

National Survey Finds Strong Demand for High School Skilled Trades Education



NORC at the University of Chicago surveyed more than 6,000 U.S. voters, parents, and public high school students. These are the key findings:

A New Nationwide Poll Reveals

90% of voters say school districts **should prioritize funding** for skilled trades classes

94% of voters agree it is important for the **government to fund AI-resilient career training**

95% of voters believe **more opportunities to study skilled trades** in high school would better prepare students for careers

#1 **ELECTIVE FUNDING PRIORITY**

U.S. voters and parents rank **skilled trades** as the **#1 elective funding priority** for high school students, ahead of **STEM, business and the arts**

There is remarkably strong bipartisan support for growing career-focused options as part of high school curriculum:

More than **79%**

of Republicans, Democrats and Independents agree the government should provide more funding for skilled trades education in high school



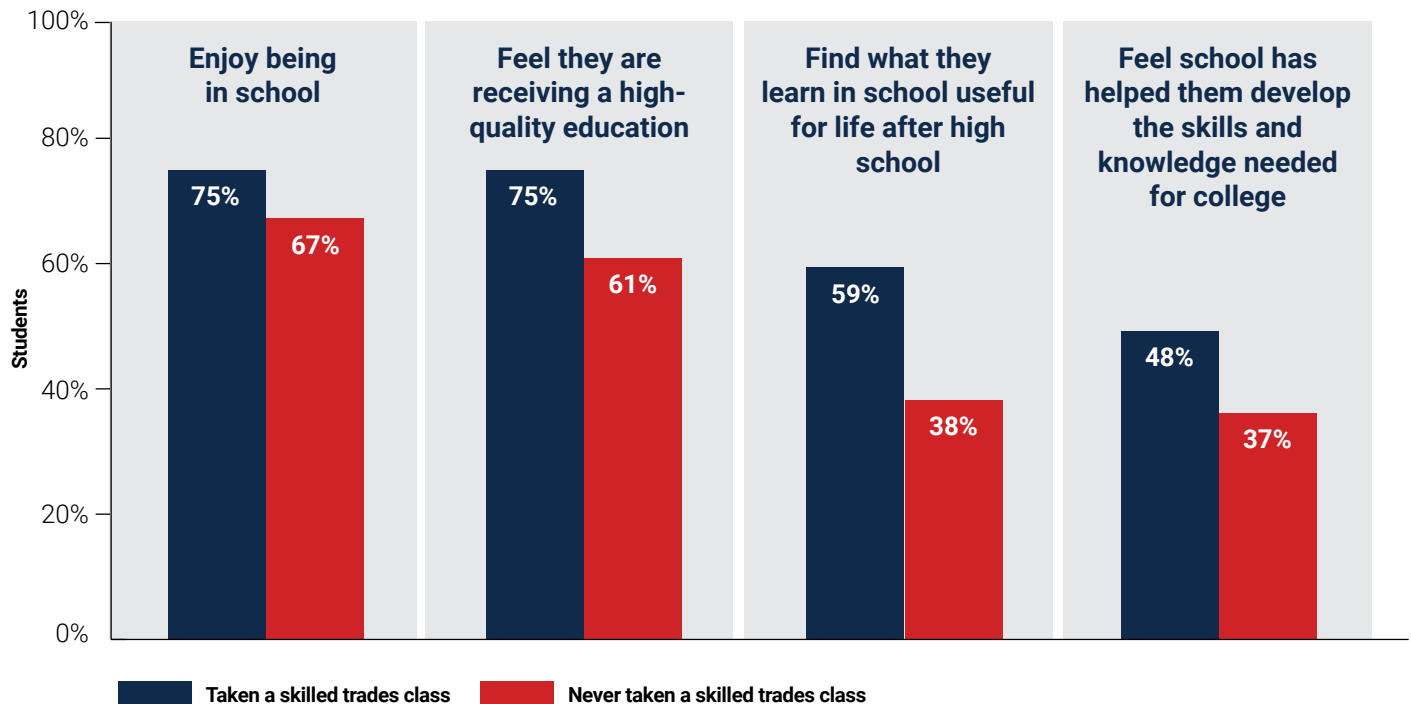
**Access remains limited –
1/3 of students
who are
interested in
taking a trades
class are
unable to do so**



8 in 10

parents say having **more opportunities** to study skilled trades in high school would make their own child **more prepared for a career**

Students who have taken skilled trades classes report feeling more engaged, confident, and career-ready than their peers.



The research was conducted NORC at the University of Chicago and commissioned by Harbor Freight Tools for Schools, the flagship program of the Smidt Foundation, established by Harbor Freight Tools owner and founder Eric Smidt, to advance excellent skilled trades education in U.S. public high schools.

NORC surveyed more than 2,000 U.S. voters, more than 2,000 parents of U.S. public high school students, and more than 1,700 U.S. public high school students between December 9, 2025 and January 21, 2026. For the full research findings, scan the QR code.



For more information visit: hftforschools.org