



2026

NATIONAL SURVEY

OF 1,000 PARENTS AND 200 PUBLIC EDUCATORS

Parents Conducted March 25-27, 2026

Public Educators Conducted March 20-31, 2026

SUMMARY

Parents and educators are increasingly concerned about the challenges students face today—including anxiety, bullying, loneliness and social pressure.

These findings come from a March 2026 national survey by RMG Research of 1,000 parents and 200 public school educators.



While concern is widespread across both groups, educators report consistently higher levels of concern across many of these areas. This difference offers important insight into what students may be experiencing throughout the school day.

At the same time, parents and educators alike express a strong desire for solutions that support students' well-being, character and decision-making. Many view moral and character education as an important part of helping students navigate an increasingly complex world, and a significant majority respond positively to Bible-based approaches that reinforce those values.

Together, these perspectives point to a shared priority among parents, educators, and LifeWise: providing students with moral and character education that strengthens their overall well-being.



NATIONAL SURVEY OF



1,000
PARENTS



200
PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATORS

PARENTS AND EDUCATORS ARE **INCREASINGLY CONCERNED** ABOUT THE CHALLENGES STUDENTS FACE TODAY

1 In what grade is your oldest child currently enrolled?

(Educators asked with what grades they primarily work)

	K-2	3-5	6-8	9-12
Parents	14%	22%	25%	39%
Educators	25%	21%	26%	28%

Source: Napolitan News Service

2 Thinking only about your oldest child (your students), how concerned are you about the impact of each of the following on his or her (their) mental health?

Very Concerned

	Parents	Educators
Bullying or cyberbullying	29%	64%
Anxiety	27%	60%
Depression	22%	64%
Loneliness	21%	55%
Social isolation	21%	55%
Not fitting in at school	16%	45%
Suicide or self-harm ideation	15%	52%

Source: Napolitan News Service

Question 2 responses continue on next page >

2 Thinking only about your oldest child (your students), how concerned are you about the impact of each of the following on his or her (their) mental health?

(Continued)

Bullying or Cyberbullying

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	29%	33%	18%	18%	1%
Educators	64%	30%	4%	2%	0%

Anxiety

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	27%	42%	18%	12%	1%
Educators	60%	33%	6%	1%	0%

Depression

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	22%	30%	26%	20%	1%
Educators	64%	27%	7%	1%	1%

Loneliness

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	21%	29%	23%	26%	0%
Educators	55%	31%	13%	1%	0%

Source: Napolitan News Service

Question 2 responses continue on next page >

2 Thinking only about your oldest child (your students), how concerned are you about the impact of each of the following on his or her (their) mental health?

(Continued)

Social Isolation

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	21%	30%	24%	25%	1%
Educators	55%	38%	5%	2%	0%

Not Fitting In at School

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	16%	33%	23%	26%	1%
Educators	45%	43%	9%	3%	0%

Suicide or Self-Harm Ideation

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	15%	19%	22%	41%	3%
Educators	52%	25%	13%	7%	3%

Source: Napolitan News Service

3 Which of the following concerns you most about your oldest child's (your students') mental health?

Total

	Parents	Educators
Bullying or cyberbullying	24%	27%
Anxiety	23%	14%
Depression	11%	10%
Not fitting in at school	9%	10%
Social isolation	8%	14%
Suicide or self-harm ideation	6%	23%
Loneliness	4%	1%
None of these	14%	1%
Not sure	2%	1%

Source: Napolitan News Service

4 Thinking again about your oldest child (your students'), how concerned are you about the impact of each of the following on his or her (their) physical health and wellbeing?

Very Concerned

	Parents	Educators
School shootings or gun violence	38%	57%
Violent behavior by other students	26%	49%
Child exploitation or trafficking	25%	54%
Drugs or alcohol	24%	49%
Sexual activity	21%	38%
Vaping or e-cigarettes	21%	38%
Self-harm	15%	45%

Source: Napolitan News Service

Question 4 responses continue on next page >

4 Thinking again about your oldest child (your students'), how concerned are you about the impact of each of the following on his or her (their) physical health and wellbeing?

(Continued)

School Shootings or Gun Violence

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	38%	31%	13%	17%	1%
Educators	57%	32%	7%	4%	0%

Violent Behavior by Other Students

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	26%	36%	18%	19%	1%
Educators	49%	37%	11%	3%	1%

Drugs or Alcohol

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	24%	27%	17%	32%	1%
Educators	49%	35%	9%	7%	1%

Sexual Activity

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	21%	28%	23%	28%	1%
Educators	38%	38%	15%	9%	0%

Source: Napolitan News Service

[Question 4 responses continue on next page >](#)

4 Thinking again about your oldest child (your students'), how concerned are you about the impact of each of the following on his or her (their) physical health and wellbeing?

(Continued)

Vaping or E-cigarettes

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	21%	28%	16%	34%	1%
Educators	38%	35%	20%	7%	0%

Self-harm

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	15%	18%	24%	41%	1%
Educators	45%	38%	10%	5%	2%

Source: Napolitan News Service

5 Which of the following concerns you most about your oldest child's physical health and wellbeing? (Educators were asked the same question, but language was asked of “your students”)

	Parents	Educators
School shootings or gun violence	24%	24%
Violent behavior by other students	20%	22%
Drugs or alcohol	14%	7%
Vaping or e-cigarettes	8%	15%
Sexual activity	8%	4%
Child exploitation or trafficking	8%	12%
Self-harm	5%	14%
None of these	12%	4%
Not sure	2%	0%

Source: Napolitan News Service

6 Finally, how concerned are you about the influence of each of the following on your oldest child (your students)?

Very Concerned

	Parents	Educators
Online predators and internet safety	43%	66%
Misinformation or harmful content online	33%	52%
Social media	32%	55%
Peer pressure	31%	56%
Exposure to pornography or explicit content online	30%	62%
Media and entertainment (TV, music, video games)	22%	34%
Political or ideological agendas	17%	26%

Source: Napolitan News Service

Online Predators and Internet Safety

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	43%	34%	12%	10%	0%
Educators	66%	29%	3%	3%	0%

Misinformation or Harmful Content Online

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	33%	41%	16%	10%	1%
Educators	52%	37%	6%	5%	0%

Source: Napolitan News Service

Question 6 responses continue on next page >

6 Finally, how concerned are you about the influence of each of the following on your oldest child (your students)?

(Continued)

Social Media

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	38%	31%	13%	17%	1%
Educators	57%	32%	7%	4%	0%

Peer Pressure

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	31%	42%	16%	10%	0%
Educators	56%	32%	8%	2%	2%

Exposure to Pornography or Explicit Content Online

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	30%	32%	20%	17%	1%
Educators	62%	25%	7%	5%	0%

Media and Entertainment (TV, Music, Video Games)

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	22%	38%	24%	15%	1%
Educators	34%	40%	20%	4%	2%

Source: Napolitan News Service

Question 6 responses continue on next page >

6 Finally, how concerned are you about the influence of each of the following on your oldest child (your students)?

(Continued)

Political or Ideological Agendas

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Parents	17%	29%	27%	24%	2%
Educators	26%	44%	20%	9%	0%

Source: Napolitan News Service

7 Which of these concerns you most?

	Parents	Educators
Online predators and internet safety	31%	33%
Peer pressure	20%	16%
Social media	14%	17%
Misinformation or harmful content online	11%	16%
Exposure to pornography or explicit content online	10%	12%
Political or ideological agendas	5%	5%
Media and entertainment (TV, music, video games)	4%	1%
None of these	5%	0%
Not sure	1%	0%

Source: Napolitan News Service

8 How confident are you that your oldest child (most of your students) will hold to most of your (good) core values after he or she leaves (they leave) home and moves into young adulthood?

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not very confident	Not at all confident	Not sure
Parents	46%	48%	4%	2%	1%
Educators	30%	52%	17%	1%	0%

Source: Napolitan News Service

9 Compared to when you were in school, do today's students face more or fewer pressures in their lives?

	Much more	Somewhat more	Somewhat fewer	Much fewer	About the same	Not sure
Parents	49%	34%	7%	4%	5%	0%
Educators	61%	32%	3%	1%	4%	1%

Source: Napolitan News Service

10 How well equipped do you feel to help your child (students) deal with the various pressures and influences he or she faces (they face) at school?

	Very well equipped	Somewhat well equipped	Not very well equipped	Not at all well equipped	Not sure
Parents	34%	54%	10%	1%	1%
Educators	26%	53%	19%	2%	0%

Source: Napolitan News Service

11 When it comes to your oldest child's school and teachers (your school) addressing these issues, which is closest to your view?

	They are (I am) concerned and working hard to address these issues.	They are (I am) concerned, but there isn't much they (I) can do.	They are (I am) not very concerned.	Not sure
Parents	45%	36%	15%	4%
Educators	85%	13%	1%	1%

Source: Napolitan News Service

12 To help address these issues, would you favor or oppose teaching moral and character education to public school children?

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Parents	46%	40%	7%	3%	5%
Educators	62%	31%	3%	1%	4%

Source: Napolitan News Service

13 In some school districts, private organizations are using programs to teach moral and character education based on Biblical values during the public school day, but off campus and with parents' permission. The programs are completely voluntary and the Supreme Court has said they are constitutional. Would such a program be helpful for your oldest child's school and teachers (your school)?

	Yes	No	Not sure
Parents	69%	17%	13%
Educators	73%	16%	11%

Source: Napolitan News Service

14 In schools where these programs have been introduced, parents and teachers report a number of positive outcomes including better behavior, improved grades, better relationships between students, better attendance, and fewer suspensions. Knowing this to be true, would you favor or oppose offering such programs at your child's (your) school?

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Parents	46%	40%	7%	4%	4%
Educators	63%	26%	4%	5%	2%

Source: Napolitan News Service

15 Before today, were you aware that public school students can legally attend voluntary religious instruction off of school property during the school day with their parents' permission?

	Yes	No	Not sure
Parents	40%	55%	5%
Educators	57%	34%	9%

Source: *Napolitan News Service*

METHODOLOGY

The survey of 1,000 parents with children in public schools was conducted online for LifeWise on March 25-27, 2026. The survey of 200 public educators was conducted online for LifeWise on March 20-31, 2026. Field work for the survey was conducted by RMG Research, Inc. Certain quotas were applied, and the sample was lightly weighted by geography, gender, age, race, education, internet usage, and political party to reasonably reflect the nation's population of Registered Voters. Other variables were reviewed to ensure that the final sample is representative of that population.



The margin of sampling error for the parents of children in public schools sample is +/- 3.1 percentage points. The margin of sampling error for the public educators sample is +/- 6.9 percentage points.



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