



OPINION
RESEARCH
& STRATEGY

TO Interested Parties

FROM FM3 Research

RE: Delaware Voter Attitudes Towards Education Funding

DATE September 16, 2026

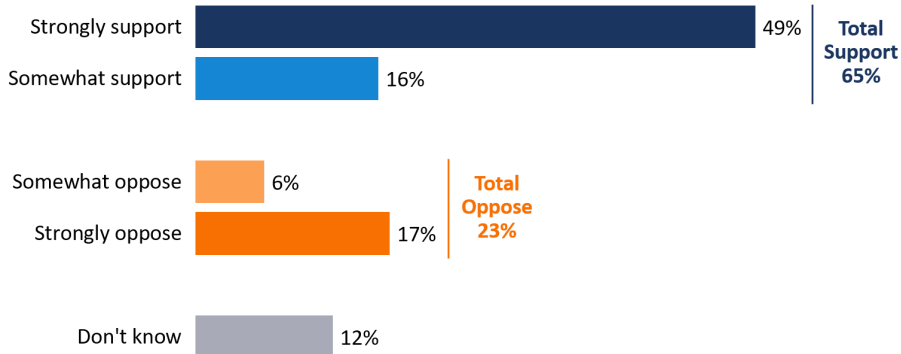
Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) completed a survey of 615 Delaware voters in May 2026, assessing support for increasing state funding for education. The results show that Delaware voters strongly support increasing funding for pre-K through 12 education. Approximately two-thirds believe there is an additional need for funding for education and a majority agree that they would view an elected official more favorably for supporting this proposal.

Key findings from the survey include:

- **Nearly two-thirds back the proposal to increase state funding for preschool and K-12 education.** 65% of voters express support overall, with nearly half saying they are strongly supportive. Only 23% of voters oppose the proposal. Majority support for the proposal cuts across gender, age, ethnicity, parent status, and region of the state.

Figure 1: Delaware Education Funding Proposal Initial Support

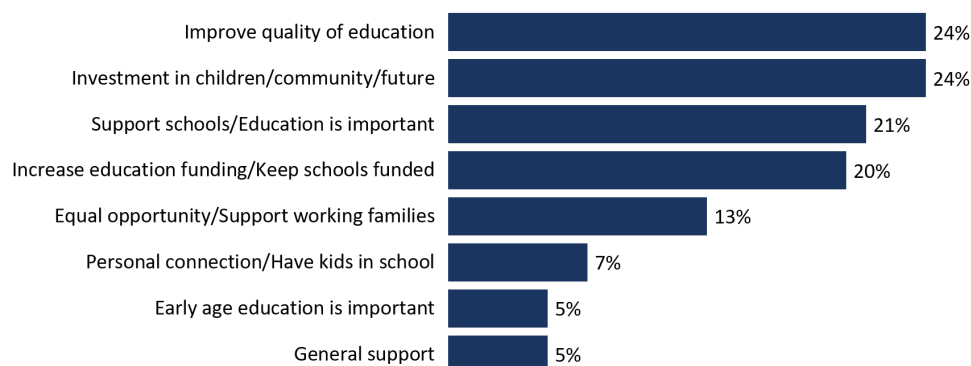
*“Next, some people have proposed increasing funding in the Delaware state budget for public education, including high-quality, affordable pre-school and early childhood education and K-12 education throughout the state.
Does this proposal seem like something you would support or oppose?”*



- **Supporters of the proposal are mainly driven by a desire to improve quality of education, invest more in children, and better support schools.** When supporters were asked to describe why they back the proposal, they mainly pointed to the importance of improving education, investing in children and the community, as well as doing more to support schools and education overall.

Figure 2: Reasons to Support the Proposal

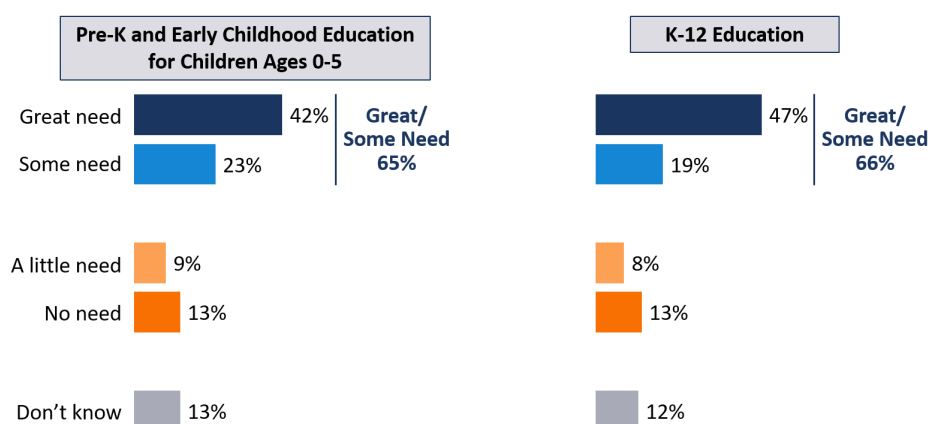
*"In a few words of your own, why do you **SUPPORT** this proposal?"*



- **Furthermore, most voters perceive a need for additional funding for both pre-K and K-12 education.** Two-thirds indicate there is a “great” or “some” need for additional funding for pre-K and early childhood education as well as for K-12 education.

Figure 3: Perceived Need for Education Funding

"Next, here is a series of education and youth programs in Delaware. For each one, please indicate if you think there is a great need for additional funding, some need, a little need, or no real need for additional funding for this type of program."



- Voters strongly agree that elected officials should prioritize making Delaware a place where families and children can live and thrive.** Ninety-three percent agree that elected officials should prioritize policies that make Delaware more livable for families and children. Meanwhile, nine in ten agree that we need to pay teachers and early educators a fair wage and 88% agree that high-quality early care and education improves a child’s overall development. Strong majorities are also in agreement about the need for affordable options for working families, the importance of high-quality early care and education, and the idea that strong public schools benefit the community overall.

Figure 4: Issues Affecting Delaware Children, Families and Education

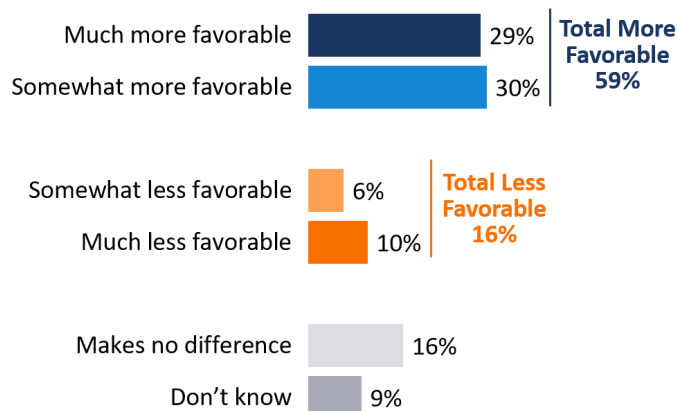
Next, please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements about issues affecting children and families and education in Delaware?

Statement	Total Agree
Elected officials should prioritize policies that make Delaware a place where families with children can live and thrive.	93%
We need to pay teachers and early educators a fair wage to ensure there are enough qualified educators in Delaware.	90%
High-quality early care and education improves children’s social, emotional, and brain development.	88%
More affordable pre-school and early childhood education will help more working parents make ends meet.	85%
High-quality early care and education allows children to enter school ready to learn.	83%
High-quality public schools will help strengthen our community and keep families from leaving for other states.	81%

- A majority says they would have a more favorable opinion of an elected official who is in support of the proposal to fund education.** Roughly three in five voters indicate they would view an elected official more favorably, with more than one-quarter saying they would be “much more” favorable, if they were in support of the proposal (**Figure 5** on the next page).

Figure 5: Support for Elected Official Who Backs Proposal

“Next, would you have a more or less favorable opinion of an elected official if you knew they supported this proposal to fund public education, including high-quality, affordable pre-school and early childhood education and K-12 education, or would it not make a difference?”



- Voters place the greatest priority on using funds to prevent neglect, improve reading and writing ability and programs, increase career technical education and job training, and retain and attract qualified educators.** Ninety-two percent view preventing child abuse and neglect as “extremely” or “very” important, while 90% say the same about increasing the number of students reading and writing at grade level. Approximately nine in ten strongly prioritize reading and writing programs, career technical education, as well as retaining and attracting qualified educators. Strong majorities also view preventing hunger and providing safe healthy places for children as highly important.

Figure 7: Top Spending Priorities

The following are some of the potential elements of the proposal, including ways in which funds it generates could be spent. Please indicate how important each one is to you personally: extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not too important?

Statement	Extremely/Very Important
Preventing child abuse and neglect	92%
Increasing the number of students reading and writing at grade level	90%
Providing high-quality reading and writing programs	89%
Increasing career technical education and job training in schools	88%
Retaining and attracting qualified educators	88%
Preventing hunger and ensuring children can get nutritious meals	85%
Providing a safe healthy place for children to learn and grow	85%
Removing asbestos, mold and lead paint	84%

Providing academic support for at-risk children, including foster youth and those experiencing homelessness	82%
Providing hands-on science, math, technology, art, and engineering programs	80%

Overall, the survey findings suggest that Delaware voters are strongly supportive of increasing investments in pre-K through 12 education. Voters perceive a need for additional funding, view the proposed use of funds as highly important, and are more likely to view elected officials who back this proposal favorably.

Methodology: From May 18-27, 2026, FM3 completed 615 online and telephone (landline and wireless) interviews with voters in Delaware. The margin of sampling error is +/-4.0% at the 95% confidence level. Margins of error for population subgroups within the sample will be higher. Due to rounding, not all totals will sum to 100%.