



Alberta Teachers' Association  
**February 2018 Tracking Survey**  
Private schools

**ENVIRONICS**  
RESEARCH

## Methodology

This report presents the findings of a telephone survey conducted among 815 adult Albertans interviewed during the period from February 20-28, 2018. The margin of error for a sample of 815 is plus or minus 3.4 percentage points (at the 95% confidence level).

The sampling method was designed to complete 800 interviews within households randomly selected across the province. The sample was disproportionate, with smaller cities and rural areas oversampled to permit meaningful statistical analysis. Respondents within each household contacted by landline were screened for random selection using the “most recent birthday” method. In this wave of the tracking survey, cell phone sample was also included (25% of sample). The data are statistically weighted to ensure the sample’s regional, age and gender composition reflects that of the actual Alberta population according to the most recently available Census information (2011).

*In this report, results are expressed as percentages unless otherwise noted. Results may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses.*

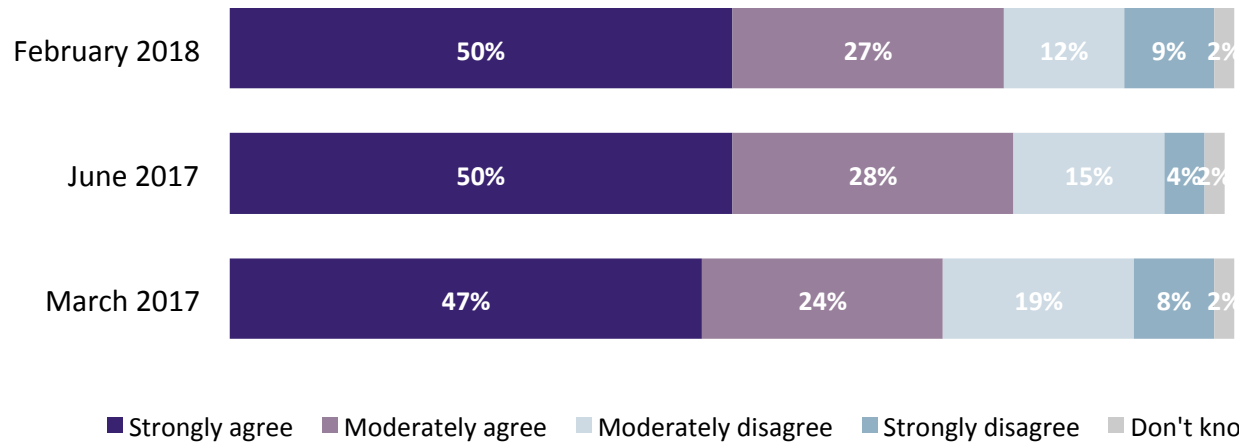


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## Perspectives on public and private schooling

# Half of Albertans continue to strongly agree schools receiving public funds should not charge for attendance

**Level of agreement with the statement  
“Schools that receive government  
funding should not charge students to attend”**



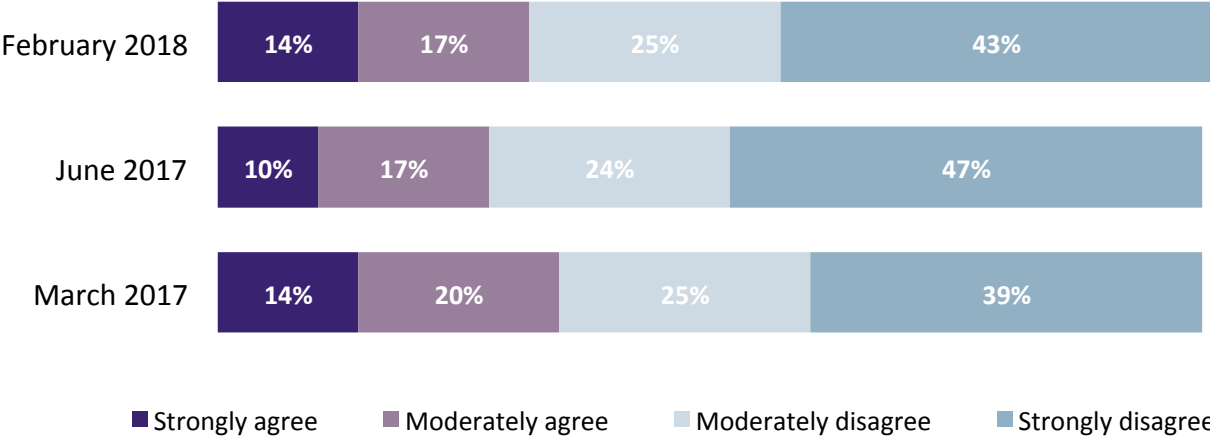
Agreement with statements about private school funding have remained largely unchanged since March 2017. Three-quarters agree, half strongly, that schools receiving public funding should not charge students to attend.

Agreement is the dominant view and levels are generally similar across subgroups and across the province, except in the rural North, where opinion is more divided.

Q. In Alberta, parents have a choice of public (IN 2018: including public, Catholic or francophone school boards) or private schooling for their children. Would you say that you strongly agree, moderately agree, moderately disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements related to public and private schooling?

# Few strongly agree private schools need public funding

**Level of agreement with the statement  
 “Private schools should be funded by government”**



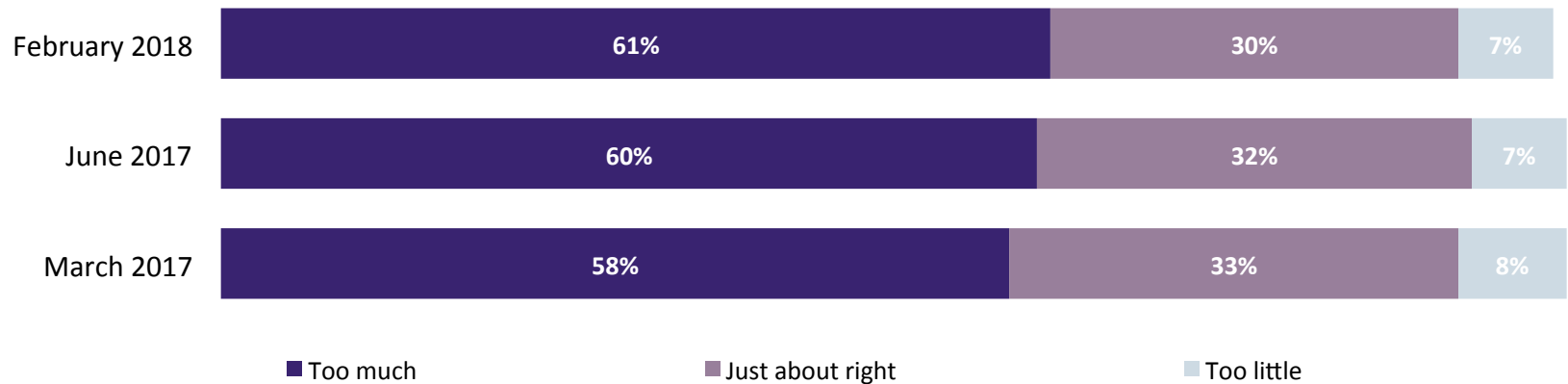
On the other side of the coin, agreement is consistently low, and in fact two-thirds disagree (over four in ten strongly), that private schools should be funded by the government.

Disagreement is the dominant position across the province and all population subgroups.

Q. In Alberta, parents have a choice of public (IN 2018: including public, Catholic or francophone school boards) or private schooling for their children. Would you say that you strongly agree, moderately agree, moderately disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements related to public and private schooling?

# Six in ten Albertans continue to feel the government provides too much operational funding to private schools

## Opinion about the operational funding Alberta provides to private schools



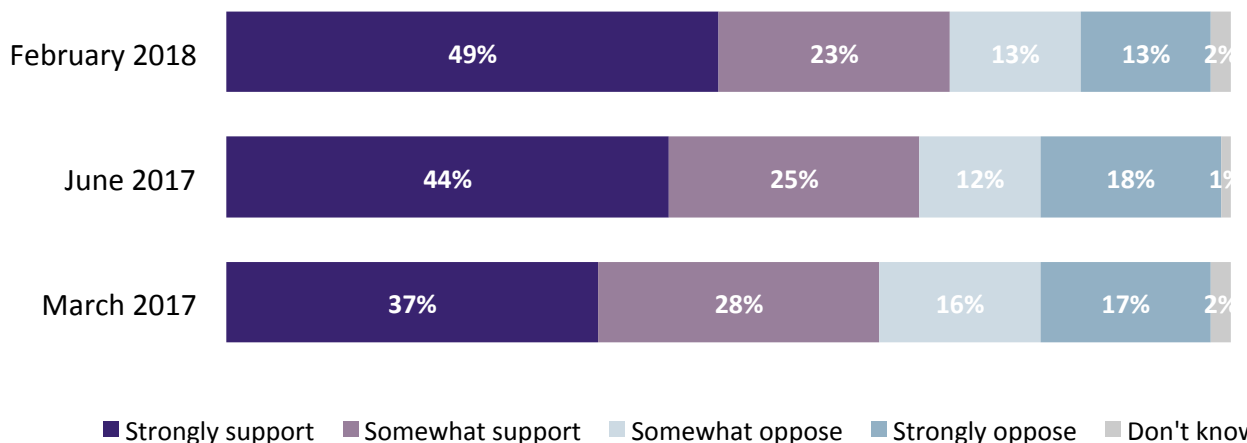
After receiving basic information about private school funding in other jurisdictions, six in ten say Alberta is overfunding private schools; three in ten think the funding balance is right, and just under one in ten think private schools should be getting more. These are comparable results to June 2017.

Feeling private schools currently get too much funding remains the dominant view across the province and most subgroups of the population.

Q. *In five provinces private schools do not receive any government funding. In four provinces they receive either 50 or 60 per cent of the amount of operational funding provided to public schools. In Alberta private schools currently receive 70% of the operational funding provided to public schools. Do you feel 70 percent is too little, too much, or is this just about right?*

# There has been an increase in support since June 2017 for phasing out public funding of private schools and reallocating funds to the public education system

## Agreement that public funding for private schools should be phased out and reinvested in the public system



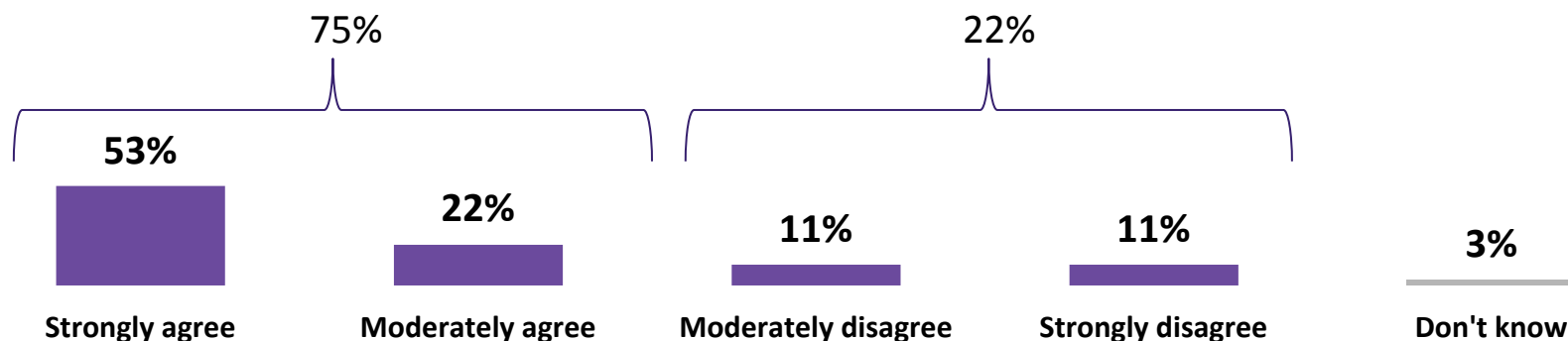
Just under three-quarters of Albertans express some level of support for the proposal to phase out public funding of private schools and reinvest the money in the public education system, a proportion that has been modestly increasing since March 2017. Half now strongly support this, an increase of five points from June 2017. One-quarter (down from three in ten) oppose phasing out public funding of private schools to some extent.

Support for phasing out public funding of private schools remains very stable across the province and across population subgroups.

Q. Some have suggested public funding of private schools should be phased out, with the savings directed to improving learning opportunities in the public system. Do you support or oppose this proposal? Would that be strongly or somewhat?

# Three-quarters of Albertans agree schools charging more than \$10,000 per year in tuition should not receive public funding, including just over half who strongly agree

## Level of agreement with the statement “Schools that charge more than \$10,000 per year in tuition should not receive public funding”



Albertans were asked their level of agreement with a new statement about private school funding in this wave. Three-quarters agree to some extent that schools charging more than \$10,000 per year in tuition should not receive public funding.” Two in ten disagree to some extent.

Q. In Alberta, parents have a choice of public (IN 2018: including public, Catholic or francophone school boards) or private schooling for their children. Would you say that you strongly agree, moderately agree, moderately disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements related to public and private schooling?



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