

Attitudes about Ethnic Studies among Parents in the USA

November 20, 2024



Mission Statement

The THINC Foundation is committed to preventing harmful and divisive political ideologies from being taught in K-12 classrooms. We will work to stop these ideologies from seeping into schools by raising awareness about their dangerous content, providing resources for local advocates, and articulating a positive vision for constructive, inclusive Ethnic Studies.

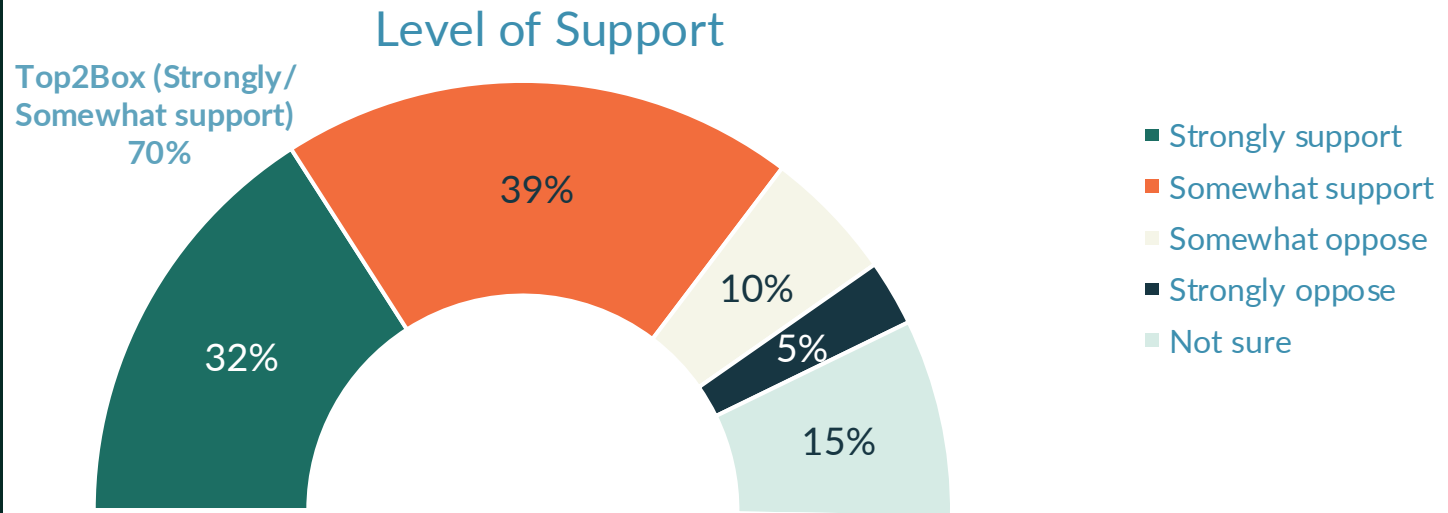
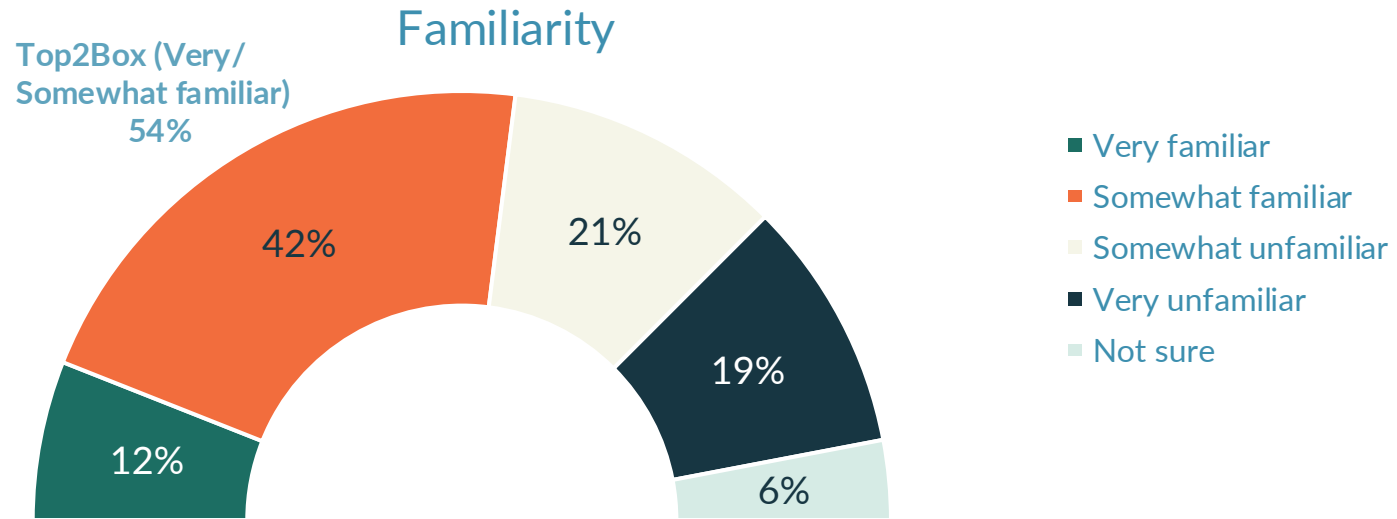
Methodology

The purpose of the research is to determine what people know about Ethnic Studies and Liberated Ethnic Studies and to what extent they think the two disciplines are appropriate to be taught to K-12 students.

These are the findings of a THINC Foundation survey, conducted by a leading U.S. research company, among n=1,463 parents of children ages 0 to 17 in the U.S. The survey was conducted between November 11-18, 2024, using an omnibus instrument, a daily online survey of the U.S. population conducted in English. To achieve a representative sample of the U.S. population, the omnibus sample of adults 18+ was weighted by gender by age, region, race/ethnicity, income, education, and party affiliation. After applying these weights, non-parents were removed, resulting in a total sample of 1,463 interviews with parents of children ages 0 to 17. Based on this sample size, the THINC study has a credibility interval, a measure of precision used for online, opt-in polls, of +/- 3.1% at the 95% confidence level.

Ethnic Studies

Slightly over half of parents (54%) claim to be familiar with Ethnic Studies, and seven in ten (70%) support the idea.



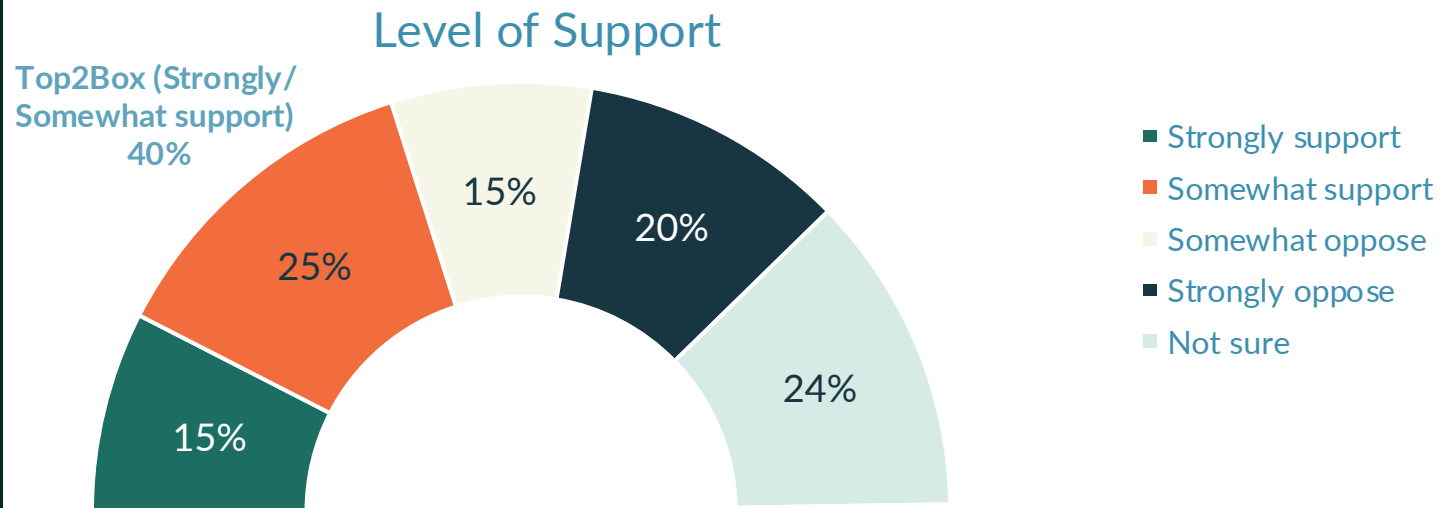
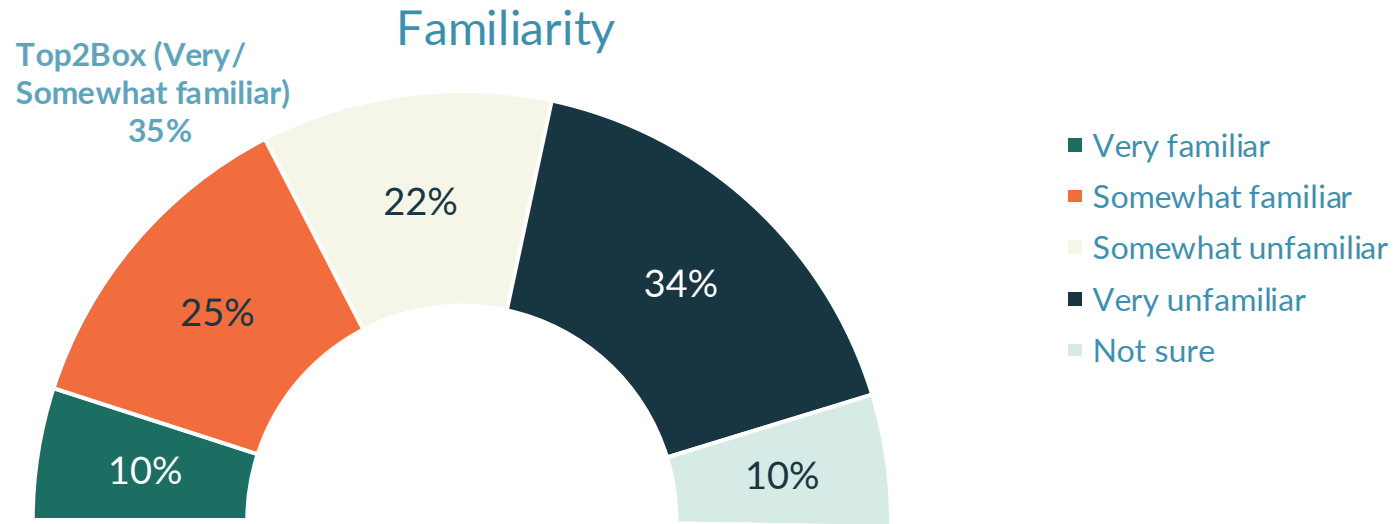
Q5. How familiar are you with Ethnic Studies, a nonpolitical framework that teaches students about various ethnic groups and cultures which comprise American society, including their struggles and contributions to our country? (Base=1,463)

Q6. How much do you support or oppose the teaching of Ethnic Studies in school? (Base=1,463)

Liberated Ethnic Studies

Just one in three parents (35%) claim to be familiar with Liberated Ethnic Studies, and four in ten (40%) support the idea.

One in four U.S. parents (24%) are unsure whether Liberated Ethnic Studies are worth supporting.

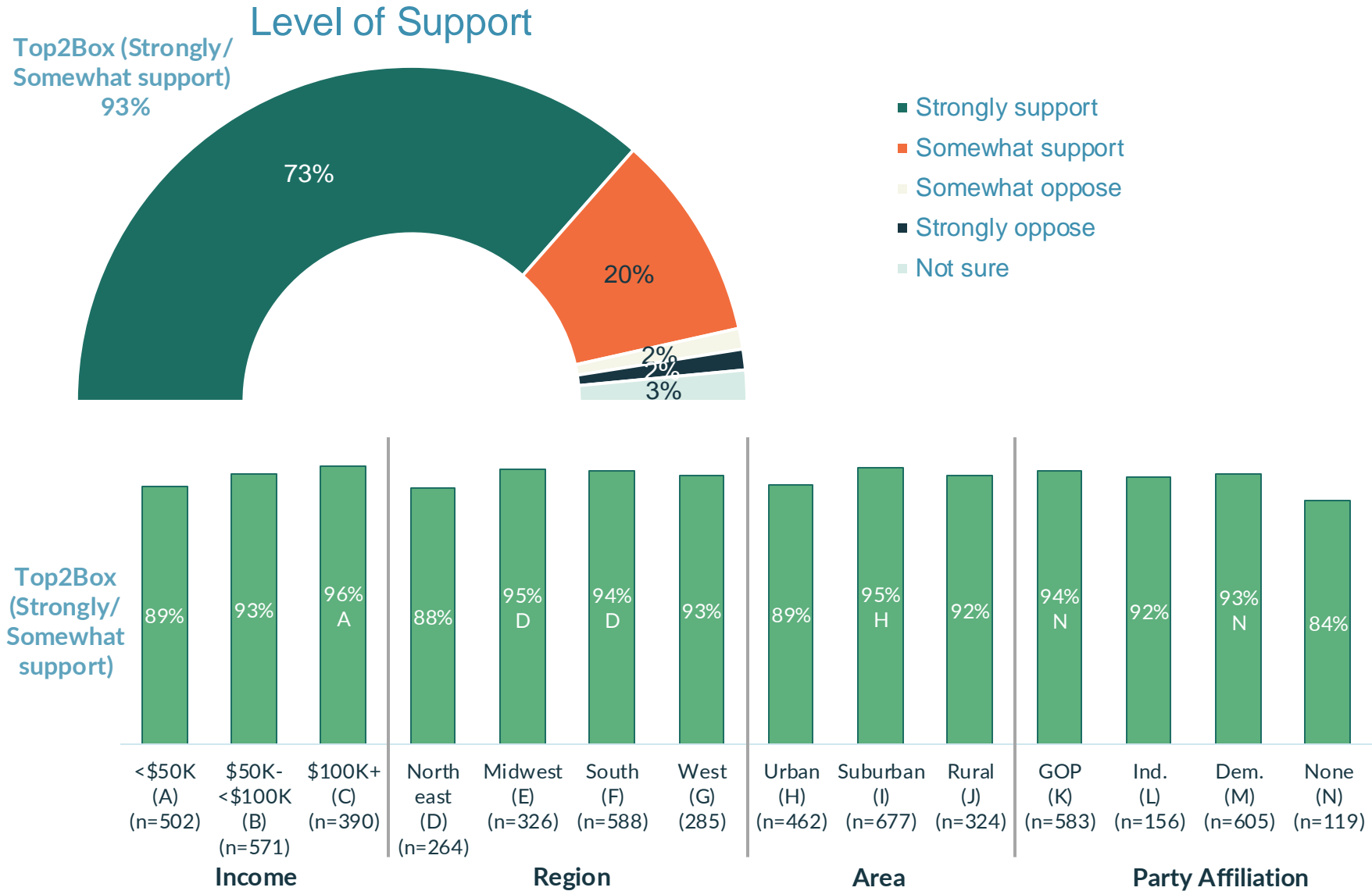


Q7. How familiar are you with Liberated Ethnic Studies, an explicitly political framework that excludes the histories of ethnic groups deemed to be white and encourages students to participate in social justice activism and to “engage in acts of resistance”? (Base=1,463)

Q8. Do you support or oppose the teaching of Liberated Ethnic Studies in school? (Base=1,463)

Support for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream"

Support for Dr. King's famous hope for a nation where people are judged on character instead of skin color is nearly universal among parents.

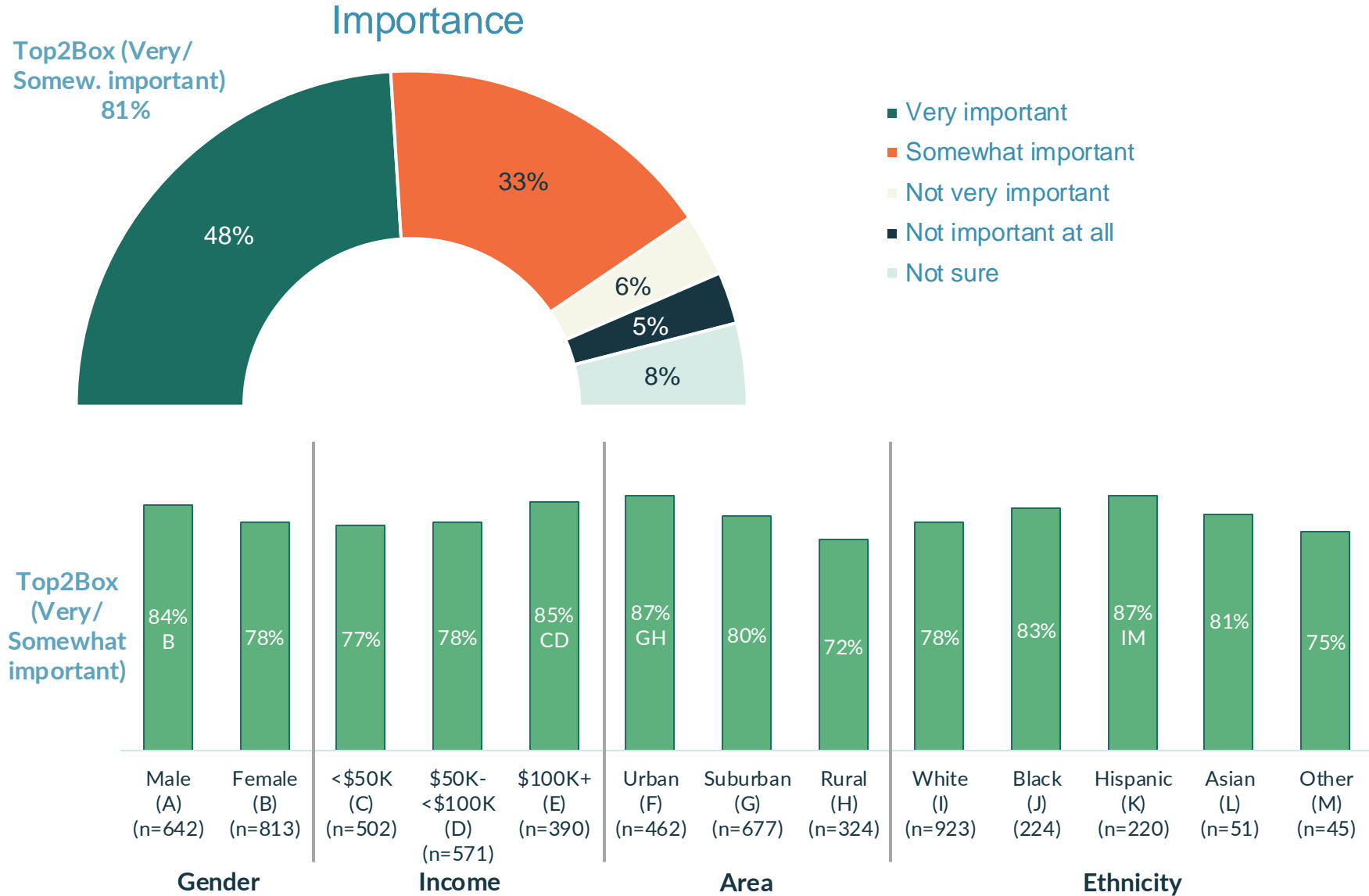


Q11. How much do you support or oppose Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous quote "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character"? (Base=1,463). Letters indicate statistically significant differences at the 95% confidence level.

Support for a “Colorblind Society”

Eight in ten American parents think the idea of a colorblind society is important.

Male parents as well as those with high incomes, living in urban areas, and Hispanics with children are most supportive of the idea.

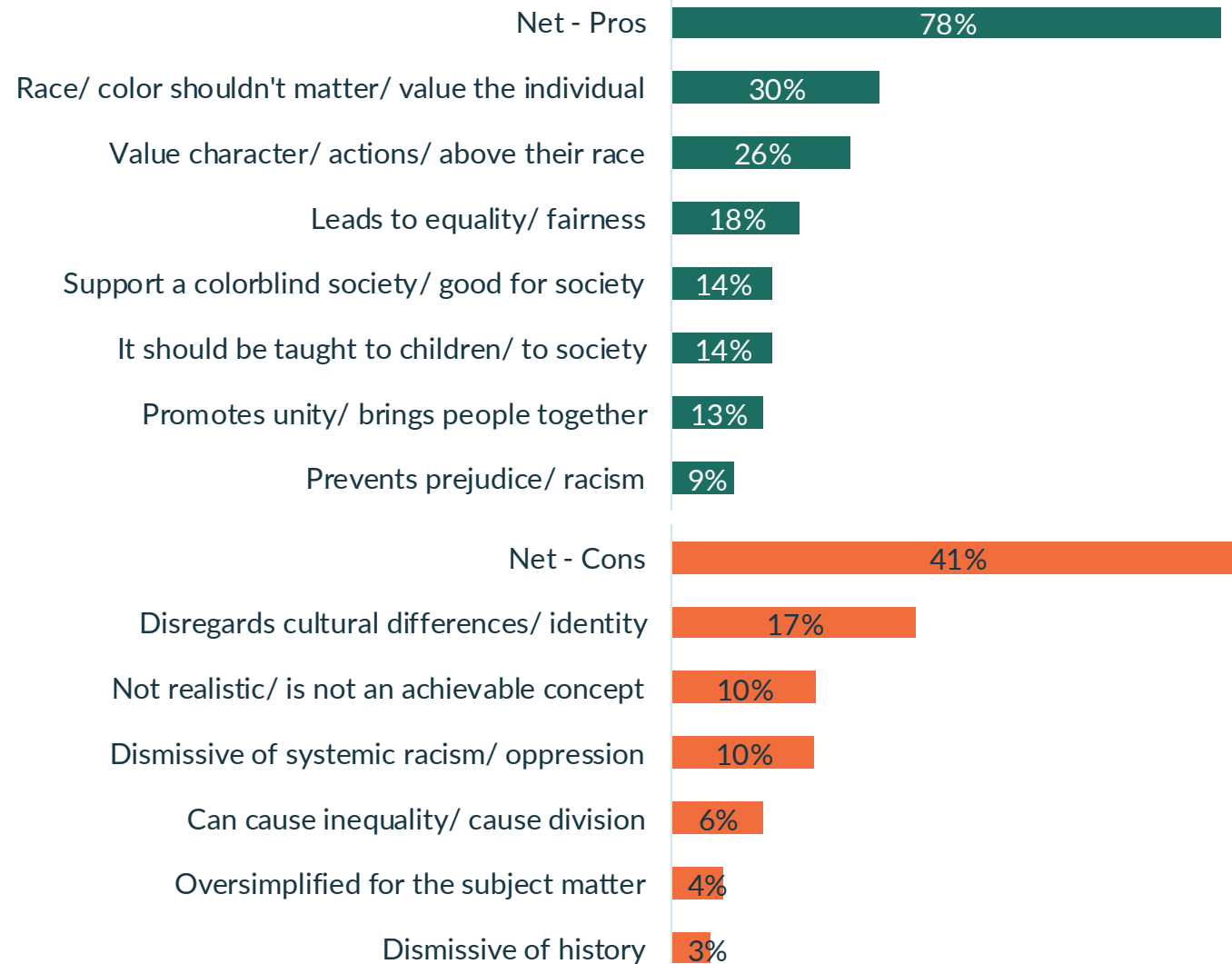


Q9. In this next question, we are going to ask you about a “colorblind society”. By “colorblind society” we mean one that primarily takes into consideration a person’s actions and character, rather than their race or ethnicity. How important is it to you that children be taught the value of a “colorblind” society? (Base= 1,463). Letters indicate statistically significant differences at the 95% confidence level.

Pros and Cons of 'Colorblind Society'

Parents who support the idea of a colorblind society want to *value the individual over their identity*. Some also believe that it *leads to a more equal and fair society*.

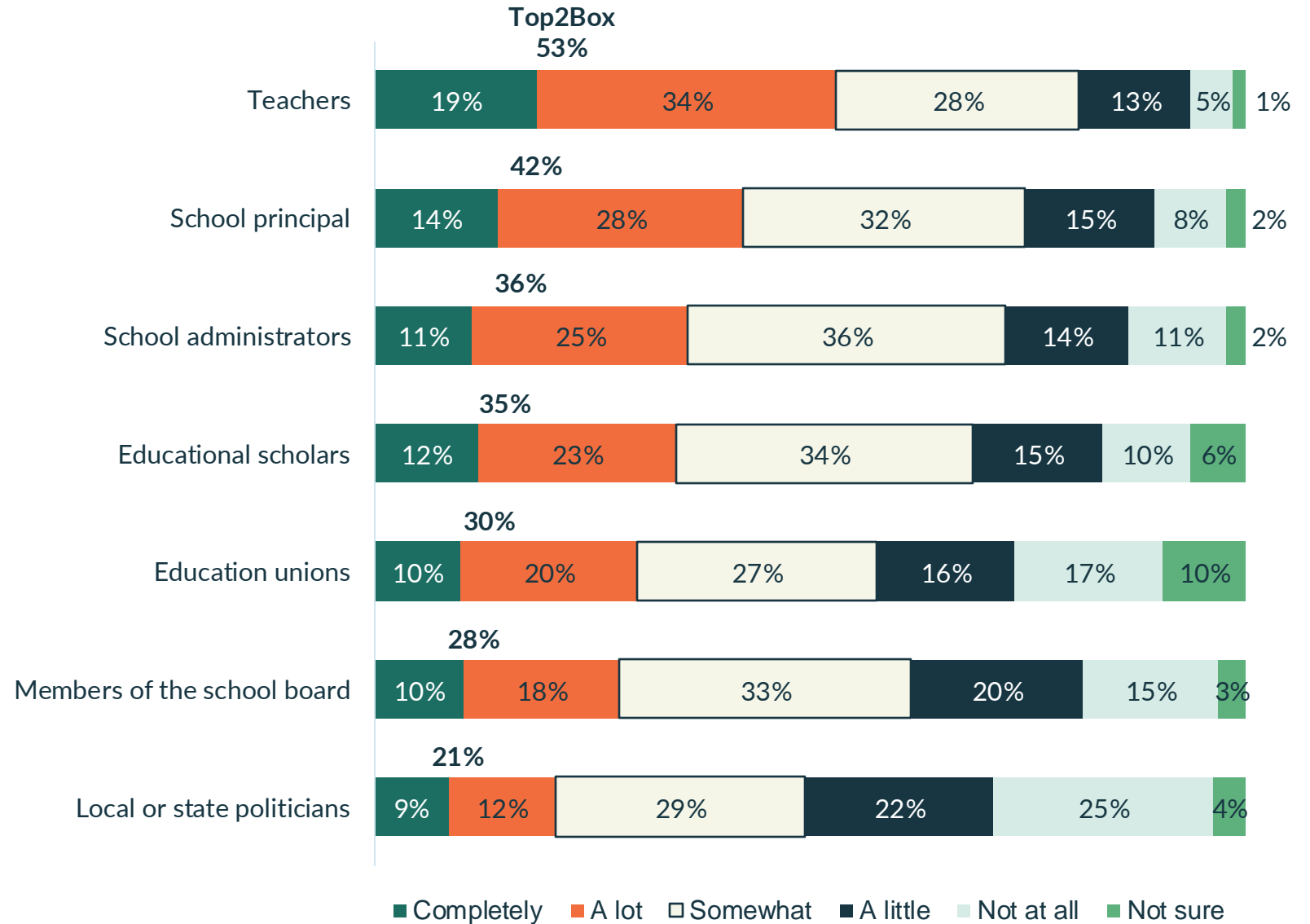
Parents who are doubtful about the idea believe that it *disregards cultural identity and is not a realistic concept*.



Trust in Educational Professionals

U.S. parents trust the educational professionals working at their children's schools much more than external actors or regulators.

On the other hand, only one in five parents trust their local or state politicians, and trust in school board members (who typically are residents of the community) fare just a little bit better, being trusted by about one in four parents.



Q2. For this section of questions, please think about K-12 schooling. How much do you trust each of the following to ensure children get an unbiased education, free of personal beliefs and ideology? (Base=1,463)

Important Priorities in Education

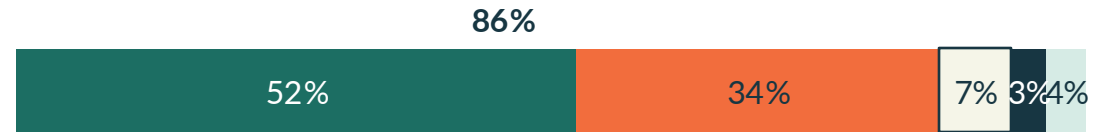
Nine in ten parents want to see their schools' curricula made public. They also want their children to be taught about the major ethnic groups who have shaped American history and about a concept of diversity that goes beyond identity.

Fewer than one in three parents think it is acceptable for teachers to share their personal politics with their students.

It is important for my school district's K-12 curriculum to be publicly available.



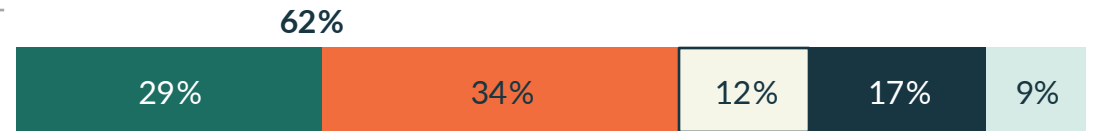
It is important for students to learn about the history and contributions of America's major ethnic groups - including instances of prejudice against those groups.



(...) students should learn the value of diversity of thought, specifically differences of opinion and values, alongside racial, ethnic, geographic, and other factors.



White people in America have a special responsibility to fight racism regardless of their own family history.



Differences in wealth, education, and crime across ethnic groups are due mainly to racism in society rather than individual factors.



It is acceptable for teachers to share their personal political views with their students.



■ Completely agree (4) ■ Somewhat agree (3) □ Somewhat disagree (2) ■ Completely disagree (1) ■ Not sure

Respondent Demographics

Interviews were weighted to be representative of the U.S. population before removing respondents without minor children from the data set.

Male	45%	No College	56%	In School	67%
Female	54%	College Degree	44%	Not in School	33%
Other	1%	Full-time	51%	Among those with school-age children:	
18 to 34	40%	Part-time	10%	Elem.	49%
35 to 54	53%	Self-empl.	6%	Middle	30%
55+	7%	Not Empl.	38%	High	42%
<50K	23%	Married	59%	None	5%
\$50-<\$100K	40%	Non-Married	41%	Home Schooled	15%
\$100K+	37%	White	55%	Private/Boarding	13%
Northeast	17%	Black	14%	Public	72%
Midwest	19%	Hispanic	23%	None	5%
South	40%	Asian	5%		
West	24%	Other	3%	Age: under 5	37%
Urban	30%	Republican	47%	Age: 5 to 12	54%
Suburb	52%	Independent	4%	Age: 13 to 17	41%
Rural	18%	Democrat	45%		
ES	46%	None	4%		
Non-ES	54%				