: and your other children?]**

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22	Nov 22	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
Kindergarten	16%	18%	19%	16%	19%	18%	22%	18%
First	14%	12%	13%	15%	9%	15%	13%	13%
Second	14%	14%	11%	11%	10%	14%	12%	13%
Third	16%	13%	15%	10%	12%	12%	12%	10%
Fourth	16%	12%	11%	13%	13%	14%	11%	17%
Fifth	12%	13%	9%	11%	12%	13%	9%	11%
Sixth	13%	12%	12%	11%	13%	10%	13%	12%
Seventh	13%	11%	9%	10%	11%	12%	11%	11%
Eighth	9%	10%	9%	11%	9%	9%	11%	12%
Ninth / Freshman	11%	9%	13%	10%	11%	12%	13%	13%
Tenth / Sophomore	6%	12%	10%	12%	9%	13%	10%	13%
Eleventh / Junior	8%	10%	11%	12%	12%	8%	9%	12%
Twelfth / Senior	8%	9%	9%	12%	11%	14%	13%	10%
Don't know / Refused	1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%

As a reminder, the Boston Public Schools system – also referred to as ‘the BPS system’ -- is the district administrator overseeing a system of 125 schools serving the city of Boston.

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you personally with the Boston Public Schools system?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22	Nov 22	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
Very satisfied	42%	37%	39%	30%	32%	29%	35%	40%
Somewhat satisfied	45%	40%	42%	44%	47%	44%	39%	41%
Somewhat dissatisfied	7%	12%	13%	15%	13%	15%	14%	11%
Very dissatisfied	4%	10%	6%	10%	7%	10%	11%	7%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%

Students are often graded on the quality of their work using the letters A, B, C, D, and F. Suppose your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school was graded in the same way. Overall, how would you grade your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school?

	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
A	34%	32%	35%
B	40%	37%	39%
C	17%	18%	16%
D	5%	6%	5%
F	3%	4%	3%
Don't Know / Refused	2%	4%	2%

How about Boston Public Schools as a whole? Overall, how would you grade Boston Public Schools?

	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
A	22%	20%	23%
B	27%	31%	32%
C	27%	29%	24%
D	15%	12%	12%
F	5%	6%	6%
Don't Know / Refused	5%	2%	3%

Thinking now about Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, how would you grade the job she's doing with the Boston Public Schools?

	Aug 23	Nov 23
A	25%	28%
B	28%	28%
C	21%	18%
D	10%	8%
F	9%	9%
Don't Know / Refused	8%	9%

As you may know, the Boston Public Schools system says it is “committed to transforming the lives of all children through exemplary teaching in a world-class system of innovative, welcoming schools.” In your view, how well is the Boston Public Schools system living up to this commitment?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22	Nov 22	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
Very well	37%	30%	28%	25%	29%	28%	23%	30%
Somewhat well	47%	39%	43%	43%	45%	44%	44%	43%
Not too well	11%	19%	20%	22%	18%	19%	21%	17%
Not at all	3%	9%	6%	9%	7%	7%	9%	7%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%

As you may know, the Boston Public Schools system says that they “partner with the community, families, and students.” In your view, how well would say the Boston Public Schools system is partnering with you?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22	Nov 22	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
Very well	43%	38%	36%	31%	35%	33%	29%	35%
Somewhat well	37%	34%	39%	40%	44%	43%	42%	41%
Not too well	13%	15%	15%	19%	14%	17%	19%	15%
Not at all	5%	10%	8%	9%	5%	5%	8%	7%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%

If you had to say, whose interests do you think the Boston Public Schools system is most focused on serving? Pick up to your top two.

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22	Nov 22	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
Parents	23%	23%	26%	24%	22%	20%	23%	22%
Teachers	34%	37%	35%	33%	33%	29%	30%	31%
Students	56%	44%	44%	45%	50%	44%	42%	47%
The Superintendent / BPS system leaders	24%	27%	28%	30%	24%	25%	27%	28%
Politicians	19%	21%	24%	24%	19%	24%	25%	21%
The local community	17%	10%	13%	15%	12%	15%	15%	13%
Some other group	1%	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%	5%	3%
Don't know / Refused	4%	7%	6%	4%	5%	6%	5%	4%

How engaged do you want to be with your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s education?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22	Nov 22	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
Very engaged	71%	77%	78%	82%	82%	76%	78%	78%
Somewhat engaged	22%	20%	19%	16%	16%	21%	18%	19%
Not too engaged	4%	3%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Not at all engaged	2%	<1%	1%	0%	<1%	1%	1%	1%
Don't Know / Refused	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%

Next, how engaged do you feel the Boston Public Schools system enables you to be with your **GRADE LEVEL** child’s education?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22	Nov 22	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
Very engaged	55%	45%	47%	45%	46%	46%	41%	49%
Somewhat engaged	33%	35%	40%	38%	41%	37%	40%	38%
Not too engaged	7%	13%	9%	11%	10%	12%	10%	9%
Not at all engaged	3%	5%	3%	5%	2%	4%	6%	3%
Don't Know / Refused	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%

As a parent of a student in the Boston Public Schools system, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following? And would you say you strongly or somewhat (agree/disagree)?

	Dates	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know / Refused
ROTATE ORDER	Aug 21	55%	30%	7%	6%	2%
	Nov 21	45%	35%	10%	9%	1%
	Apr 22	43%	40%	11%	5%	1%
The Boston Public Schools system makes me feel welcome	Aug 22	44%	34%	13%	8%	1%
	Nov 22	43%	42%	9%	4%	2%
	Apr 23	44%	37%	10%	6%	1%
	Aug 23	41%	38%	12%	8%	1%
	Nov 23	50%	34%	9%	6%	1%
	Aug 21	56%	30%	8%	5%	2%
	Nov 21	48%	37%	8%	4%	1%
The communications I receive from the Boston Public Schools system are easy to understand	Apr 22	53%	36%	7%	4%	1%
	Aug 22	49%	33%	11%	6%	1%
	Nov 22	50%	36%	8%	4%	2%
	April 23	50%	36%	9%	4%	1%
	Aug 23	49%	33%	10%	6%	1%
	Nov 23	59%	33%	5%	3%	1%
	Aug 21	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Nov 21	42%	29%	13%	14%	2%
The Boston Public Schools system makes it easy for me to share my concerns	Apr 22	38%	38%	15%	8%	2%
	Aug 22	35%	39%	12%	12%	2%
	Nov 22	34%	38%	16%	9%	3%
	Apr 23	38%	36%	15%	10%	1%
	Aug 23	35%	34%	17%	13%	1%
	Nov 23	40%	37%	13%	10%	1%
	Aug 21	39%	35%	14%	9%	3%
	Nov 21	35%	31%	16%	15%	3%
My feedback is valued by leaders of the Boston Public Schools system	Apr 22	33%	36%	15%	11%	4%
	Aug 22	31%	36%	16%	13%	3%
	Nov 22	28%	42%	17%	9%	4%
	Apr 23	30%	35%	17%	14%	4%
	Aug 23	31%	37%	15%	15%	3%
	Nov 23	35%	37%	13%	11%	4%

How concerned are you about your **GRADE LEVEL** child's emotional wellbeing while they are at school?

	Nov 22	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
Very concerned	42%	42%	38%	31%
Somewhat concerned	29%	28%	34%	29%
Not too concerned	16%	16%	16%	19%
Not at all concerned	13%	14%	12%	21%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%	1%	1%

How concerned are you about your **GRADE LEVEL** child's physical safety while they are at school?

	Nov 22	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
Very concerned	44%	36%	37%	29%
Somewhat concerned	25%	31%	32%	30%
Not too concerned	16%	18%	19%	19%
Not at all concerned	14%	14%	12%	22%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%	<1%	<1%

About how many days has your **GRADE LEVEL** child been absent from school so far this school year? **READ OPTIONS**

0	27%
1 to 4	59%
5 to 8	9%
9 or more	3%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

ASK IF CHILD HAS BEEN ABSENT 1 OR MORE DAYS

What are the reasons your **GRADE LEVEL** child has been absent from school so far this year? **PHONE:** Have they been absent for **READ FIRST?** How about **READ NEXT?**

COVID	14%
Other illness	73%
Mental health	13%
Safety concerns	11%
A job	1%
Family obligations	32%
Doesn't want to go to school	13%
Some other reason	19%

Does your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school offer fresh food prepared onsite at the school, or packaged food brought in from elsewhere?

Fresh food prepared onsite at the school	55%
Packaged food brought in from elsewhere	25%
Something else	5%
Don't Know / Refused	15%

As you may know, BPS recently conducted a report on the physical condition of each school and the average school was 38 out of 100. Which of the following do you think need improvement at your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY**

Overall cleanliness	29%
Safety	36%
Classrooms	34%
Air quality	28%
Outdoor space	30%
Something else	9%
Nothing	19%
Don't Know / Refused	5%

ASK IF RESPONDENT IDENTIFIED SAFETY ISSUES

You noted safety as an area that needs to be improved at your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school. What did you mean by that?

More security entering school (check bags, IDs, etc.)	22%
Weapons / guns / gangs / crime in school	15%
General concern / heard stories in the news	15%
Bullying / social-emotional concerns	14%
Danger around / getting to school / dismissal	10%
Fighting / violence	10%
Lack of teacher / admin involvement / communication	11%
Safety in the classroom / other school areas	4%
Old / broken school building / playground	3%
Other	11%
Non-response	4%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Age

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22	Nov 22	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
18 to 34 years old	22%	21%	23%	22%	22%	22%	23%	22%
35 to 39 years old	24%	22%	21%	23%	22%	22%	22%	22%
40 to 44 years old	20%	20%	20%	21%	21%	21%	20%	21%
45 to 49 years old	17%	19%	18%	17%	18%	18%	18%	18%
50+	16%	17%	17%	16%	17%	17%	16%	16%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%

Gender

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22	Nov 22	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
Men	37%	39%	38%	39%	38%	39%	39%	39%
Women	62%	59%	62%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%
All other	1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%
Don't Know / Refused	<1%	<1%	0%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%

Race

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22	Nov 22	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
White	25%	26%	25%	25%	25%	25%	26%	25%
Black / African-American	30%	28%	30%	30%	29%	29%	28%	29%
Hispanic / Latino	30%	30%	30%	31%	30%	30%	31%	30%
Asian or Pacific Islander	10%	9%	9%	8%	9%	9%	9%	9%
All other	4%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

Education

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22	Nov 22	Apr 23	Aug 23	Nov 23
High school or less	37%	37%	38%	39%	37%	38%	39%	38%
Some college, no degree	26%	23%	26%	24%	25%	25%	24%	25%
College degree	18%	19%	17%	16%	19%	17%	18%	17%
Advanced degree	17%	20%	18%	20%	18%	19%	19%	19%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%

About the Poll

These results are based on 8 waves of a survey of public-school parents in Boston. Live telephone and online interviewing were conducted in English and Spanish for Wave 1 July 15 – August 2, Wave 2 November 9 – November 21, 2021, Wave 3 March 22 – April 12, 2022, Wave 4 July 21 - August 4, 2022, Wave 5 November 16 – 28, 2022, Wave 6 March 22 – April 10, 2023, Wave 7 July 17 – August 3, 2023, and Wave 8 November 13 – 29, 2023. Telephone respondents were reached by both landline and cell phone. Oversamples of Black, Latino, and Asian or Pacific Islander respondents were obtained to bring the total interview count up to at least 200 for Black and Latino parents, and at least 100 AAPI parents. Results within race and ethnicity were weighted to age, gender, and education level for each group. Groups were then combined and weighted to the population parameters by race for the city as a whole. The first two waves were sponsored by Populace, and subsequent waves by The Shah Foundation.