

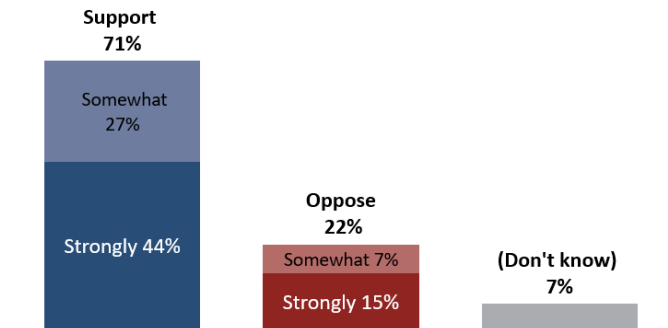
The following findings are from a telephone survey conducted October 31 – November 6, 2019 of 1,140 randomly selected Likely November 2020 voters in the state of New York, including an oversample of six State Senate Districts (3, 7, 41, 42, 53, and 55) of 100 interviews in each district. The results were weighted down to 600 interviews in order to resemble the demographics of Likely November 2020 voters in the state, and have an overall margin of error of  $\pm 4.0$  percentage points. The survey included both landlines and cellphones.

### Key Findings:

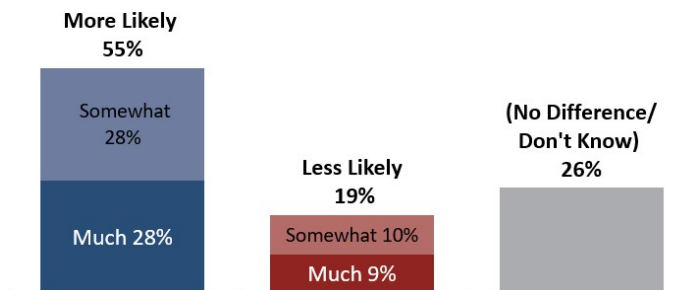
#### Support for standardizing sex education across the State of New York is strong among likely voters.

Seven-in-ten (71%) likely voters indicate support for this policy, with nearly half (44%) saying they *strongly support* standardization. Support for this policy is strong across the state and party lines. At least six-in-ten likely voters in all regions of the state support the passage of legislation to standardize sex education, and a strong majority (77%) of voters in the New York City region support with this piece of legislation. At least two-thirds of likely voters in the Long Island, Lower Hudson Valley, Eastern Upstate, and Western Upstate regions express similar sentiments. Over three-in-four (78%) Democrats support standardization, while nearly two-thirds (65%) of Independent voters and six-in-ten (60%) Republican voters say the same.

Standardization of Sex Education



Likelihood of Vote for Legislators Who Support Standardized Sex Education



#### A majority of likely voters say they are more likely to vote for a legislator that supports standardizing sex education across New York State.

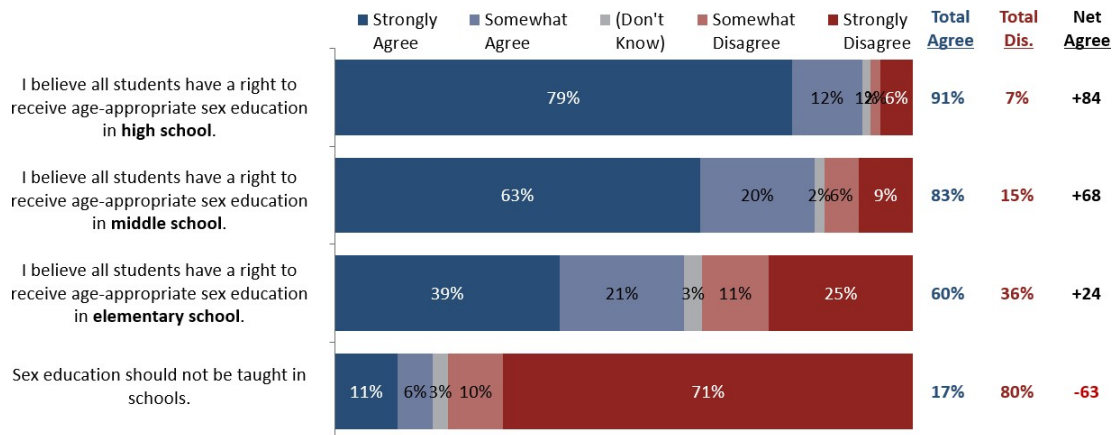
Over half (55%) are likely to back a legislator who support this piece of legislation, including over one-quarter (28%) who are *much more likely* to vote for lawmakers who support the policy. Additionally, less than one-in-five (19%) say they are less likely to vote for a legislator who is supportive of standardization, while about one-quarter (26%) say it does not make a difference.

#### Legislator support of standardized sex education is unlikely to have a negative impact on voter support despite geographic location or party affiliation.

Over seven-in-ten likely voters in each region say a legislator's support of standardization would make them more likely to vote for such a legislator or it makes no difference. When looking at partisan attitudes, a majority of Democrats (88%) and nearly three-quarters of Independents (73%) and Republicans (72%) say the same.

**Likely voters strongly believe that sex education should be taught in school.** Support for students receiving age-appropriate sex education in high school is very strong as 79% of likely voters *strongly agree* with that policy. Additionally, over 4-in-5 likely voters agree students in middle school have a right to sex education and 3-in-5 share the same sentiment among elementary school students. Eighty percent (80%) of likely voters disagree with the statement that sex education should not be taught in schools.

*Opinions on Age-Appropriate Sex Education in Schools*

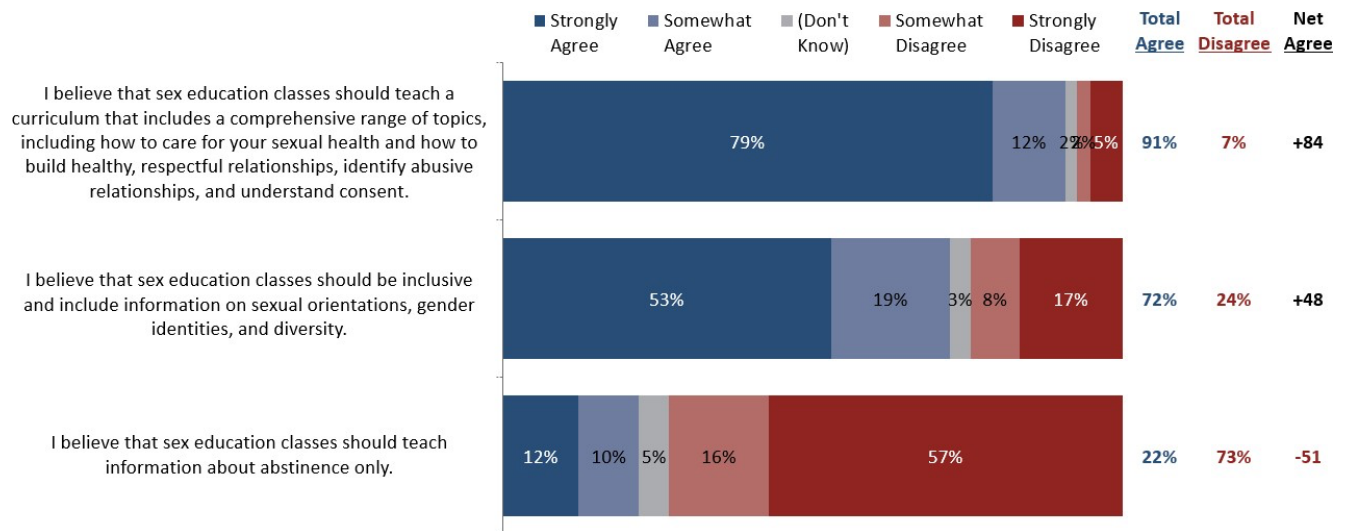


**Age-appropriate sex education has widespread support among likely voters throughout the state.** Similar to the overall likely voter population, support for high school students receiving sex education has high levels of support across the state’s regions; approximately nine-in-ten likely voters in each area agree with this policy. While support does decrease with the age of the students, over three-quarters in each region agree with the same policy for middle school students and a majority say the same for elementary school students. Additionally, no more than one-in-five likely voters in each region agree with the statement that “sex education should not be taught in schools.”

**Support for age-appropriate sex education transcends a voter’s political party.** A significant majority of likely Democratic (95%), Independent (89%), and Republican (85%) voters believe “students have a right to receive age-appropriate sex education in high school.” Regarding sex education for middle schoolers, nearly all Democrats agree with this policy (90%) and approximately three-quarters of non-Democratic voters share the same view (Independents 78%; Republicans 73%). Less than one-quarter of likely voters in each political party agree that “sex education should not be taught in schools.”

Likely voters **strongly agree** that sex education classes should include a comprehensive range of topics and be inclusive, instead of using abstinence-only curriculum. Over three-in-four **strongly agree** that sex education classes should teach a comprehensive curriculum, which includes “how to care for your sexual health and how to build healthy, respectful relationships, identify abusive relationships, and understand consent.” Additionally, over half (53%) of likely voters **strongly believe** “sex education classes should be inclusive and include information on sexual orientations, gender identities, and diversity.” Conversely, 73% of likely voters disagree that sex education classes should teach only abstinence.

Opinions on Sex Education Curriculum



**Voters across the various regions of New York State believe sex education classes should cover a comprehensive range of topics and be inclusive, few want classes to teach an abstinence-only curriculum.** A strong majority of likely voters believe sex education classes should teach a comprehensive curriculum; over nine-in-ten likely voters in the New York City, Lower Hudson Valley, Eastern Upstate, and Western Upstate regions agree with this policy, while 87% of Long Island and 89% of Central Upstate likely voters say the same. Additionally, the idea that sex education should be inclusive resonates with a majority of likely voters in each region; this sentiment is especially strong in the New York City area, where 83% agree with the policy. In contrast, at least two-thirds of likely voters in all regions disagree that sex education should only teach information about abstinence.

**A comprehensive and inclusive sex education curriculum receives support across party lines in New York.** Nearly all Democrats (95%) agree that sex education classes should teach a curriculum that includes a comprehensive range of topics, while 86% of both Republicans and Independents also agree with the idea. Approximately nine-in-ten (86%) of Democratic voters, two-thirds (65%) of Independent voters, and a plurality (49%) of Republican voters believe sex education classes should be inclusive. There is little support across party lines for an abstinence-only curriculum, as over three-in-five likely voters among each party disagree with the policy.