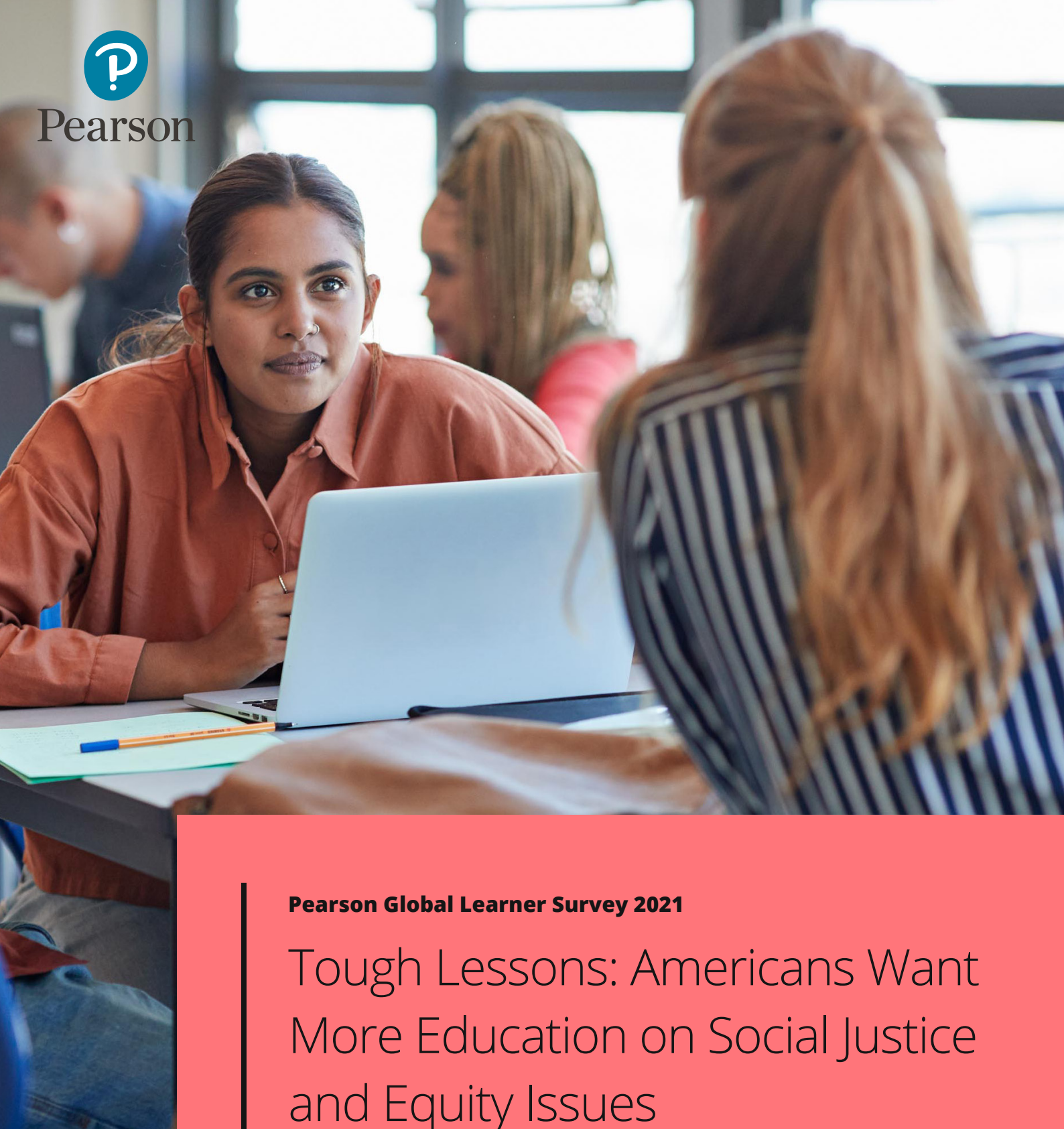




Pearson



## Pearson Global Learner Survey 2021

# Tough Lessons: Americans Want More Education on Social Justice and Equity Issues

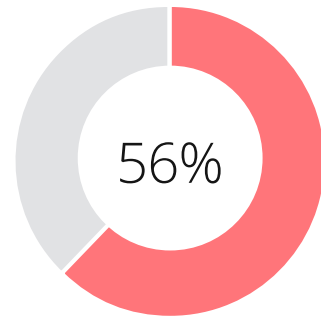
As issues of social justice become more present and urgent in our world, Pearson asked 5,000 people globally, including 1,250 Americans, to examine what they learned, and what they need to learn, when it comes to race and gender equality.

The bottom line: many Americans, **a full 59%**, had concerns about their lack of education on these topics. Now, they are taking learning into their own hands, so they are better prepared to live in a multi-cultural world.

## Here's what we've learned:

Americans believe that schools are making progress providing equal education for all students, but there is still much work to be done.

**More Americans than ever have faith in the equality of our education system, but the picture is far from perfect:**



**56%** of Americans say students should learn about diversity, equity, and inclusion in elementary school or earlier.

→ An increasing number of Americans—**58%**—say that the US education system provides a quality education for all, up from 53% in 2020 and 44% in 2019.

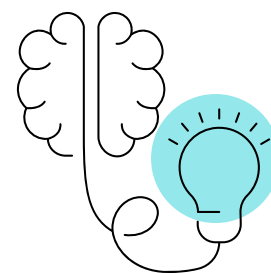
→ **76%** say schools need to do more to address social and economic inequality among students.

→ In particular, **63%** of Americans believe schools need to do more to support LGBTQ+ students.





## Americans are showing a renewed interest in history and social justice.



Americans want to learn more about the things they did not hear about in school but see in the world around them:

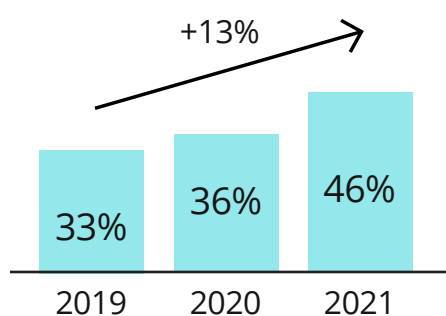
- **73%** of Americans report that they are actively trying to educate themselves about issues related to social justice, diversity, or gender equality.

Interest is even higher among younger, more socially conscious generations, with **83%** of Gen Z and **81%** of Millennial respondents reporting that within the past year they have done something to learn about people of a different race, gender, disability or sexual orientation from themselves.

- How people learn about equity differs generationally, with Gen Xers and Baby Boomer respondents predominately learning about these issues through the news media, and Millennials and Gen Z respondents turning to social media.
- Among all Americans, **41%** report reading a news article to learn more about the issues affecting others, while **34%** report that they have watched a documentary and **30%** have researched topics online or spoken with a friend or family member.

## Americans still display a sense of optimism for the future of education.

Despite concerns over its present state, Americans do think educational opportunities will continue to improve:



- **80%** believe education generally will become more accessible, with a growing number (46%) saying that college is attainable for the average person. That's an increase of 10 percentage points over 2020 and 13 percentage points over 2019.
- A growing number of Americans (**58%**) say that the US education system provides a quality education for all. That's up from 53% in 2020 and 44% in 2019.

### About the Pearson Global Learner Survey

Now in its third year, Pearson's Global Learner Survey is the pre-eminent public opinion research elevating the voice of learners worldwide. This installment of the Global Learner Survey was conducted by Morning Consult from May 27 – June 1, 2021, among a national sample of 1,000 Americans between 16 and 70 years of age (213 GenZ; 337 Millennial; 236 GenX; 214 Baby Boomers). The interviews were conducted online. Results represent the online population of the United States with a margin of error of plus and minus 2 percentage points.