



**FUTURO**  
SAN ANTONIO

# **STUDENTS FIRST:** HOW SAN ANTONIANS ARE RESPONDING TO A CHANGING PUBLIC EDUCATION LANDSCAPE

New polling data reveals voters are ready for leaders to **hold schools accountable** and **demand better** for students and families.



# SAN ANTONIO'S PUBLIC SCHOOL ECOSYSTEM IS AT A CROSSROADS

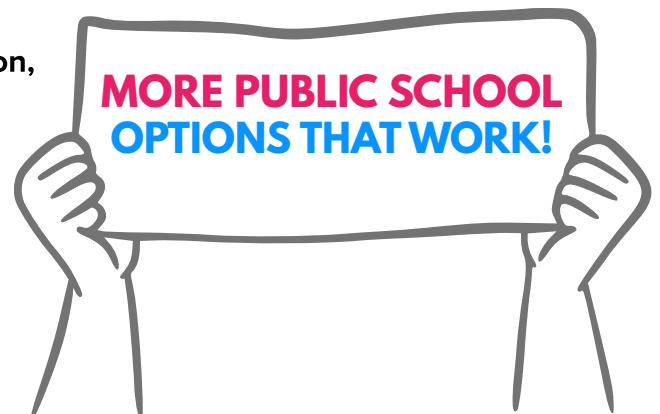
## SUMMARY

San Antonio's public school ecosystem is at a crossroads. School closures, declining enrollment, and budget pressures are reshaping the public education landscape, and families are paying attention. With Texas Education Agency (TEA) data from the 24-25 school year showing that **50,104 students are enrolled in D- or F-rated campuses across 115 schools within San Antonio's city limits**, the moment for bold, student-centered leadership is here.

In March 2026, Futuro San Antonio surveyed 439 Bexar County residents to understand how San Antonians feel about the state of public education, what they want for their children, and what they believe leaders must do next. The results are clear: residents want **excellence, accountability, and real choices**, and they're ready for local leaders to meet this moment.

## FOUR KEY FINDINGS:

- **Parents are not satisfied** with what is being offered to them and their children.
- When choosing schools, **caregivers care most about who is in the front of the classroom** teaching their children and what is being done to keep good teachers there.
- **Parents want options**, and they want to be able to access those options.
- **Caregivers are ready to reimagine public education**, including supporting school closures, if it means a system that truly works for their children.



# FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS

## WHAT FAMILIES THINK: THE CURRENT REALITY

<p><b>Only 9%</b> say schools prepare students academically “very well”</p>	<p><b>Only 5.9%</b> say schools manage taxpayer dollars “very well”</p>	<p><b>Only 9.1%</b> say schools reflect family values and priorities “very well”</p>
<p><b>50,104 STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN D- OR F- RATED CAMPUSES ACROSS 115 SCHOOLS (TEA 2024-25)</b></p>		

## WHAT FAMILIES WANT: REAL CHOICES

<p><b>#1: ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS</b></p> <p><i>95.5% of respondents say this is “very important”. An investment in teachers is a direct investment in students.</i></p>	<p><b>#2: SCHOOL SAFETY</b></p> <p><i>Families want to trust that their children will be safe and well taken care of.</i></p>	<p><b>#3: ACADEMIC QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE</b></p> <p><i>Families want schools to prepare their children to succeed in life after graduation.</i></p>
<p><b>FAMILIES KNOW EXACTLY WHAT A GREAT SCHOOL LOOKS AND FEELS LIKE. THEY’RE CHOOSING SCHOOLS, NOT SYSTEMS.</b></p>		

## WHAT FAMILIES ENVISION: A TRANSFORMATIONAL ECOSYSTEM

San Antonians have a clear mandate for leaders on how to improve our public schools:

<p><b>#1 Priority:</b> <b>SUPPORT &amp; RETAIN GREAT TEACHERS (48%)</b></p>	<p><b>#2 Priority:</b> <b>EVERY CHILD GETS A GREAT SCHOOL (43%)</b></p>	<p><b>#3 Priority:</b> <b>HOLD SCHOOLS ACCOUNTABLE FOR RESULTS (25%)</b></p>
<p><i>Nearly 1 in 2 rank this as the single most important improvement.</i></p>	<p><i>Regardless of zip code, equity and access are built into the ecosystem.</i></p>	<p><i>Schools must actually prepare students with the necessary academic skills to succeed in life.</i></p>

# PUBLIC SCHOOL OPTIONS MATTER

## FAMILIES WANT OPTIONS, AND THEY WANT THEM TO WORK

Rather than defending any one system, San Antonians want a public education landscape that delivers, regardless of school type. **Nearly 64% say families should either have broad choice across all public options, or that traditional ISD's should anchor the system with strong, meaningful alternatives when schools underperform.**

## WHAT PARENTS WANT

PARENTS IN PARTICULAR SEE THE NEED FOR CHOICES.  
WHEN ASKED WHAT TYPES OF SCHOOLS FAMILIES SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO,

**58%**

SUPPORT ACCESS TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

**55%**

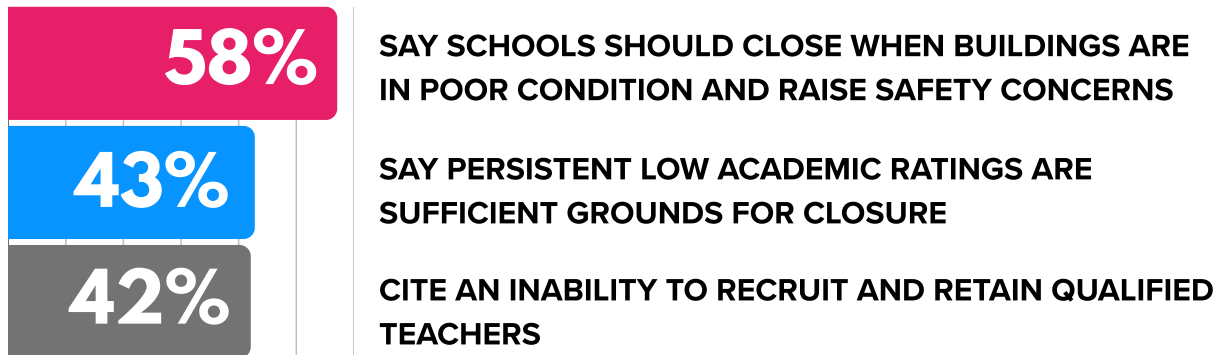
SUPPORT ACCESS TO PUBLIC MAGNET SCHOOLS



# ACCOUNTABILITY IS WHAT PARENTS DEMAND

## MAJORITY OF VOTERS SUPPORT SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY, INCLUDING SCHOOL CLOSURES

Despite the political complexity around school closures, San Antonians are pragmatic.



## WHAT PARENTS CARE ABOUT WHEN CHOOSING A SCHOOL

THE TOP THREE THINGS PARENTS CARE MOST ABOUT WHEN CHOOSING A SCHOOL FOR THEIR CHILD ARE:



**ACCESS TO  
QUALITY TEACHERS**



**SCHOOL SAFETY**



**ACADEMY QUALITY  
AND PERFORMANCE**

# THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE

## NOT ALL SCHOOLS ARE MEETING STUDENTS' NEEDS

San Antonio residents, not just those with school-aged children, are concerned about how public schools are currently performing across key measures:

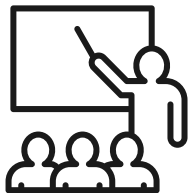
- Only **9%** say schools are doing "very well" at preparing students academically
- Only **5.9%** say schools manage taxpayer dollars "very well"
- Only **9.1%** say schools "very well" reflect the values and priorities of the families they serve



**San Antonians understand the difference between a budget challenge and a performance shortfall, and they're no longer willing to accept one as an explanation for the other.**

## THREE PRIORITIES FOR BETTER SCHOOLS

**THE TOP THREE THINGS SAN ANTONIANS BELIEVE SHOULD HAPPEN IN ORDER TO IMPROVE PUBLIC EDUCATION ARE:**



**SUPPORT AND  
RETAIN GREAT TEACHERS**

**48%**



**ENSURE EVERY CHILD HAS ACCESS  
TO A HIGH-QUALITY SCHOOL**

**43%**



**MAKE SCHOOLS ACCOUNTABLE  
FOR STUDENT RESULTS**

**25%**

# STUDENTS DESERVE GREAT TEACHERS

## INVESTMENT IN HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS IS A TOP PRIORITY

San Antonians agree on one thing above nearly all else: **teacher quality matters.**

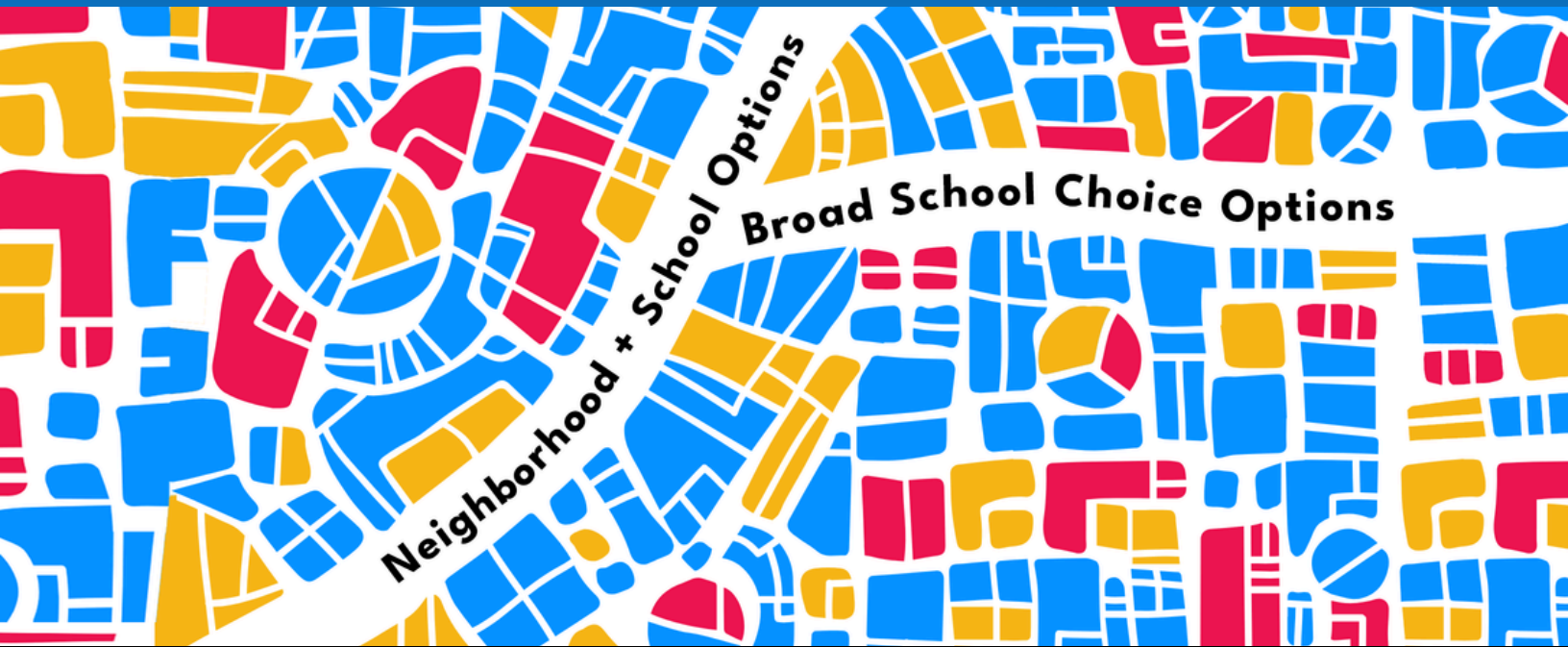
- **95.5%** say teacher quality and stability are "**very important**" when choosing a school—the highest-rated factor in the poll.
- **Nearly 1 in 2 (48.2%)** rank supporting and **retaining great teachers** as the single most important improvement for public education.
- When asked how to prioritize limited school funding, **1/2 of respondents** say recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers is the top need.



THE DATA SENDS AN UNMISTAKABLE SIGNAL: **INVEST IN STRONG TEACHERS, AND YOU INVEST IN STUDENTS.**



# WHAT SAN ANTONIO FAMILIES WANT



## SAN ANTONIANS ENVISION AN ECOSYSTEM OF PUBLIC SCHOOL OPTIONS

When asked about their vision for the future of public education, San Antonians **reject both the status quo and a single-system approach.**

### MORE SCHOOL OPTIONS

Families want to have the **freedom to choose** across public—including ISD, magnet, and charter—and private options (**30.8%**).

### ACCESS TO QUALITY SCHOOLS

San Antonians want strong neighborhood schools as the foundation, **with real choices** when those schools aren't working (**18.5%**).

### A NEW PATH FORWARD

Respondents say San Antonio needs a **complete reimaging of how public education is structured and funded** (**14.5%**).

Together,

# 63%

of residents envision a future that centers either **broad choice** or a **strong neighborhood-plus-options** model.

This is a mandate for leaders willing to think beyond the charter vs. traditional divide and instead **embrace a thriving ecosystem of public school options.**



# NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

## YOUR CALL TO ACTION

San Antonians are not asking for a winner in the debate between school systems. **They are asking for leaders who will set a high bar, hold all schools accountable to it, and ensure that every child, regardless of zip code, has access to what they deserve: an excellent education.**

To every civic leader in this city: **the community has spoken. The data is clear.** Now it's time to rise and act with the same urgency that this moment demands.

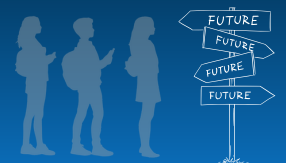


## OUR STUDENTS CANNOT WAIT, SO WHY SHOULD WE?

**Step 1:** Learn more about our work at [futuro-sa.org](https://futuro-sa.org) and subscribe to receive updates and opportunities to your inbox. **Step 2:** Follow us on social media. **Step 3:** Join our movement.

## TOGETHER, LET'S PUT STUDENTS FIRST.

Bexar County Survey conducted by Blueprint Polling  
March 31 - April 1, 2026 N = 439 MoE = +/- 4.68  
Responses were collected from a random sample of Bexar County voters and reviewed for representativeness across core demographic and geographic benchmarks.





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## **ABOUT US**

We are a coalition of education advocates dedicated to ensuring all San Antonio children have access to an excellent public education and greater prosperity for their futuro (future). By harnessing the power of community, we will promote civic engagement, invest in leadership capacity, and organize a grassroots movement. To learn more, please visit:

**[Futuro-SA.org](http://Futuro-SA.org)**