

Missouri Voters' Opinions on Open Enrollment in Public Schools

The following document summarizes the opinions of likely voters in Missouri on issues related to open enrollment in schools (i.e., allowing students who live in one school district to attend public schools in a different school district). Subjects include voters' support of allowing open enrollment, allowing schools to restrict who they accept, transportation for students, and funding for schools. These results are from SLU/YouGov Polls conducted from June 2020 to February 2025.

Full demographic crosstabs and raw data for independent analyses of SLU/YouGov Polls are available at slu.edu/poll.

Key Missouri Findings from the [February 2024 Poll](#)

- 59% of Missouri voters support allowing students to enroll in public schools outside of the district where they live.
- 83% of Missouri voters believe transferring students or their guardians should be responsible for transportation to and from nonresident districts.
- 39% of Missouri voters support allowing school districts to opt out of having students transfer into their districts. 43% oppose.
- 30% of Missouri voters support transferring more than half or all local tax revenue designated for a student's education to the nonresident school district, where the student now attends school.

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About the SLU/YouGov Poll

The SLU/YouGov Poll is a biannual survey of likely Missouri voters aiming to inform policymakers, citizens, and researchers of Missourians' opinions on important issues facing the state. No other academic institution regularly conducts a non-partisan, scientific survey of Missouri voters and makes results and raw data publicly available. For questions or suggestions concerning the SLU/YouGov Poll, contact poll director Steven Rogers, Ph.D., at steven.rogers@slu.edu.

About Saint Louis University

Founded in 1818, Saint Louis University is one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious Catholic institutions. Rooted in Jesuit values and its pioneering history as the first university west of the Mississippi River, SLU offers more than 15,200 students a rigorous, transformative education of the whole person. At the core of the University's diverse community of scholars is SLU's service-focused mission, which challenges and prepares students to make the world a better, more just place.

About YouGov

Saint Louis University has partnered with YouGov to conduct its annual survey of Missouri voters. YouGov conducts surveys for multiple academic institutions and is the primary, trusted survey firm for media organizations, including CBS News and The Economist. An independent Pew Research Center study of online survey firms in 2016 further concluded that YouGov "consistently outperforms competitors."

The SLU/YouGov Poll is funded by the PRiME Center in SLU's School of Education.

Missouri Voters' Opinion on Open Enrollment

Support for Open Enrollment

Do you support or oppose the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...allow students to enroll in public schools outside of the school district where they live	59%	53%	64%	59%
...allow students to enroll in public schools, excluding charter schools, outside of the school district where they live	45%	46%	50%	38%
...allow students enrolled in a district's schools to remain in that district's schools for the complete school year, even if they move out of the district during the school year	77%	78%	76%	79%
...allow students enrolled in a district's schools to remain in that district's schools until they graduate high school, even if they move out of the district	54%	56%	54%	53%

Reporting percent strongly support/support. Source: Feb. 2024 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.74%

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...allow students to enroll in public schools outside of their assigned school district	61%	56%	62%	64%

Reporting percent agree. Source: Aug. 2022 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.75%

Do you support or oppose the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...allowing students to enroll in public schools outside of their assigned school district	66%	63%	67%	68%

Reporting percent strongly/somewhat support. Source: June 2020 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.95%

School District Restrictions on Accepting Open Enrollment Students

If Missouri allows students to enroll in public schools outside their residential school districts (that is, the district where they live), indicate whether you support or oppose the following...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...school districts may limit the number of students who transfer out of their district	30%	35%	30%	27%
...school districts may opt out of having students transfer into their districts	39%	30%	45%	42%
...school districts must accept transferring in students who have special education needs	62%	74%	54%	58%
...school districts must accept transferring in students who have special education needs only if the receiving school district determines it can provide appropriate special educational services	67%	60%	76%	67%

Reporting percent strongly support/support. Source: Feb. 2024 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.74%

Transportation for Open Enrollment Students

If Missouri allows students to enroll in public schools outside their residential school districts (that is, the district where they live), indicate whether you support or oppose the following...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...transferring students or their guardians should be responsible for transportation to and from nonresident districts	83%	78%	88%	83%
...the State of Missouri should reimburse the receiving school district for the transportation costs of nonresident students who qualify for free or reduced-price school lunch or special education services	49%	61%	40%	49%

Reporting percent strongly support/support. Source: Feb. 2024 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.74%

Funding for Open Enrollment Students

If Missouri allows students to enroll in public schools outside of their resident school districts (that is, the district where they live), how should local tax revenue designated for a student’s education be allocated for students who attend school outside of the district where they live...

	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...all local tax revenue should stay in the student’s district, where the student lives	40%	41%	41%	37%
...less than half of local tax revenue should transfer to the nonresident school district, where the student now attends school	10%	10%	7%	13%
...more than half of local tax revenue should transfer to the nonresident school district, where the student now attends school	11%	12%	9%	12%
...all local tax revenue should transfer to the nonresident school district, where the student now attends school	19%	14%	25%	17%
...not sure	20%	23%	18%	21%

Reporting percent selected. Source: Feb. 2024 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.74%