

From: Data For Progress and The Justice Collaborative Institute

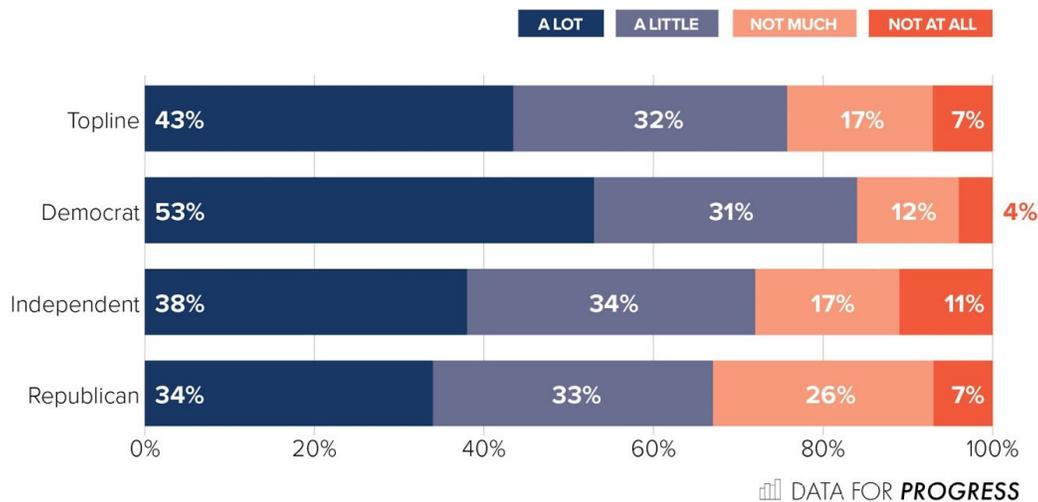
Re: Voters look to guidance from the CDC and local school officials over Trump on when to reopen schools

Date: 08/04/2020

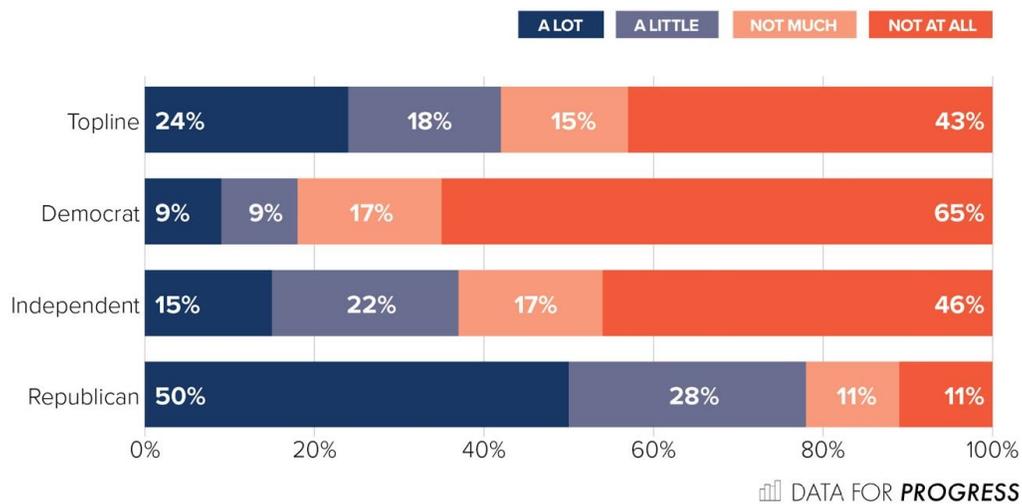
The questions of whether, when, and how to safely open America's schools have become the center of political fights over the coronavirus. President Trump has taken a hard line on opening schools -- his administration is insisting that schools must fully re-open for in-person learning, and is [threatening to cut federal funding](#) for districts that refuse (though he lacks the legal authority to unilaterally do so). Trump has also dismissed guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) on schools opening as "tough," "expensive," and "impractical," and has [pressured the agency](#) to water down its advice.

New polling from Data for Progress and The Justice Collaborative Institute finds that a majority of voters (75%) trust the CDC to provide guidance on when schools can safely reopen, yet less than half (42%) trust President Trump's judgement on the matter.

How much do you trust The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) with providing guidance on safely reopening schools in your community?

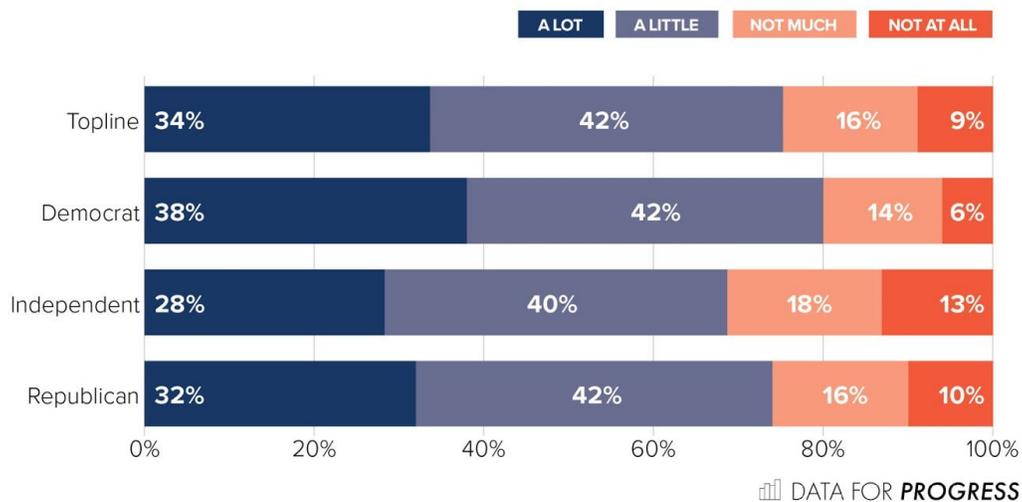


How much do you trust President Trump with providing guidance on safely reopening schools in your community?



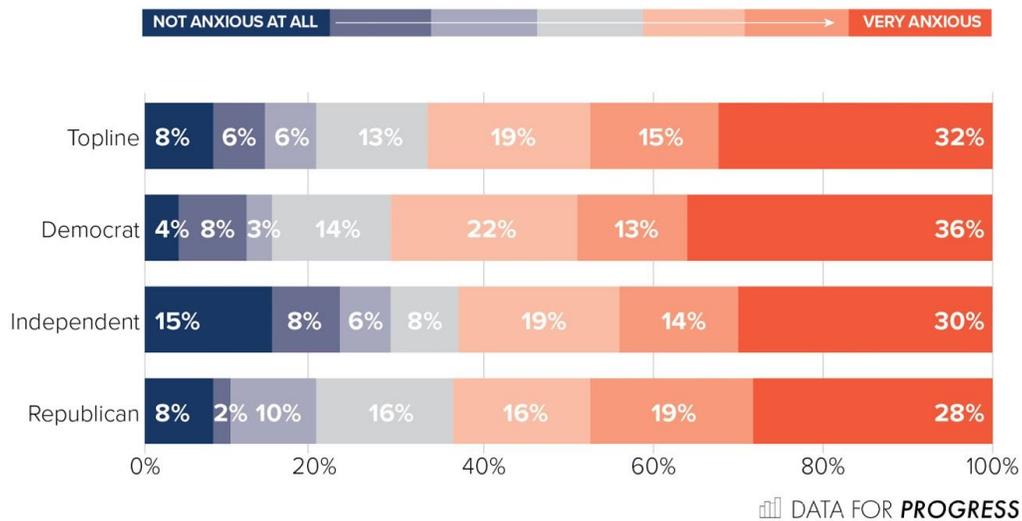
The polling also finds that voters (76%) trust guidance from school officials on when schools should re-open, substantially higher than the 42% who trust Trump.

How much do you trust your local school officials with providing guidance on safely reopening schools in your community?



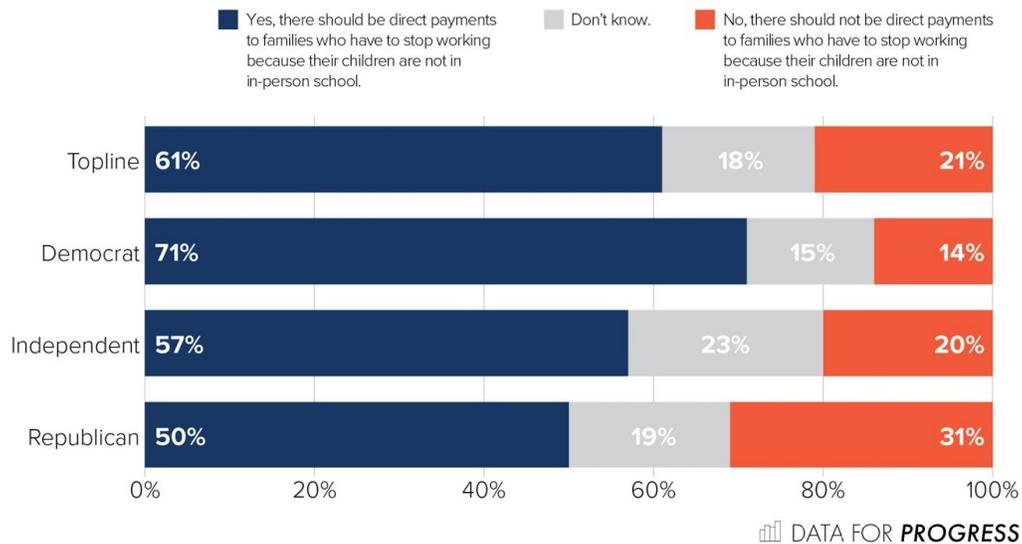
But even if closing schools is necessary for public health, that action comes at a tremendous cost. The social, educational, and psychological costs of a prolonged shutdown can be profound. Still, polling on the matter finds that a plurality of parents (32%) are very anxious about their child attending school in-person in the fall, compared to 8% that are not anxious at all.

On a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 means not at all and 7 means very anxious, how anxious would you be if your child attended school in-person in the fall?



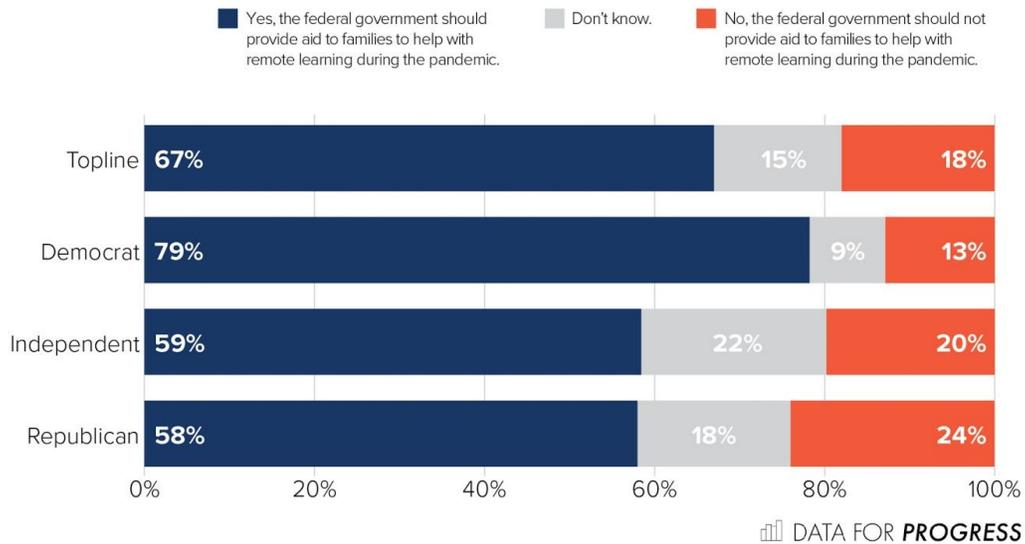
If schools remain closed while more of the economy reopens, some parents may have to quit or take unpaid leave from their jobs to stay home with children. Our polling shows that a substantial majority of voters (61%), including 50% of Republicans, support direct payments to parents who, either because of school closings or their child’s health, need to stop working outside the home to home school their young children.

Should there be direct payments to families who, because of school closings or their child’s health, need to stop working outside the home to homeschool their young children?



In addition, 67% of voters believe that the federal government should help cover some of the costs necessary to make remote learning possible during the pandemic.

Should the federal government provide aid (such as high-speed internet access and teacher assistance) to families to make remote learning possible during the pandemic?



Methodology

From 7/31/2020 to 8/1/2020 Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,098 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is +/- 3 percent.