

***Education Next* — Program on Education Policy and Governance — Survey 2013**

Experimental Results

For details on the methodology behind these survey responses, please see “Information Fuels Support for School Reform: Facts about Local District Performance Alter Public Thinking” by Michael B. Henderson, William G. Howell, and Paul E. Peterson at <http://educationnext.org/>.

*Note: For questions with both “a” and “b” versions (5, 8, and 14), a random half of the respondents were assigned version “a” and the other half were assigned version “b”.

*Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Evaluations of Schools

1. Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D, and Fail to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools themselves were graded in the same way. What grade would you give the public schools in the nation as a whole?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
A	2%	2%	2%	2%
B	19	17	18	18
C	57	57	56	54
D	17	14	18	20
Fail	6	9	6	6

2. Now about the public schools in your community? What grade would you give them?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
A	10%	7%	8%	7%
B	39	31	34	28
C	35	41	38	43
D	12	14	15	16
Fail	4	8	6	6

3. Let's consider the public schools in your community once again. Some schools are good at teaching students, but not so good at teaching other students. In your view, how well are the public schools in your community attending to the needs of the most talented students?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Extremely Well	12%	10%	11%	9%
Somewhat Well	61	54	56	59
Somewhat Poorly	17	21	24	22
Extremely Poorly	5	7	4	5
Neither Well nor Poorly	6	7	5	6

4. And what about the least talented students? How well are the public schools in your community attending to the needs of the least talented students?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Extremely Well	6%	5%	4%	5%
Somewhat Well	39	30	36	35
Somewhat Poorly	34	37	36	36
Extremely Poorly	14	19	18	18
Neither Well nor Poorly	6	9	5	6

5a. (Spending Information): As it turns out, according to the most recent information available, \$[ADD VALUE (pps) HERE] is being spent each year per child attending public schools in your district. Do you think that government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Greatly Increase	9%	7%	8%	9%
Increase	34	29	35	31
Stay About the Same	44	48	46	46
Decrease	9	13	8	11
Greatly Decrease	4	3	3	3

5b. (No Spending Information): Do you think that government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Greatly Increase	14%	17%	14%	18%
Increase	39	39	48	37
Stay About the Same	40	37	30	35
Decrease	6	5	5	9
Greatly Decrease	1	1	2	1

School Choice

6. As you may know, many states permit the formation of charter schools, which are publicly funded but are not managed by the local school board. These schools are expected to meet promised objectives, but are exempt from many state regulations. Do you support or oppose the formation of charter schools?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Completely Favor	18%	19%	19%	19%
Somewhat Favor	33	39	37	36
Somewhat Oppose	18	16	19	21
Completely Oppose	8	7	7	9
Neither Favor nor Oppose	24	19	19	15

7. In some parts of the country, a majority of parents whose children attend a low-performing traditional public school can sign a petition requiring the district to convert the school into a charter. What do you think of this policy?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Completely Favor	14%	15%	11%	18%
Somewhat Favor	28	32	36	28
Somewhat Oppose	14	16	14	16
Completely Oppose	9	7	8	9
Neither Favor nor Oppose	35	31	32	30

8a. A proposal has been made that would give families with children in public schools a wider choice, by allowing them to enroll their children in private schools instead, with government helping to pay the tuition. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Completely Favor	17%	17%	22%	19%
Somewhat Favor	27	39	32	32
Somewhat Oppose	20	14	11	17
Completely Oppose	17	11	18	16
Neither Favor nor Oppose	19	19	17	16

8b. A proposal has been made that would use government funds to pay the tuition of low-income students who choose to attend private schools. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Completely Favor	13%	10%	10%	14%
Somewhat Favor	28	24	28	28
Somewhat Oppose	21	24	24	26
Completely Oppose	24	25	23	23
Neither Favor nor Oppose	13	17	15	9

9. Another proposal has been made that would allow low- and moderate-income four-year old children be given the opportunity to attend a preschool program, with the government paying the tuition. What do you think of this proposal?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Completely Favor	26%	25%	26%	27%
Somewhat Favor	34	31	36	34
Somewhat Oppose	14	17	10	15
Completely Oppose	13	13	13	14
Neither Favor nor Oppose	14	14	15	10

10. In your view, should high school students be granted the option of taking approved classes either online or in school?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Yes	53%	56%	53%	54%
No	47	44	47	46

Accountability Standards

11. In some states, students must pass an exam before they are eligible to receive a high school diploma. Do you support or oppose this requirement?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Completely Favor	44%	45%	45%	46%
Somewhat Favor	33	27	29	31
Somewhat Oppose	10	14	11	12
Completely Oppose	5	5	5	5
Neither Favor nor Oppose	9	10	9	6

12. In some states, third grade students are required to pass the state's reading test to be eligible to move on to the fourth grade. Do you support or oppose this requirement for students?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Completely Favor	42%	42%	45%	48%
Somewhat Favor	35	33	33	34
Somewhat Oppose	11	10	9	9
Completely Oppose	4	5	4	5
Neither Favor nor Oppose	8	10	10	4

13. As you may know, all states are currently deciding whether or not to adopt the Common Core standards in reading and math. If adopted, these standards would be used to hold the state’s schools accountable for their performance. Do you support or oppose the adoption of the Common Core standards in your state?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district’s national ranking	Respondent given local district’s state ranking	Respondent given local district’s international ranking
Strongly Favor	19%	20%	22%	21%
Somewhat Favor	46	44	39	43
Somewhat Oppose	8	9	10	12
Strongly Oppose	5	6	4	4
Neither Favor nor Oppose	23	21	26	20

Teachers and Teacher Policy

14a. (No Salary Information): Do you think that public school teacher salaries in your state should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district’s national ranking	Respondent given local district’s state ranking	Respondent given local district’s international ranking
Greatly Increase	10%	16%	17%	13%
Increase	45	42	46	42
Stay About the Same	37	37	33	37
Decrease	7	4	3	6
Greatly Decrease	1	0	1	2

14b. (Salary Information): As it turns out, public school teachers in your state receive, on average, salaries of \$[XX,XXX]. In your view, should their salaries increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Greatly Increase	5%	7%	7%	7%
Increase	32	27	29	33
Stay About the Same	54	57	52	51
Decrease	5	8	11	8
Greatly Decrease	3	1	1	1

15. How much trust and confidence do you have in public school teachers?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Complete Trust and Confidence	6%	7%	5%	5%
A Lot of Trust and Confidence	36	33	31	38
Some Trust and Confidence	47	48	51	44
Little Trust and Confidence	11	12	13	12

16. Do you favor or oppose basing the salaries of teachers, in part, on their students' academic progress on state tests?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Completely Favor	15%	12%	12%	14%
Somewhat Favor	34	34	34	34
Somewhat Oppose	23	25	23	22
Completely Oppose	16	12	16	19
Neither Favor nor Oppose	12	18	15	11

17. Teachers with tenure cannot be dismissed unless a school district follows detailed procedures. Some say that tenure protects teachers from being fired for arbitrary reasons. Others say that it makes it too difficult to replace ineffective teachers. We want to know what you think of tenure. Do you favor or oppose offering tenure to teachers?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Strongly Favor	8%	7%	7%	7%
Somewhat Favor	25	18	20	25
Somewhat Oppose	26	32	31	30
Strongly Oppose	21	23	20	24
Neither Favor nor Oppose	20	20	21	14

18. A proposal has been made that would require teachers to demonstrate that their students are making adequate progress on state tests in order to receive tenure. Would you favor or oppose such a proposal?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Strongly Favor	21%	19%	20%	18%
Somewhat Favor	37	39	38	44
Somewhat Oppose	17	14	13	15
Strongly Oppose	10	11	9	9
Neither Favor nor Oppose	15	18	20	14

19. Some people say that teacher unions are a stumbling block to school reform. Others say that unions fight for better schools and better teachers. What do you think? Do you think teacher unions have a generally positive effect on schools, or do you think they have a generally negative effect?

	Respondent given no information	Respondent given local district's national ranking	Respondent given local district's state ranking	Respondent given local district's international ranking
Strongly Positive	6%	7%	9%	10%
Somewhat Positive	26	26	21	25
Somewhat Negative	26	23	25	20
Strongly Negative	17	18	14	18
Neither Positive nor Negative	25	26	31	26