

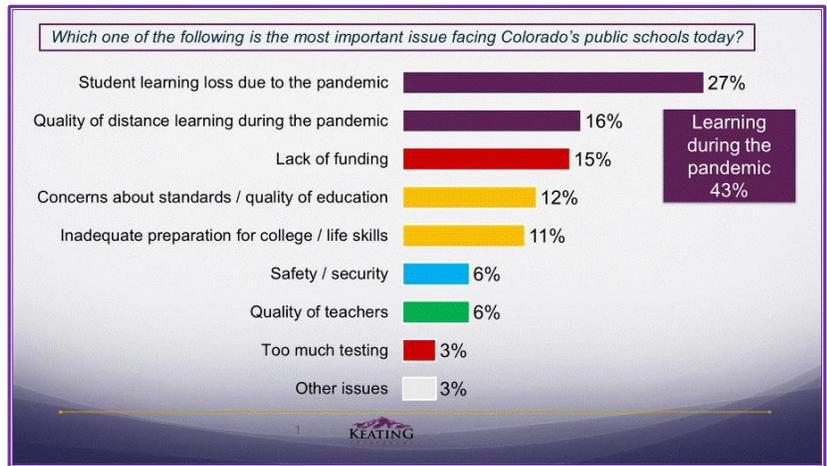


To: Interested Parties, Democrats for Education Reform
 From: Chris Keating, Keating Research
 Date: January 27, 2021
 Re: Key Findings from the January 2021 Colorado Statewide Poll

These key findings are based on a random sample of 600 respondents online, among voters statewide in Colorado. This survey sample of 600 voters is meant to accurately represent the population of active voters statewide in Colorado based on party registration, gender, age, education, region and ethnicity. The worst-case margin of error at the 95% level for this sample of 600 is plus or minus 4.0%. The poll was conducted from January 5 -10, 2021 by Keating Research. Keating Research is recognized by Democrats and Republicans alike as providing extremely accurate polling in Colorado.

✓ **The most important issue facing Colorado’s public schools is *student learning loss due to the pandemic*.**

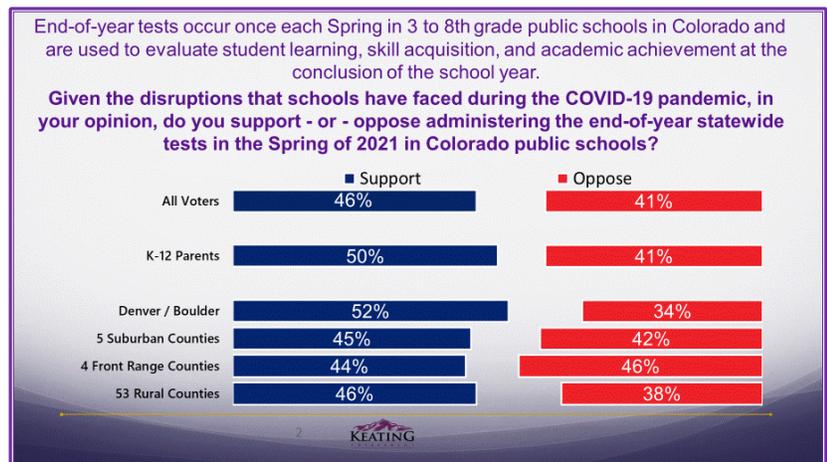
When asked which one of eight issues is the most important facing public schools today, the top issue - mentioned by 27% of Colorado voters - is *student learning loss due to the pandemic*. Another 16% say the *quality of distance learning during the pandemic* for a total of 43% who are alarmed about learning during the pandemic. The third most important issue is *lack of funding* (15%), followed by *concerns about standards / quality of education* (12%) and *inadequate preparation for college / life skills* (11%). The least important issues facing Colorado’s public schools today is *too much testing* (3%), *quality of teachers* (6%) and *safety / security* (6%).



The top issue for parents with a child in K-12 schools, is student learning loss due to the pandemic - mentioned by 32% of K-12 parents.

✓ **Given the disruptions schools have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, Coloradans are initially divided on whether to administer the end-of-year statewide tests.**

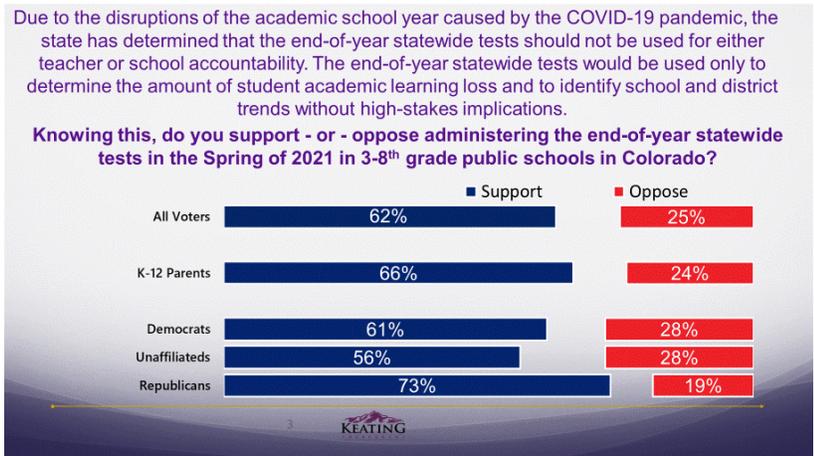
When Coloradans are asked about administering the end-of-year tests that are used to evaluate student learning, skill acquisition, and academic achievement, less than half (46%) support administering the end-of-year tests in 2021, while 41% are opposed to it, and 13% are undecided. Half – 50% – of parents with a child in K-12 schools initially support administering the end-of-year tests in 2021 (50% support to 41% oppose).



- ✓ **When it's understood that the end-of-year statewide tests will only be used to determine the amount of student learning loss and to identify school district trends, Coloradans support administering the end-of-year statewide tests by 2.5-to-1.**

When Coloradans are told that the state has determined that the end-of-year statewide tests should not be used for either teacher or school accountability, and the test would only be used to

determine the amount of student academic learning loss and to identify school and district trends without high stakes implications, a majority 62% support administering the end-of-year statewide tests in 2021, while 25% oppose it, and 12% are undecided.



Administering the end-of-year statewide tests without high stakes implications in 2021 receives nearly 3-to-1 support from parents with a child in K-12 schools (66% support to 24% oppose)

Administering the end-of-year statewide tests without high stakes implications in 2021 is also a non-partisan issue, supported by majorities of **Democrats** (61% support to 28% oppose), **Republicans** (73% support to 19% oppose) and the **Unaffiliateds** (56% support to 28% oppose).

Administering the end-of-year statewide tests without high stakes implications in 2021 is also supported by majorities across all key groups in Colorado, including:

- By majorities of **Men** (66% support to 24% oppose) and **Women** (59% support to 27% oppose).
- By **Younger age 18-49** (61% support to 26% oppose) and **Older age 50+** (64% support to 24% oppose).
- Equally by **Lower Income Families making less than \$75,000** (61% support to 23% oppose) and **Higher Income Families making \$75,000 or more** (63% support to 29% oppose).
- And in every corner of Colorado: **Denver / Boulder Counties** (59% support to 28% oppose), the **5 Suburban Counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Douglas and Jefferson** (64% support to 24% oppose), the **4 Front Range Counties of El Paso, Larimer, Pueblo and Weld** (60% support to 28% oppose), and in the **53 Rural Counties** (64% support to 22% oppose).

