



PENNSYLVANIANS' SUPPORT FOR SEX EDUCATION: September 2026 Polling Results

EducateUS partnered with YouGov to surveyed 800 Pennsylvania voters and found overwhelming support for sex education. That support persists when we mention including transgender students and birth control and pregnancy in the sex ed lessons. Across demographics like urban/rural voters, parents and non-parents, income, and party identification, strong majorities of voters want Pennsylvania schools to teach these essential topics in age-appropriate ways.

Extended methodology for the survey is available below. Let take a closer look at the results:

Toplines

Our September 2026 poll found that a supermajority of Pennsylvania registered voters support sex education in public schools. When you specifically discuss “including transgender students” in the content, the difference in support is negligible (-4pts, which is within the margin of error). There is also a near-supermajority of Pennsylvanians in favor of teaching students about birth control and pregnancy options (including abortion) as part of sex education, with more than 3 times as many Pennsylvania voters supporting lessons about birth control and abortions than oppose them.

Q1 Basic sex ed support			Q2 Trans incl. sex ed support			Q3 Support teaching abt birth control + abortion		
Favor	Neither	Oppose	Favor	Neither	Oppose	Favor	Neither	Oppose
69.2%	14.4%	16.4%	64.8%	15.8%	19.4%	64.6%	15.7%	19.8%

Parents of Children Under 18

Parents overwhelmingly support sex education, including when it's described as being trans-inclusive and inclusive of birth control and abortion information. When surveying those with children under 18, we find that 69% support sex education inclusive of transgender students (only 12% oppose) and 66% support inclusion of birth control and abortion information (only 17% oppose). In general, parent status does not sway support levels to a great extent, so there is no need to adjust language when speaking to either group specifically!

	Q1 Basic sex ed support			Q2 Trans incl. sex ed support			Q3 Support teaching abt birth control + abortion		
	Favor	Neither	Oppose	Favor	Neither	Oppose	Favor	Neither	Oppose
Parents	75.3%	11.0%	13.8%	69.1%	18.9%	12.0%	65.7%	17.5%	16.8%
Non-parents	70.0%	14.0%	16.0%	63.6%	14.9%	21.6%	64.2%	15.1%	20.7%

Residence type

While urban residents show the strongest support for sex ed that's inclusive of trans students and explicitly covers birth control and abortion (70% support for both), majorities in all areas of Pennsylvania still support this kind of sex education. In fact, more than 2X as many rural Pennsylvanians support trans-inclusive sex ed (55%) and teaching about birth control and abortion (58%) than oppose it.

	Q1 Basic sex ed support			Q2 Trans incl. sex ed support			Q3 Support teaching abt birth control + abortion		
	Favor	Neither	Oppose	Favor	Neither	Oppose	Favor	Neither	Oppose
Urban	77.1%	10.9%	12.0%	69.6%	13.2%	17.3%	70.4%	17.5%	12.0%
Suburban	72.6%	12.2%	15.2%	67.7%	15.2%	17.1%	65.1%	15.0%	19.9%
Rural	61.8%	18.8%	19.3%	54.8%	19.8%	25.4%	58.3%	15.9%	25.8%

Household income levels

Across socio-economic backgrounds, Pennsylvanian voters overwhelmingly support trans-inclusive, birth-control inclusive, and abortion-inclusive sex education content in schools, with support outpacing opposition by a range of 38 to 58 points.

	Q1 Basic sex ed support			Q2 Trans incl. sex ed support			Q3 Support teaching abt birth control + abortion		
	Favor	Neither	Oppose	Favor	Neither	Oppose	Favor	Neither	Oppose
Less Than \$30,000	72.2%	13.1%	14.7%	68.6%	16.8%	14.6%	58.8%	20.2%	21.0%
\$30,000 - \$59,999	72.5%	12.9%	14.5%	59.9%	17.3%	22.8%	64.6%	17.9%	17.5%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	72.7%	9.0%	18.3%	63.3%	15.2%	21.5%	67.2%	10.9%	21.9%
\$100,000+	69.2%	15.6%	15.2%	71.2%	11.7%	17.1%	68.0%	13.3%	18.8%

Political ideologies

These recurring supermajorities of support in the overall samples show us that people who identify as conservative and even self-identified “MAGA Republicans” are a part of the pro-sex-ed majority in Pennsylvania. Barely over a third of the conservative folks in the survey explicitly oppose trans-inclusive or abortion-inclusive sex education, while 45% of conservative Pennsylvanians are actively in support of inclusive sex education.

That’s right: more conservative Pennsylvanian voters want schools to teach trans-inclusive sex ed that covers lessons about birth control and abortion than oppose it – and it’s not even close.

As expected, those who identify as liberal or moderate overwhelmingly support inclusive sex education. Notably, liberals are much less likely to fall in the “Neither favor nor oppose” group. There are high levels (often over 15% of individuals) of individuals who are unsure of their support or opposition who are Moderate or Conservative, which indicates a great opportunity to address them with direct, persuasive messaging.

	Q1 Basic sex ed support			Q2 Trans incl. sex ed support			Q3 Support teaching abt birth control + abortion		
	Favor	Neither	Oppose	Favor	Neither	Oppose	Favor	Neither	Oppose
Liberal/Very Liberal	95.30%	1.70%	3.10%	82.70%	8.50%	8.80%	83.80%	8.00%	8.20%
Moderate	71.90%	17.20%	11.00%	71.00%	21.10%	7.90%	67.90%	19.90%	12.20%
Conservative/Very conservative	49.10%	19.80%	31.10%	44.50%	18.20%	37.20%	44.50%	18.60%	36.90%

Party Identification

Democrats and Independents in Pennsylvania overwhelmingly support sex education, including when it's inclusive of transgender students and information about birth control and abortion. A majority (54%) of Republicans support sex education, and almost half (48%) of Pennsylvania Republicans support sex education when it is abortion-inclusive. As with conservatives, far more Pennsylvania Republicans actively support trans-inclusive sex ed and lessons about birth control and abortion than oppose it.

	Q1 Basic sex ed support			Q2 Trans incl. sex ed support			Q3 Support teaching abt birth control + abortion		
	Favor	Neither	Oppose	Favor	Neither	Oppose	Favor	Neither	Oppose
Democrat	88.2%	6.1%	5.7%	83.2%	10.1%	6.7%	79.0%	13.0%	8.0%
Independent	68.9%	20.0%	11.1%	71.7%	16.5%	11.8%	67.2%	17.8%	15.0%
Republican	53.5%	18.3%	28.2%	44.3%	21.4%	34.4%	48.1%	17.9%	34.0%

Methods

SURVEY QUESTIONS

We asked two key questions: 1) support for sex education (with one split that included transgender students and one that did not) and 2) support for birth control and pregnancy options (including abortion) information in sex education. The full text of the questions are included below:

Q1 Basic sex ed support: As you may know, Pennsylvania schools teach a wide range of topics in sex education such as healthy relationships, anti-bullying, self-esteem and body image, consent and boundaries, in age-appropriate ways. Do you [favor or oppose] sex education being taught in schools?

~400 people responded to this version of the question

Q2 Trans incl. sex ed support: As you may know, Pennsylvania schools teach a wide range of topics in sex education such as healthy relationships, anti-bullying, self-esteem and body image, consent and boundaries, in age-appropriate ways that include and respect all students, including transgender students. Do you [favor or oppose] sex education being taught in schools?

~400 people responded to this version of the question

Q3 BC + Abx Incl. sex ed support: Do you [favor or oppose] the age-appropriate inclusion of topics such as birth control and pregnancy options (including abortion) in sex education?

800 people responded to this version of the question

SURVEY SAMPLE

We partnered with YouGov to conduct a survey of 800 Pennsylvanians. Respondents were selected from YouGov to be representative of registered voters in Pennsylvania. The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, and census region based on voter registration lists, the U.S. Census American Community Survey, and the U.S. Census Current Population Survey, as well as 2020 Presidential

vote, 2022 general election turnout, and approximate 2024 Presidential vote based on available results.

Sample sizes for any of the sub-demographic analyses are available upon request. Results are also available by additional demographics and sub-populations.

Please email jfriedman@educateusaction.org with any questions or additional requests.

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