



TEXAS TRENDS 2022

School Safety



Hobby School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



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Texas Trends Survey 2022 School Safety

In 2021, the Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston and the Executive Master of Public Administration Program in the Barbara Jordan – Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University launched a five-year survey project to study Texas's changing population, with emphasis on the state's Black, Latino and Asian residents. In addition to a representative sample of all Texans, the 2022 survey includes an oversample of the former two groups to allow for an objective and statistically valid report of their diverse opinions and experiences. The second survey fielded between August 11 and August 29, 2022 focused on opinions about the upcoming statewide election and issues including gun safety, the economy, criminal justice, and healthcare. The survey was conducted in English and Spanish, with 2,140 YouGov respondents 18 years of age and older, resulting in a confidence interval of +/-2.1. The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race/ethnicity, and education and are representative of the Texas adult population.

The results of the 2022 statewide survey will be presented in six separate reports: the 2022 general election in Texas, gun safety, school safety, the economy, criminal justice, and healthcare. This report focuses on the topic of school safety.

Executive Summary

76% of Texans believe increasing student access to mental health will make schools safer. This includes 82% of Democrats, 76% of Republicans and 66% of Independents as well as 80% of Black Texans, 76% of white Texans and 75% of Latino Texans.

75% of Texans believe practicing for active threat situations will make schools safer. This includes 81% of Republicans, 71% of Democrats and 70% of Independents as well as 76% of Black Texans, 74% of white Texans and 74% of Latino Texans.

71% of Texans believe having armed police officers inside schools will make schools safer. This includes 89% of Republicans, 69% of Independents and 55% of Democrats as well as 72% of white Texans, 70% of Latino Texans and 69% of Black Texans.

69% of Texans believe having metal detectors at school entrances will make schools safer. This includes 75% of Republicans, 67% of Democrats and 65% of Independents as well as 77% of Black Texans, 69% of white Texans, and 67% of Latino Texans.

68% of Texans believe having armed security guards inside schools will make schools safer. This includes 86% of Republicans, 66% of Independents and 54% of Democrats as well as 71% of white Texans, 67% of Latino Texans and 66% of Black Texans.

62% of Texans believe restricting the number of school entrances will make schools safer. This includes 74% of Republicans, 55% of Independents and 55% of Democrats as well as 66% of white Texans, 60% of Latino Texans and 59% of Black Texans.

61% of Texans believe organizing campaigns to discourage bullying will make schools safer. This includes 70% of Democrats, 58% of Independents and 52% of Republicans as well as 75% of Black Texans, 62% of Latino Texans and 56% of white Texans.

48% of Texans believe having trained teachers carrying guns in school will make schools safer. This includes 74% of Republicans, 43% of Independents and 27% of Democrats as well as 57% of white Texans, 43% of Latino Texans and 33% of Black Texans.

31% of Texans believe having unarmed security guards inside schools will make schools safer. This includes 34% of Democrats, 30% of Independents and 29% of Republicans as well as 35% of Black Texans, 33% of Latino Texans and 29% of white Texans.

35% of Texans believe having trained teachers carry guns in school will make schools less safe. This includes 56% of Democrats, 34% of Independents and 15% of Republicans as well as 50% of Black Texans, 35% of Latino Texans and 30% of white Texans.

41% of Texans believe having unarmed security guards inside schools will make no difference for school safety. This includes 41% of Democrats, 41% of Independents and 41% of Republicans as well as 49% of white Texans, 33% of Black Texans and 32% of Latino Texans.

Survey Population Demographics

Whites account for 45% of the overall survey population of 2,140 Texas adults (confidence interval of +/- 2.1%), Latinos 36%, Blacks 12%, and Others 7% (Asian Americans account for 53% of the Other population, while those who identify as having a Mixed or Other racial/ethnic heritage account for 37% and Native Americans for 10%). Women account for 51% of the population, men for 48%, and those who identify as other or non-binary for 1%. Regarding generations, 30% of the survey population belongs to the combined Silent Generation (born between 1928-1945) and Baby Boomers (1946-1964) cohort, 24% to Generation X (Gen-X) (1965-1980), 31% to the Millennial generation (1981-1996) and 15% to Generation Z (1997-2004). The highest level of educational attainment of the respondents ranges from a high school degree or less (40%), to some college or a two-year degree (29%) to a four-year degree or postgraduate/advanced degree (31%). Texans who identify as Democrats account for 40% of the population, Independents for 16%, Republicans for 39% and those who are unsure about their partisan identification for 5%.

Impact of Nine Proposed Policies on School Safety

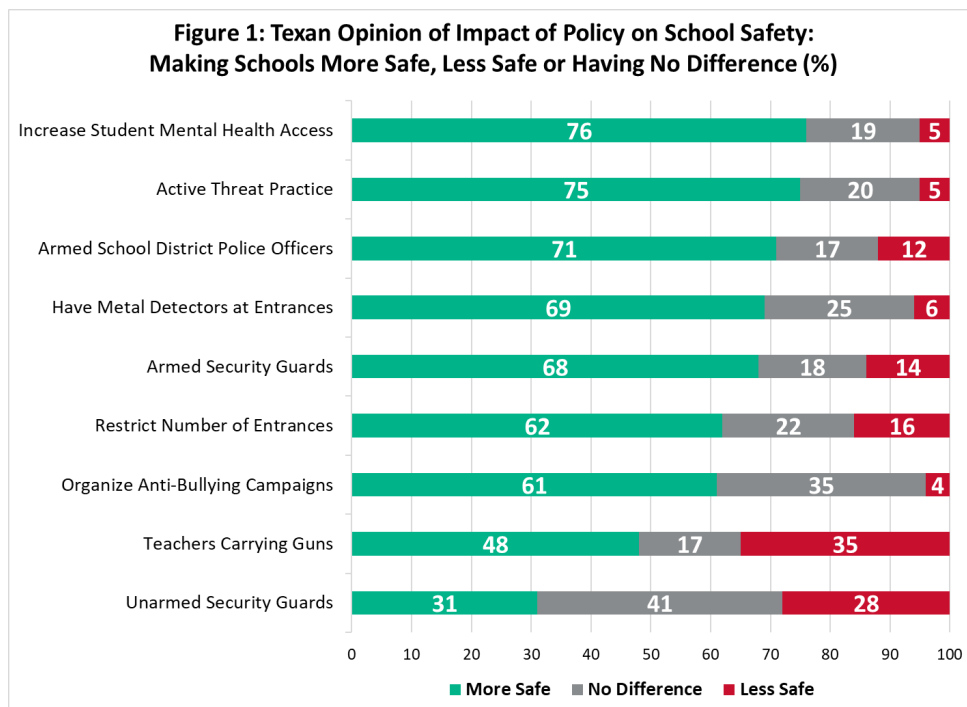
In the survey, the respondents were asked what impact they believe the nine different policies

would have on school safety. The response options were that the policy would make schools more safe, would make schools less safe, or would not make a difference for school safety.

The nine proposed policies are:

- Organizing campaigns to discourage bullying.
- Having metal detectors at school entrances.
- Having teachers carry guns in school after undergoing training.
- Having unarmed security guards inside school buildings.
- Having armed security guards inside school buildings.
- Having armed school district police officers inside school buildings.
- Practicing lockdowns or procedures for active threat situations.
- Restricting the number of entrances to school buildings.
- Increasing student access to mental health services.

Figure 1 displays the proportion of Texans who believe each policy would make schools more safe, less safe, and would not make a difference for school safety.



Three-quarters or more of Texans believe two policies would make schools more safe: increasing student access to mental health services (76%) and practicing lockdowns or procedures for active threat situations (75%).

An additional two-thirds or more of Texans believe three other policies would make schools more safe: having armed police officers inside school buildings (71%), having metal detectors at school entrances (69%), and having armed security guards inside school buildings (68%).

An additional three-fifths or more of Texans believe two other policies would make schools more safe: restricting the number of entrances to school buildings (62%) and organizing campaigns to discourage bullying (61%).

Only two policies are seen by less than half of Texans as not making schools safer: having teachers carry guns in school after undergoing training (48%) and having unarmed security guards inside school buildings (31%).

Two policies are seen by between a quarter and one-third of Texans as making schools less safe: having teachers carry guns in school after undergoing training (35%) and having unarmed security guards inside school buildings (28%).

One-third or more of Texans believe two of the policies would not make a difference for school safety: having unarmed security guards inside school buildings (41%) and organizing campaigns to discourage bullying (35%).

The data underscore that Texans believe that most of these reforms would make a positive difference for school safety, with significant doubts only existing for the policies that would have trained teachers carry guns in schools and would have unarmed security guards inside school buildings.

Gender and the Impact of Nine Policies on School Safety

Table 1 provides the proportion of women and men who believe each one of the nine policies would make schools more safe. The gender differences are modest, with the even largest gaps still in the single digit range. The most noteworthy gender difference concerns having trained teachers carry guns in school with a somewhat greater proportion of men (53%) than women (44%) believing this will make schools safer.

Table 1: Gender and Proportion of Texans Who Believe Policy Will Make Schools More Safe (%)

Policy Proposal	Women	Men
Increase Student Mental Health Access	79	71
Active Threat Practice	75	72
Armed School District Police Officers	70	71
Have Metal Detectors at Entrances	72	65
Armed Security Guards	68	70
Restrict Number of Entrances	64	60
Organize Anti-Bullying Campaigns	63	55
Teachers Carrying Guns	44	53
Unarmed Security Guards	29	33

Table 2 provides the proportion of women and men who believe each one of the nine policies would make schools less safe. The gender differences are once again modest, with even the largest gaps still in the single digit range. The most noteworthy gender difference is a somewhat greater proportion of women (38%) than men (31%) believe that having trained teachers carry guns in school will make schools less safe.

Table 2: Gender and Proportion of Texans Who Believe Policy Will Make Schools Less Safe (%)

Policy Proposal	Women	Men
Teachers Carrying Guns	38	31
Unarmed Security Guards	29	23
Restrict Number of Entrances	15	15
Armed Security Guards	13	14
Armed School District Police Officers	11	13
Have Metal Detectors at Entrances	5	6
Active Threat Practice	5	5
Increase Student Mental Health Access	4	6
Organize Anti-Bullying Campaigns	3	4

Table 3 provides the proportion of women and men who believe each one of the nine policies would not make a difference for school safety. The gender differences are once again modest, with even the largest gaps still in the single digit range. The most noteworthy gender difference is that there is a somewhat greater proportion of men (41%) than women (34%) believing that the organization of campaigns against bullying would not make a difference for school safety.

Table 3: Gender and Proportion of Texans Who Believe Policy Will Make No Difference for Safety (%)

Policy Proposal	Women	Men
Unarmed Security Guards	42	44
Teachers Carrying Guns	34	41
Organize Anti-Bullying Campaigns	23	29
Restrict Number of Entrances	21	25
Armed Security Guards	20	23
Have Metal Detectors at Entrances	17	23
Armed School District Police Officers	19	16
Active Threat Practice	18	16
Increase Student Mental Health Access	19	16

Ethnicity/Race and the Impact of Nine Policies on School Safety

Table 4 provides the proportion of white, Latino, Black and Other Texans who believe each one of the nine policies would make schools more safe. By and large, there is little in the way of noteworthy ethnic/racial differences, with the proportion of the ethnic/racial groups that believe the policy would make schools more safe significantly different for only two policies. One, significantly more white (57%) than Latino (43%) and Black (33%) Texans believe that having trained teachers carry guns would make schools safer. Two, significantly more Black (75%) than Latino (62%) and white (56%) Texans believe the campaigns against bullying would make schools safer. In the latter case it is important to note however that an absolute majority of all four ethnic/racial groups believe that the organization of anti-bullying campaigns would make schools safer.

Table 4: Ethnicity/Race and Proportion of Texans Who Believe Policy Will Make Schools More Safe (%)

Policy Proposal	White	Latino	Black	Other
Increase Student Mental Health Access	76	75	80	76
Active Threat Practice	74	74	76	77
Armed School District Police Officers	72	70	69	70
Have Metal Detectors at Entrances	69	67	77	67
Armed Security Guards	71	67	66	65
Restrict Number of Entrances	66	60	59	59
Organize Anti-Bullying Campaigns	56	62	75	57
Teachers Carrying Guns	57	43	33	40
Unarmed Security Guards	29	33	35	30

Table 5 provides the proportion of white, Latino, Black and Other Texans who believe each one of the nine policies would make schools less safe. By and large there is little in the way of noteworthy ethnic/racial differences, with the proportion of the ethnic/racial groups that

believe the policy would make schools less safe significantly different for only one policy. Black Texans (50%) are significantly more likely than Latino (35%) and white (30%) Texans to believe that having trained armed teachers would make schools less safe.

Table 5: Ethnicity/Race and Proportion of Texans Who Believe Policy Will Make Schools Less Safe (%)

Policy Proposal	White	Latino	Black	Other
Teachers Carrying Guns	30	35	50	40
Unarmed Security Guards	22	35	32	29
Restrict Number of Entrances	12	18	21	22
Armed Security Guards	13	15	13	16
Armed School District Police Officers	12	11	14	12
Have Metal Detectors at Entrances	5	8	6	8
Active Threat Practice	5	6	6	4
Increase Student Mental Health Access	5	6	3	4
Organize Anti-Bullying Campaigns	3	5	4	8

Table 6 provides the proportion of white, Latino, Black and Other Texans who believe each one of the nine policies would not make a difference for school safety. By and large there is little in the way of noteworthy ethnic/racial differences, with the proportion of the ethnic/racial groups that believe the policy would not make a difference for school safety significantly different for only two policies. White (49%) Texans are significantly more likely than Black (33%) and Latino (32%) Texans to believe that having unarmed security guards inside school buildings would not make a difference for school safety. White (41%) Texans are also significantly more likely than Black (22%) Texans to believe that organizing campaigns against bullying would not make a difference for school safety.

Table 6: Ethnicity/Race and Proportion of Texans Who Believe Policy Will Make No Difference for Safety (%)

Policy Proposal	White	Latino	Black	Other
Unarmed Security Guards	49	32	33	41
Organize Anti-Bullying Campaigns	41	33	22	35
Have Metal Detectors at Entrances	26	25	17	25
Restrict Number of Entrances	23	22	21	19
Active Threat Practice	21	20	18	19
Increase Student Mental Health Access	19	20	17	20
Armed Security Guards	16	19	21	18
Teachers Carrying Guns	13	21	17	20
Armed School District Police Officers	17	19	17	18

Generation and the Impact of Nine Policies on School Safety

Table 7 provides the proportion of members of the Silent/Boomers cohort, Generation X, Millennials and Generation Z who believe each one of the nine policies would make schools more safe. In general, there are relatively few inter-generational differences in regard to the proportion of generation members who believe that the policy would make schools safer, with two exceptions. One exception relates to the Silent/Boomer cohort which views three of the nine policies as resulting in safer schools at a rate that is notably higher than that of the members of some or all of the other generations. These three policies are restricting the number of school entrances, having metal detectors at schools and practicing for active threat events. The other three generations do not differ notably in their belief that the policies will make schools safer except in the case of restricting the number of entrances to the schools, for which only 44% of Generation Z believe will make schools safer compared to 62% of Generation X.

Table 7: Generation and Proportion of Texans Who Believe Policy Will Make Schools More Safe (%)

Policy Proposal	Silent/Boomer	Gen X	Millennial	Gen Z
Unarmed Security Guards	29	32	35	28
Teachers Carrying Guns	55	48	43	43
Organize Anti-Bullying Campaigns	63	59	62	57
Restrict Number of Entrances	76	62	58	44
Armed Security Guards	78	65	64	65
Have Metal Detectors at Entrances	79	70	63	60
Armed School District Police Officers	79	68	67	67
Active Threat Practice	82	73	71	69
Increase Student Mental Health Access	77	75	75	78

Table 8 provides the proportion of members of the Silent/Boomers cohort, Generation X, Millennials and Generation Z who believe each one of the nine policies would make schools less safe. Once again, there are relatively few inter-generational differences in regard to the proportion of generation members who believe that the policy would make schools less safe.

Table 8: Generation and Proportion of Texans Who Believe Policy Will Make Schools Less Safe (%)

Policy Proposal	Silent/Boomer	Gen X	Millennial	Gen Z
Unarmed Security Guards	29	24	28	31
Teachers Carrying Guns	31	36	38	37
Organize Anti-Bullying Campaigns	2	2	7	5
Restrict Number of Entrances	10	15	18	24
Armed Security Guards	8	13	17	20
Have Metal Detectors at Entrances	2	4	9	11
Armed School District Police Officers	7	12	15	14
Active Threat Practice	1	5	8	9
Increase Student Mental Health Access	2	3	8	8

Table 9 provides the proportion of members of the Silent/Boomers cohort, Generation X, Millennials and Generation Z who believe each one of the nine policies will make no difference for school safety. Again, there are relatively few inter-generational differences in regard to the proportion of generation members who believe that the policy would not make a difference for school safety, with one exception. Members of Generation Z (32%) are notably more likely than members of the Silent/Boomers cohort (14%) to believe restricting the number of entrances will not make a difference for school safety.

Table 9: Generation and Proportion of Texans Who Believe Policy Will Make No Difference for Safety (%)

Policy Proposal	Silent/Boomer	Gen X	Millennial	Gen Z
Unarmed Security Guards	42	44	37	41
Teachers Carrying Guns	14	16	19	21
Organize Anti-Bullying Campaigns	36	39	31	38
Restrict Number of Entrances	14	23	24	32
Armed Security Guards	14	22	19	15
Have Metal Detectors at Entrances	19	26	28	29
Armed School District Police Officers	14	20	18	19
Active Threat Practice	17	22	21	23
Increase Student Mental Health Access	22	22	17	14

Partisan ID and the Impact of Nine Policies on School Safety

Table 10 provides the proportion of Democrats, Independents and Republicans who believe each one of the nine policies will make schools more safe. Significantly different proportions of Texas Democrats and Texas Republicans believe five of the nine policies will make schools safer. The four policy proposals with no salient inter-party differences are: (1) having unarmed security guards in public schools, which 34% of Democrats and 29% of Republicans believe will

make schools safer; (2) increasing student access to mental health services, which 82% of Democrats and 76% of Republicans believe will make schools safer; (3) having metal detectors at school entrances, which 75% of Republicans and 67% of Democrats believe will make schools safer; and (4) practicing active threat procedures, which 71% of Democrats and 81% of Republicans believe will make schools safer.

Table 10: Partisan ID and Proportion of Texans Who Believe Policy Will Make Schools More Safe (%)

Policy Proposal	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Unarmed Security Guards	34	30	29
Teachers Carrying Guns	27	43	74
Organize Anti-Bullying Campaigns	70	58	52
Restrict Number of Entrances	55	55	74
Armed Security Guards	54	66	86
Have Metal Detectors at Entrances	67	65	75
Armed School District Police Officers	55	69	89
Active Threat Practice	71	70	81
Increase Student Mental Health Access	82	66	76

The one policy where there exists far and away the most inter-party disagreement related to school safety is having trained teachers carrying guns in schools, which 74% of Republicans, but only 27% of Democrats, believe would make schools safer. The policy proposal with the second most inter-party dissonance is having armed school district police officers and armed security guards inside school buildings, which 89% and 86% of Republicans, but only 55% and 54% of Democrats (still an absolute majority), believe will make schools safer.

Table 11 provides the proportion of Democrats, Independents and Republicans who believe each one of the nine policies will make schools less safe. With three exceptions, there do not exist any notable inter-party differences. The most prominent exception is the policy of having teachers carry guns in schools after undergoing training, which an absolute majority (56%) of Democrats believe will make schools less safe compared to only 15% of Republicans. The other two exceptions concern having armed police officers and armed security guards inside school buildings, which, respectively, one in five (20% and 23%) Democrats believe will make schools less safe compared to 4% and 6% of Republicans.

Table 11: Partisan ID and Proportion of Texans Who Believe Policy Will Make Schools Less Safe (%)

Policy Proposal	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Unarmed Security Guards	25	29	30
Teachers Carrying Guns	56	34	15
Organize Anti-Bullying Campaigns	5	3	4
Restrict Number of Entrances	21	18	11
Armed Security Guards	23	9	6
Have Metal Detectors at Entrances	8	4	4
Armed School District Police Officers	20	11	4
Active Threat Practice	6	5	4
Increase Student Mental Health Access	6	5	4

Table 12 provides the proportion of Democrats, Independents and Republicans who believe each one of the nine policies will make no difference for school safety. With three exceptions, there do not exist noteworthy inter-party differences. Two exceptions again concern having armed police officers and armed security guards inside school buildings, which 25% and 23% of Democrats compared to 7% and 8% of Republicans respectively believe will make no difference for school safety. The other partisan divergence is for the organization of anti-bullying campaigns, which 44% of Republicans compared to 25% of Democrats believe will not have any effect on school safety.

Table 12: Partisan ID and Proportion of Texans Who Believe Policy Will Make No Difference for Safety (%)

Policy Proposal	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Unarmed Security Guards	41	41	41
Teachers Carrying Guns	17	23	12
Organize Anti-Bullying Campaigns	25	39	44
Restrict Number of Entrances	24	27	15
Armed Security Guards	23	25	8
Have Metal Detectors at Entrances	25	31	21
Armed School District Police Officers	25	20	7
Active Threat Practice	23	25	15
Increase Student Mental Health Access	12	29	20

School Safety Report

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