



# US support for education public private partnerships





## Executive Summary

What do the US public know about the global lack of learning and the shortage of quality teachers? How do they feel about some key approaches to tackling these issues? This report looks at US public perception of the global learning crisis and some policy options on the role of non-state actors to help.

Both USAID and the World Bank have newly published education strategies that embrace the role of the private sector in helping to deliver quality education in low and middle income countries. This research, commissioned by Bridge International Academies, sought to understand if the general public agree with this new stance taken by the US Government and other global development finance institutions.

The research found that general knowledge of the global learning crisis is low and there is strong evidence that the public broadly support policy options that encourage the role of non-state actors to help deliver or enhance education.

A survey of two thousand US adults was conducted in March 2019. By exploring public attitudes towards education in a development context, the survey has revealed that 78% of people think there should be more education public private partnerships in developing countries.

Other key findings in the the research include:

- Only a quarter of people are aware of how many children are out of school globally.
- Almost eight in ten people believe there should be more private providers of affordable or free education in countries that struggle.
- Seventy-one per cent of those polled think that a social enterprise running a quality school that costs about \$8 US per month for one child is a good idea.
- When asked if a social enterprise, like Bridge International Academies, should help governments who ask for support to improve the teaching quality in their free state schools, 79% agreed.

OnePoll, who conducted the poll, are a leading survey organisation that conducts market research for major brands. Their surveys are carefully distributed to ensure the respondents represent a mix of ages, locations, income brackets, ethnicity, and all demographics.

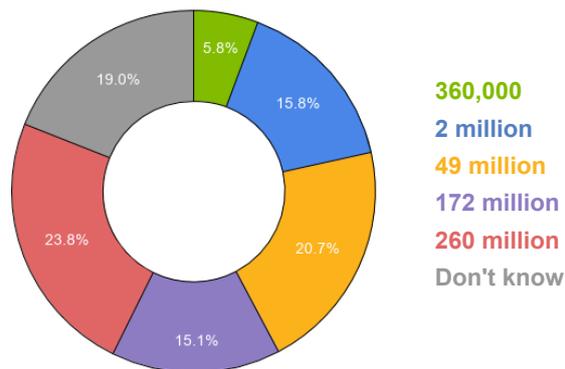
## The global learning crisis

People in the US are more informed than their UK counterparts in terms of awareness of education failings in the developing world.

Most people underestimated the vast scale of the international education challenge. But although the frequent official estimates put the number of children out of school worldwide at 260 million; most people in the US thought this number was smaller.

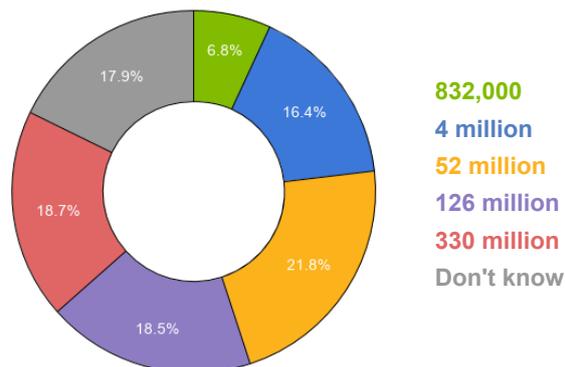
Fifty-eight per cent of people estimated the number to be 172 million or less.

*According to the UN. How many children and young people (aged 4-17 years old) in the world do you think are out-of-school? (Correct answer: 260 million)*



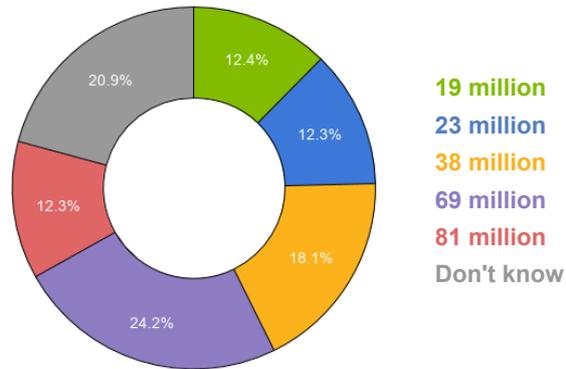
Only a fifth of US participants realised that around the world there are an estimated 330 million children in school but not learning.

*Given that one of the answers below is correct, how many children and young people in the world do you think are in school but not learning? (Correct answer: 330 million)*



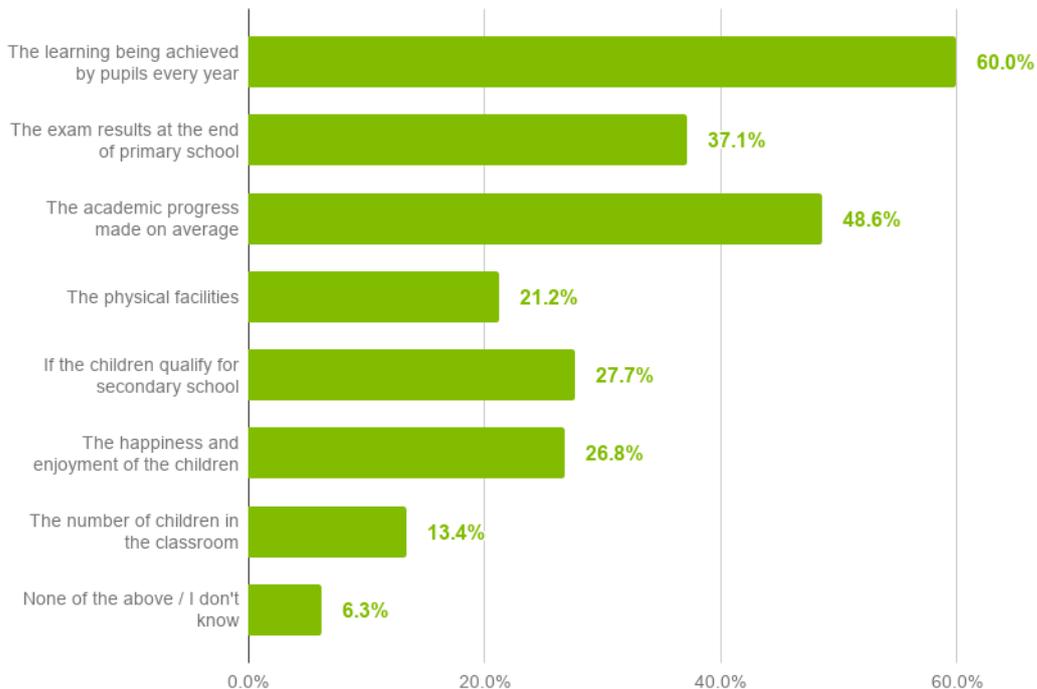
Just a quarter of people know that there is a shortage of 69 million teachers to achieve quality education for all by 2030.

*How many more teachers do you think are needed worldwide to reach the UN Sustainability Goal of 'education for all' by 2030?? (Correct answer: 69 million)*



The most popular way of judging the success of a primary school was through 'the learning being achieved by pupils.' But this is the very metric that many countries in the world are failing to measure properly.

*Which of the following do you think are the most effective ways of judging the success of a primary school? (Select all that apply)*



## The role of non-state actors

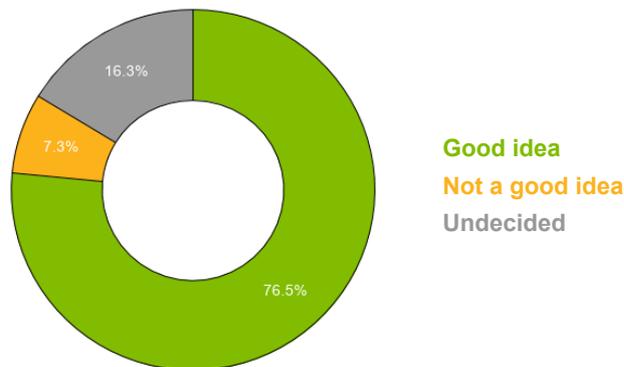
Throughout all questions on this theme, there was a consistent majority of people showing support to non-state actors helping governments with education.

Participants in this poll were introduced to Education Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) as ‘when a non-state partner (including private companies) assists a government with more or better teachers and public schools, following all the standards and rules set by the government. The school remains free to attend.’

When asked what they think about this approach in low and middle income countries, the most popular choice by far was to show support.

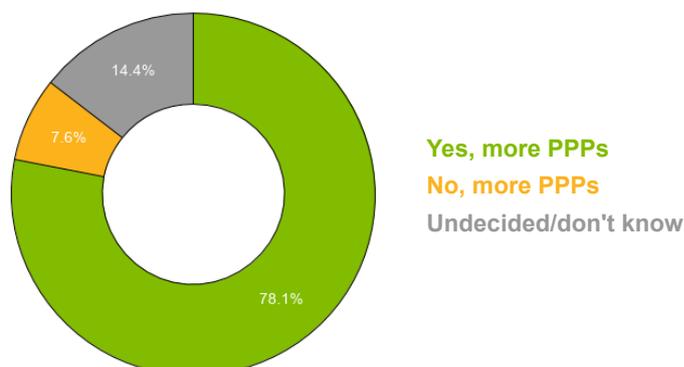
Seventy-seven per cent of the US public surveyed believe education Public Private Partnerships are a good idea.

*Which of the following apply to you with regards to the following statement? In countries where there is a reported lack of quality primary schools and teachers, a social enterprise could run a quality school that costs parents around \$8 US dollars per month if they choose to send one child there.*



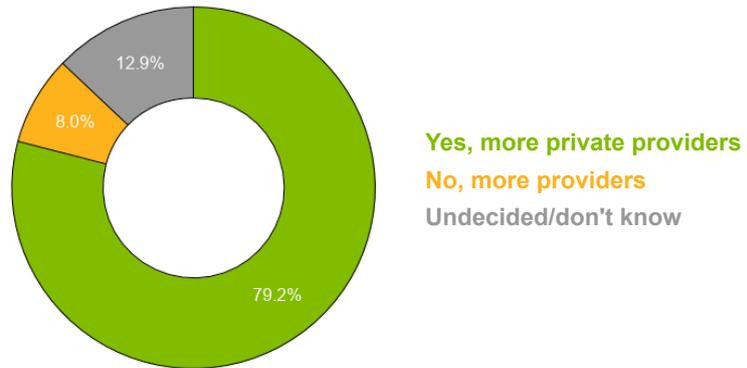
While 78% think there should be more education PPPs.

*Do you think there should be more private providers of affordable or free education in a country where the government struggles to offer enough education for all?*



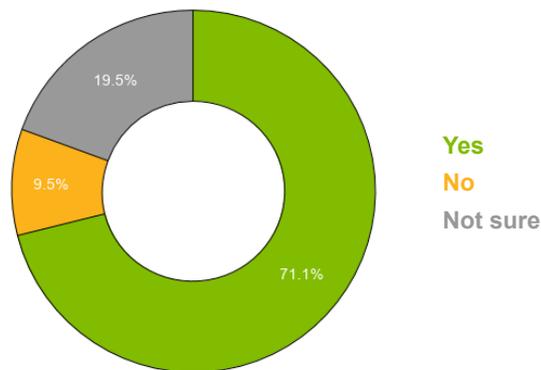
Seventy-nine per cent of people called for more private providers of affordable or free education in a country where the government struggles to offer enough education for all.

*Do you think there should be more private providers of affordable or free education in a country where the government struggles to offer enough education for all?*



School choice is important to parents and 71% supported the idea of various organisations delivering extra schools, more than they do now, that meet proper standards.

*Do you think charities, NGOs (non-governmental organisation), companies, and faith organisations, should all help the above governments by running extra schools, more than they do now, that meet proper standards?*



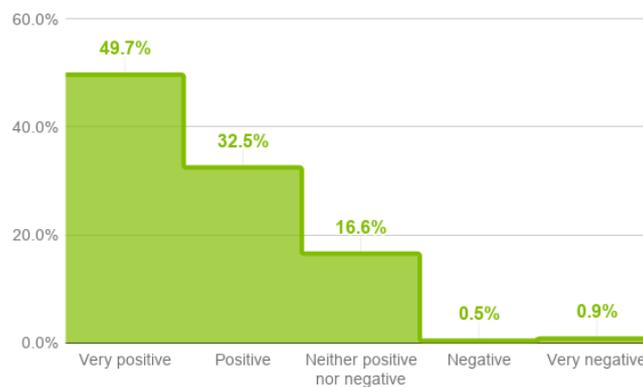
## Support for Bridge International Academies

This public poll introduced people to Bridge and its work, giving people an overview of what Bridge does in Africa and Asia.

People were then invited to share their views on what they think about this particular way of supporting education. Most people expressed support for the work of Bridge in creating and running schools and in improving government schools and teachers.

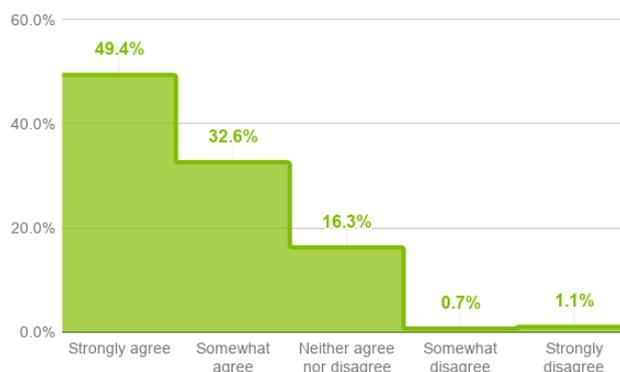
After explaining the work of Bridge and the outcomes for children and teachers, most people think that Bridge is having a positive impact in the world. More than 8 in ten people said they think Bridge is positive or very positive.

*Bridge International Academies is a social enterprise that creates new schools or helps to improve government schools. It teaches hundreds of thousands of children in hundreds of schools in countries where the local government struggles to provide quality education for all. They empower local teachers with training, support and very high quality, detailed lesson plans. Children in schools linked to Bridge International Academies do better in tests than their peers in regular government schools. Based on the above, do you think Bridge International Academies are overall positive, negative or neither?*



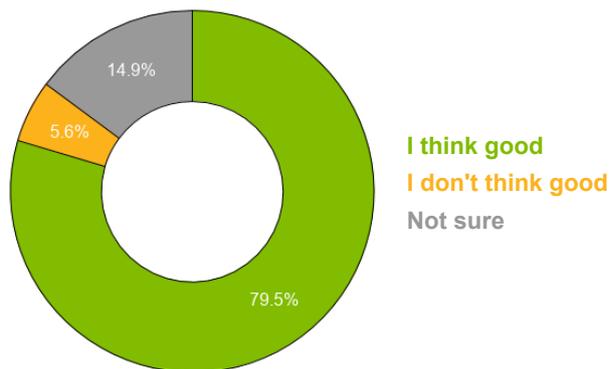
A majority of 79% believe that 'a social enterprise, like Bridge' should help governments who ask for support to improve teaching quality.

*Bridge International Academies gives thousands of teachers in developing countries more resources, support and training so they can use detailed lesson guides created by education experts. These lesson guides share best practice teaching research with local teachers in Africa and Asia. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? 'Bridge International Academies supports teachers to be better teachers in low and middle income countries.'*



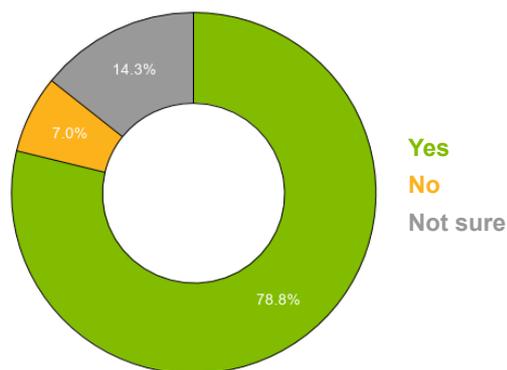
When people learn about the work of Bridge, 80% agree that such schools 'are good for children' in Africa and Asia.

*Bridge International Academies helps local teachers in Africa and Asia by giving them training, support and very detailed lesson guides. The teachers follow these guides closely. The lesson guides are continuously updated by experts in the light of feedback from the teachers and pupils. The overall results of using this method for Bridge International Academies in developing countries, has been children learning more quickly than peers in other schools. Based on the above, which of the following apply to you?*



Eighty-two per cent believe that Bridge supports teachers to be better teachers.

*In many low and middle income countries, Bridge International Academies re-trains government teachers and gives them new resources, tools and support that the government has approved. This has led to an increase in learning for local children in free state schools. Do you think a social enterprise, like Bridge International Academies, should help governments who ask for support to improve the teaching quality in their free state schools?*



## Bridge/OnePoll survey results



### US SAMPLE OF 2,000 ADULTS

Survey conducted: 11/02/2019-06/03/2019

#### REGION BREAKDOWN SUMMARY

Region	%	Responses
Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington D.C.	26.55%	531
Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia	26.50%	530
Southwest: Arkansas, Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas	13.00%	260
Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin	15.10%	302
West: Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming	18.85%	377

#### GENDER BREAKDOWN SUMMARY

Gender	%	Responses
Female	51.95%	1039
Male	48.05%	961

#### AGE RANGE BREAKDOWN SUMMARY

Age range	%	Responses
18-24	8.60%	172
25-34	35.65%	713
35-44	18.15%	363
45-54	12.85%	257
55+	24.75%	495





[bridgeinternationalacademies.com](https://bridgeinternationalacademies.com)  
[@bridgeintlacads](https://twitter.com/bridgeintlacads)

[media@bridgeinternationalacademies.com](mailto:media@bridgeinternationalacademies.com)