



# CYGNAL

## **Survey of General Population**

Mississippi Statewide

*Conducted December 10 - 12, 2020*

n=500 |  $\pm 4.38\%$



1. Generally speaking, would you say that K-12 education in Mississippi is headed in the right direction or have things gotten off on the wrong track?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Right direction</u></b>	<b>204</b>	<b>40.7%</b>
Definitely the right direction	48	9.5%
Mostly the right direction	156	31.2%
<b><u>Wrong track</u></b>	<b>231</b>	<b>46.2%</b>
Mostly the wrong track	115	22.9%
Definitely the wrong track	116	23.3%
Unsure	65	13.0%
Total	500	100.0%

2. In your opinion, who is the most responsible for the quality of K-12 education in Mississippi?

	Freq.	%
The Governor	55	11.0%
The State Legislature	54	10.7%
The Mississippi Department of Education	205	41.1%
Local School Boards	66	13.2%
Local School Superintendents	65	12.9%
Unsure	55	11.0%
Total	500	100.0%

3. Based on your experience, do you think K-12 education in Mississippi needs to change a lot, some, a little, or not at all?

	Freq.	%
A lot	233	46.6%
Some	167	33.4%
A little	55	11.0%
Not at all	13	2.7%
Unsure	32	6.3%
Total	500	100.0%

4. Some argue that control of schools should be returned to local school districts, rather than state and federal government. This would reduce state and federal regulations on schools and teachers and give more decision-making power to local school districts. Based on this information, do you favor or oppose increased local control of education?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Favor</u></b>	<b>299</b>	<b>59.8%</b>
Strongly favor	185	36.9%
Somewhat favor	114	22.8%
<b><u>Neither favor nor oppose</u></b>	<b>75</b>	<b>15.0%</b>
<b><u>Oppose</u></b>	<b>97</b>	<b>19.4%</b>
Somewhat oppose	54	10.8%



Strongly oppose	43	8.6%
Unsure	29	5.9%
Total	500	100.0%

5. As you may know, currently most students who attend traditional public schools are assigned to their school based on district boundaries and school attendance zones. Open enrollment allows parents to choose to send their children to a public school outside of their assigned neighborhood. Based on this information, do you favor or oppose open enrollment?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Favor</u></b>	<b><u>294</u></b>	<b><u>58.8%</u></b>
Strongly favor	182	36.5%
Somewhat favor	111	22.3%
<b><u>Neither favor nor oppose</u></b>	<b><u>73</u></b>	<b><u>14.5%</u></b>
<b><u>Oppose</u></b>	<b><u>108</u></b>	<b><u>21.7%</u></b>
Somewhat oppose	60	12.0%
Strongly oppose	48	9.7%
Unsure	25	5.1%
Total	500	100.0%

6. Even before COVID-19, some had proposed an expansion of virtual schooling in Mississippi, particularly for homebound students, different kinds of learners, students who move or travel often, those assigned to failing schools, or victims of bullying. Based on this information, do you favor or oppose the creation of a virtual public school option in Mississippi?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Favor</u></b>	<b><u>258</u></b>	<b><u>51.5%</u></b>
Strongly favor	134	26.8%
Somewhat favor	123	24.7%
<b><u>Neither favor nor oppose</u></b>	<b><u>68</u></b>	<b><u>13.6%</u></b>
<b><u>Oppose</u></b>	<b><u>145</u></b>	<b><u>29.0%</u></b>
Somewhat oppose	58	11.6%
Strongly oppose	87	17.3%
Unsure	30	6.0%
Total	500	100.0%

7. Do you agree or disagree that COVID-19 has revealed the need for more choices for parents when it comes to their children's education?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Agree</u></b>	<b><u>368</u></b>	<b><u>73.6%</u></b>
Strongly Agree	221	44.3%



Somewhat Agree	147	29.3%
<b><u>Disagree</u></b>	<b>96</b>	<b>19.2%</b>
Somewhat Disagree	60	12.0%
Strongly Disagree	36	7.2%
Unsure	36	7.2%
Total	500	100.0%

8. Are you the parent or legal guardian of one or more children under the age of 18 in Mississippi?

	Freq.	%
Yes	187	37.4%
No	313	62.6%
Total	500	100.0%

9. In what type of school are the children in your household enrolled?

	Freq.	%
Traditional public school	131	70.0%
Public charter school	19	10.0%
Non-religious private school	8	4.1%
Religious private school	22	11.5%
Home school	29	15.4%
Total	187	100.0%

10. Which of the following best describes the main reason your child or children attend their current school?

	Freq.	%
Cost of attendance	13	6.9%
Quality of education	57	30.7%
School safety	19	10.4%
Proximity to work/home	38	20.0%
Religious or philosophical reasons	7	3.8%
Athletics and/or extracurricular activities	7	3.5%
It's the only option	41	21.9%
Unsure	5	2.8%
Total	187	100.0%

Thinking about the coronavirus crisis...

11. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that schooling and education in Mississippi has been handled in response to the COVID-19 outbreak?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Approve</u></b>	<b>80</b>	<b>42.6%</b>
Strongly approve	31	16.8%



Somewhat approve	48	25.8%
<b><u>Neither approve nor disapprove</u></b>	<b><u>23</u></b>	<b><u>12.0%</u></b>
<b><u>Disapprove</u></b>	<b><u>83</u></b>	<b><u>44.2%</u></b>
Somewhat disapprove	36	19.2%
Strongly disapprove	47	25.0%
Unsure	2	1.2%
Total	187	100.0%

12. Are the children in your household currently participating in virtual learning, in-person learning, or a combination of the two?

	Freq.	%
Virtual learning	56	29.8%
In-person learning	61	32.6%
Combination of both virtual and in-person learning	64	33.9%
Unsure	7	3.7%
Total	187	100.0%

13. How satisfied have you been with virtual learning options available to your child?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Satisfied</u></b>	<b><u>69</u></b>	<b><u>57.6%</u></b>
Very satisfied	28	23.2%
Somewhat satisfied	41	34.4%
<b><u>Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied</u></b>	<b><u>16</u></b>	<b><u>13.5%</u></b>
<b><u>Dissatisfied</u></b>	<b><u>34</u></b>	<b><u>28.2%</u></b>
Somewhat dissatisfied	13	10.7%
Very dissatisfied	21	17.6%
Unsure	1	0.7%
Total	119	100.0%

14. I have had to significantly modify my work routine to adapt to my responsibilities related to my child's education during COVID-19.

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Agree</u></b>	<b><u>106</u></b>	<b><u>56.5%</u></b>
Strongly agree	64	34.3%
Somewhat agree	41	22.1%
<b><u>Neither agree nor disagree</u></b>	<b><u>27</u></b>	<b><u>14.7%</u></b>
<b><u>Disagree</u></b>	<b><u>34</u></b>	<b><u>17.9%</u></b>
Somewhat disagree	12	6.5%



Strongly disagree	21	11.5%
Does not apply	17	9.0%
Unsure	4	2.0%
Total	187	100.0%

15. Have your children changed schools or have you considered changing schools since March 2020 due to COVID-19?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Yes</u></b>	<b><u>52</u></b>	<b><u>27.6%</u></b>
Yes, we've changed schools	15	8.1%
Yes, we've considered changing schools but haven't yet	36	19.5%
<b><u>No, we've neither changed nor considered changing</u></b>	<b><u>128</u></b>	<b><u>68.5%</u></b>
Unsure	7	3.8%
Total	187	100.0%

16. Are you a teacher in the state of Mississippi?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Yes</u></b>	<b><u>57</u></b>	<b><u>11.5%</u></b>
Yes, public school teacher	34	6.7%
Yes, private school teacher	16	3.2%
Yes, public charter school teacher	8	1.6%
<b><u>No</u></b>	<b><u>443</u></b>	<b><u>88.5%</u></b>
Total	500	100.0%

17. Are you a grandparent of one or more children under the age of 18?

	Freq.	%
Yes	148	29.7%
No	350	70.1%
Refused	1	0.2%
Total	500	100.0%

18. Are you female or male?

	Freq.	%
Female	261	52.2%
Male	239	47.8%
Total	500	100.0%

19. What age range do you fall within?



	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
<b><u>Under 50</u></b>	<b><u>287</u></b>	<b><u>57.3%</u></b>
18 – 34	156	31.1%
35 – 49	131	26.2%
<b><u>50 and Over</u></b>	<b><u>214</u></b>	<b><u>42.7%</u></b>
50 – 64	131	26.1%
65 or older	83	16.6%
Total	500	100.0%

20. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
<b><u>Republican</u></b>	<b><u>197</u></b>	<b><u>39.3%</u></b>
Strongly Republican	127	25.3%
Mostly Republican	70	14.0%
<b><u>Independent</u></b>	<b><u>103</u></b>	<b><u>20.6%</u></b>
<b><u>Democratic</u></b>	<b><u>170</u></b>	<b><u>34.0%</u></b>
Mostly Democratic	63	12.6%
Strongly Democratic	107	21.3%
Unsure	30	6.1%
Total	500	100.0%

21. And thinking about your views toward politics and government, would you say you are...

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
<b><u>Conservative</u></b>	<b><u>229</u></b>	<b><u>45.8%</u></b>
Very conservative	124	24.8%
Somewhat conservative	105	20.9%
<b><u>Moderate</u></b>	<b><u>126</u></b>	<b><u>25.1%</u></b>
<b><u>Liberal</u></b>	<b><u>98</u></b>	<b><u>19.6%</u></b>
Somewhat liberal	48	9.5%
Very liberal	50	10.0%
Unsure	48	9.6%
Total	500	100.0%

22. How many children under the age of 18 live in your household or are you the guardian for?

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
1	90	44.2%
2	60	29.6%
3	34	16.8%
4	13	6.4%
5	4	2.0%
6	2	1.0%
Total	204	100.0%



23. Applicable grade years of the children in your household.

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Not yet in school	41	20.4%
Kindergarten - 5th Grade	101	49.7%
6th Grade - 8th Grade	63	30.8%
9th Grade - 12th Grade	72	35.4%
Total	204	100.0%

24. Do you consider the area where you live to be more rural, suburban, or urban?

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Rural	222	44.4%
Suburban	196	39.2%
Urban	82	16.4%
Total	500	100.0%

25. What is the highest level of education you have achieved?

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Completed some high school but did not graduate	12	2.4%
High school graduate	107	21.5%
Completed some college or vocational/technical training	131	26.2%
Associate or two-year degree	81	16.2%
Bachelor's or four-year degree	93	18.6%
Master's degree	48	9.6%
PhD, law, or medical degree	14	2.8%
Other advanced degree beyond a master's degree	7	1.4%
Unsure	6	1.3%
Total	500	100.0%

26. What annual income range do you fall within out of the following options?

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Less than \$50,000	278	55.6%
\$50,000 - \$100,000	150	30.0%
More than \$100,000	67	13.4%
Unknown	5	1.0%
Total	500	100.0%

27. Which of the following best describes your ethnicity?

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
White	290	58.0%
Hispanic or Latino	4	0.8%
Black or African-American	190	38.0%
Native American or American Indian	2	0.4%
Asian / Pacific Islander	3	0.5%
Other	5	1.1%
Prefer not to say	6	1.1%
Total	500	100.0%





28. Congressional District

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
1	129	25.8%
2	117	23.3%
3	124	24.8%
4	131	26.1%
Total	500	100.0%

29. Geo- Media Market

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Meridian Dma (Est.)	16	3.2%
Mobile/Pensacola Dma (Est.)	5	1.0%
Baton Rouge Dma (Est.)	5	1.1%
Biloxi/Gulf Dma (Est.)	74	14.8%
Columbus/Tupelo Dma (Est.)	90	18.1%
Greenwood Dma (Est.)	29	5.7%
Hattsburg/Laurel Dma (Est.)	48	9.6%
Jackson Ms Dma (Est.)	143	28.6%
Memphis Dma (Est.)	65	13.0%
New Orleans Dma (Est.)	25	4.9%
Total	500	100.0%

30. Age + Gender

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
F 18 - 34	100	19.9%
F 35 - 49	62	12.4%
F 50 - 64	62	12.5%
F 65+	37	7.4%
M 18 - 34	56	11.2%
M 35 - 49	69	13.8%
M 50 - 64	68	13.6%
M 65+	46	9.2%
Total	500	100.0%

31. Age (<65 vs. 65+) + Income

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
<65 Less than \$50,000	236	47.3%
<65 \$50,000 - \$100,000	125	25.0%
<65 More than \$100,000	53	10.5%
65+ Less than \$50,000	42	8.3%
65+ \$50,000 - \$100,000	25	5.0%
65+ More than \$100,000	14	2.8%
Unknown	5	1.0%
Total	500	100.0%



32. Gender & Urbanicity

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Rural Female	120	24.0%
Rural Male	102	20.4%
Suburban Female	96	19.2%
Suburban Male	100	20.0%
Urban Female	45	9.0%
Urban Male	37	7.4%
Total	500	100.0%

33. Party from File

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Republican	189	37.8%
Democratic	178	35.6%
Other	133	26.6%
Total	500	100.0%

34. Generation

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Gen Z	83	16.7%
Millennials	141	28.2%
Gen X	98	19.5%
Boomers	132	26.4%
Traditionalists	23	4.6%
Unknown	23	4.7%
Total	500	100.0%

35. White Working Class

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
White Working Class	139	27.8%
Other	361	72.2%
Total	500	100.0%

36. White College Degree

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
White College Degree	106	21.3%
Other	394	78.7%
Total	500	100.0%

37. Education

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Bachelor's degree or higher	126	25.1%
Some college	163	32.6%
High school or less	141	28.3%



Unknown	70	14.0%
Total	500	100.0%

**38. Education + Gender**

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Female College degree	55	11.0%
Female No degree	180	35.9%
Female Unknown	26	5.3%
Male College degree	71	14.1%
Male No degree	125	25.0%
Male Unknown	44	8.7%
Total	500	100.0%

**39. Partisanship + Age**

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Republican 18 – 34	43	8.7%
Republican 35 – 49	45	9.1%
Republican 50 – 64	66	13.1%
Republican 65 or older	42	8.4%
Democratic 18 – 34	71	14.2%
Democratic 35 – 49	44	8.7%
Democratic 50 – 64	34	6.7%
Democratic 65 or older	22	4.4%
Independent 18 – 34	28	5.6%
Independent 35 – 49	31	6.2%
Independent 50 – 64	26	5.2%
Independent 65 or older	18	3.6%
Unsure	30	6.1%
Total	500	100.0%

**40. Partisanship + Gender**

	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Republican Female	93	18.7%
Republican Male	103	20.6%
Democratic Female	96	19.1%
Democratic Male	74	14.8%
Independent Female	53	10.6%
Independent Male	50	10.1%
Unsure	30	6.1%
Total	500	100.0%

**METHODOLOGY**

This probabilistic survey was conducted December 10 – 12, 2020, with 500 Mississippi residents. It has a margin of error of  $\pm 4.38\%$ . Respondents were interviewed via a secure online portal, live phones, SMS, and email invitation. This survey was weighted to a universe of Mississippi residents.

**ABOUT THE FIRM**

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Republican private pollster by Nate Silver's [FiveThirtyEight](#), as well as the #1 most accurate polling and research firm in the country for 2018 by *The New York Times*. Its team members have worked in 47 states and countries on more than 1,100 corporate, public affairs, and political campaigns.

