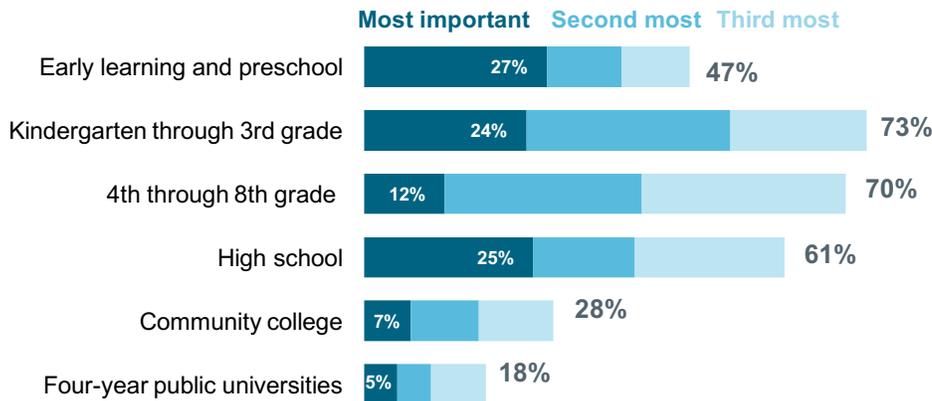


## Oregonians prioritize K-12 instruction, education that goes beyond workplace preparedness, and decreasing class sizes.

We asked our panelists to rank levels of public education by how important it is for the Oregon legislature to fund them. Strong majorities ranked kindergarten through third grade, fourth through eighth grade, and high school in their top three. While early learning was the level most frequently listed as respondents' top priority, less than half included it in their top three. These data hint that support for early learning comes from a small but vocal subset of Oregonians. Funding for higher education lagged behind in the rankings.

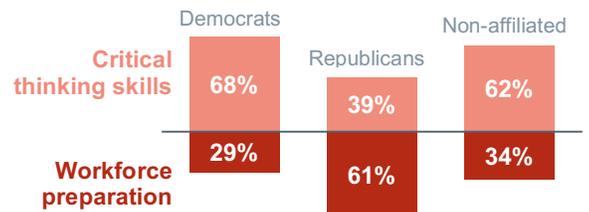
### Which education levels should be prioritized?



Those with higher educational attainment and incomes over \$100K tended to place more importance on the early years of a student's education, as did those over 65. People of color were almost twice as likely as white panelists to rank high school as most important. Democrats placed less importance on high school than Republican or Independent/Other voters.

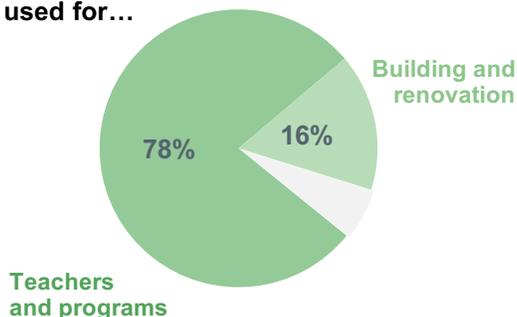
Oregonians clearly prioritize Kindergarten through twelfth grade, but what kind of education do they want for young people in our state? A majority said our system should *“teach students critical thinking skills, independence, creativity, and social skills”* as opposed to preparing students *“to succeed in the workforce and contribute to our society.”*

### Preferred focus for public education:



Some notable differences of opinion were found. Women clearly preferred the “whole child” approach, while men were split. Democrats were most likely to say our schools should take a holistic approach, while a strong majority of Republicans emphasized workforce preparedness. On this issue, non-affiliated Oregonians agreed with Democrats that public education should have broader goals than success in the workplace.

### New K-12 money should be used for...



When asked what they would do with new K-12 funds, our respondents clearly preferred adding teachers and expanding programs over building new or renovating old schools. This reinforces what we've seen consistently throughout our research: small class sizes and high quality teaching are paramount to Oregonians. This preference was consistent across almost all demographic groups, and was particularly strong among those under 30 and from outside of the Portland Metro and Willamette Valley areas.

The above findings are from a DHM Panel survey on public education fielded from August 11-17, 2016. The survey reached 598 Oregonians and results were weighted by age, gender, area of the state, political party, and level of education to ensure a representative sample. The margin of error for this survey ranges from +/-3.7% to +/-4.1%.