

Pastors' Views on Public School Assistance

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

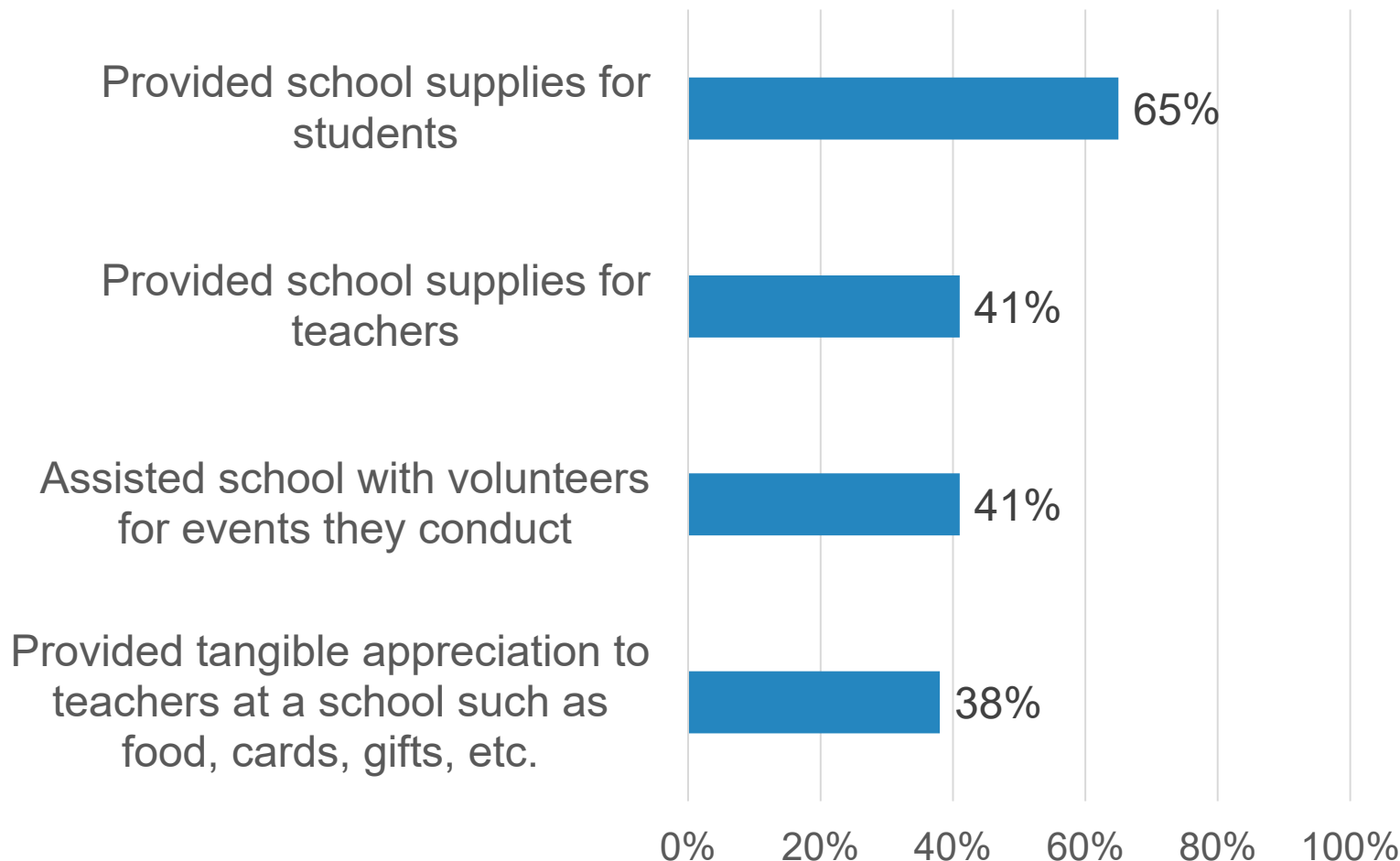
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Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,003 Protestant pastors was conducted August 8 – September 3, 2024
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest at the church
- Responses were weighted by region and church size to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,003 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.3\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

“Which, if any, of the following ways has your church engaged with local public schools in the last year?”

Among Protestant Pastors



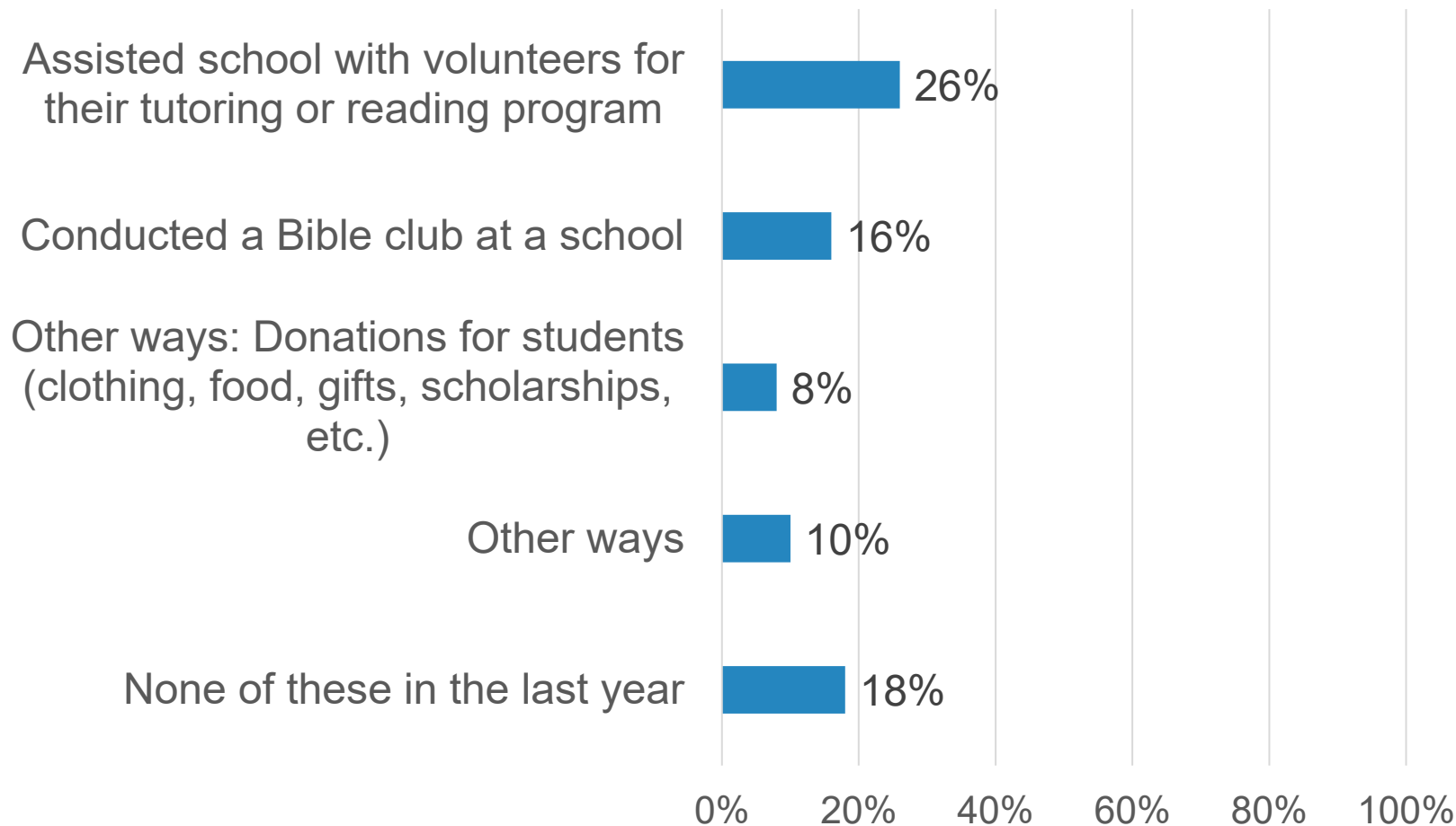
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Q: “Which, if any, of the following ways has your church engaged with local public schools in the last year? (Select all that apply)” n=1,003

“Which, if any, of the following ways has your church engaged with local public schools in the last year?”

Continued

Among Protestant Pastors



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Pastors were asked to specify if there were other ways their church engaged with local public schools this last year.

Example responses

Other ways: Donations for students

- Providing food for the weekend for hungry students
- Clothing drive for kids
- Financial scholarships to graduating seniors
- Provide meal boxes for students
- We provide snacks after school

Other ways

- Provide a barbeque for back-to-school nights
- The school uses the van and facility
- Enrichment activities for students during summer
- Allowing them to use the facility for events
- We have an emergency area in case of disaster
- Praying for the local public school staff

Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the pastor's ethnicity, age, gender, education, self-identified Evangelical or Mainline.

| AGE | GENDER | ETHNICITY | EDUCATION | Self-Identified |
|-------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 18-44 | Male | White | No College Degree | Evangelical |
| 45-54 | Female | African American | Bachelor's Degree | Mainline |
| 55-64 | | Other Ethnicities | Master's Degree | |
| 65+ | | | Doctoral Degree | |

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's region, denomination, and attendance.

| REGION | DENOMINATION GROUP | ATTENDANCE |
|-----------|----------------------------|------------|
| Northeast | Baptist | 0-49 |
| South | Lutheran | 50-99 |
| Midwest | Methodist | 100-249 |
| West | Pentecostal | 250+ |
| | Presbyterian/Reformed | |
| | Christian/Church of Christ | |
| | Non-Denominational | |

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

“Which, if any, of the following ways has your church engaged with local public schools in the last year?”

Provided school supplies for students

- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (78% v. 62%)
- African American pastors are the most likely to select (80%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (76% v. 62%)
- Pastors in the South (74%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (64%), Midwest (63%), and West (57%)
- Methodists are the most likely to select (81%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select (80%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance Less than 50 are the least likely to select (55%)

“Which, if any, of the following ways has your church engaged with local public schools in the last year?”

Provided school supplies for teachers

- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (51% v. 39%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (47% v. 39%)
- Pastors in the South (56%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (40%), West (30%), and Northeast (26%)
- Methodists (59%) are more likely to select than Baptists (37%), Lutherans (32%), Pentecostals (38%), Christian/Church of Christ (35%), and Non-denominational (33%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select (58%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance Less than 50 are the least likely to select (33%)

“Which, if any, of the following ways has your church engaged with local public schools in the last year?”

Assisted school with volunteers for events they conduct

- Pastors age 45-54 are the most likely to select (50%)
- Pastors in the South (47%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (35%) and Midwest (39%)
- Methodists (52%) are more likely to select than Baptists (39%) and Lutherans (29%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select (62%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance Less than 50 are the least likely to select (27%)

“Which, if any, of the following ways has your church engaged with local public schools in the last year?”

Provided tangible appreciation to teachers at a school such as food, cards, gifts, etc.

- Pastors age 18-44 (41%) and 45-54 (45%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (30%)
- Pastors in the South (52%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (36%), West (34%), and Northeast (21%)
- Methodists (47%) and Pentecostals (45%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (29%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (30%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select (63%) followed by 100-249 (47%). 50-99 (36%), and Less than 50 (25%)

“Which, if any, of the following ways has your church engaged with local public schools in the last year?”

Assisted school with volunteers for their tutoring or reading program

- Pastors age 18-44 are the least likely to select (16%)
- African American pastors (41%) are more likely to select than white pastors (24%)
- Pastors in the South (31%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (23%)
- Methodists (41%) and Non-denominational (30%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (19%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select (43%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance Less than 50 are the least likely to select (19%)

“Which, if any, of the following ways has your church engaged with local public schools in the last year?”

Conducted a Bible club at a school

- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (17% v. 9%)
- Pastors with no college degree (21%) are more likely to select than those with a Master's Degree (14%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (20% v. 11%)
- Pastors in the South (19%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (10%)
- Non-denominational (28%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (8%), Methodists (13%), and Presbyterians/Reformed (5%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select (38%)

“Which, if any, of the following ways has your church engaged with local public schools in the last year?”

Donations for students (clothing, food, gifts, scholarships, etc.)

- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (14% v. 6%)
- Lutherans (14%), Methodists (10%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (11%) are more likely to select than Pentecostals (1%) and Non-denominational (3%)

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