

## ***Education Next* — Program on Education Policy and Governance**

### **Trends in the *EdNext* Survey: Question wording and data over time**

With the release of its 2016 poll, *EdNext* is celebrating the tenth anniversary of its annual survey of American public opinion on K-12 education policy. An [interactive graphic available here](http://educationnext.org/ednext-poll-interactive-ten-year-trends-public-opinion/) presents trends in opinion on key issues over time among the general public, Republicans, Democrats, and teachers. Some of the wording in the questions presented in the graphic varied slightly from year to year; this document lists the variations and data.

<http://educationnext.org/ednext-poll-interactive-ten-year-trends-public-opinion/>

## GRADING SCHOOLS

### Questions: Local

Local (2011, 2015, 2016): 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 your community?

Local (2012-2014): How about the public schools in your community? What grade would you give them?

Local (2008): Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D, and Fail to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools themselves, in this community, were graded in the same way. What grade would you give the public schools here?

### Questions: National

National (2015, 2016): How about the public schools in the nation as a whole? What grade would you give them?

National (2011-2014): 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?

National (2008): How about the public schools in the nation as a whole? What grade would you give the public schools nationally?

### Responses

Responses: A, B, C, D, Fail

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Local</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	41	41			45	46	49	47	52	55
	<b>Republicans</b>	45	40			47	49	49	47	52	54
	<b>Teachers</b>		61			63	61	71	63	65	69
	<b>Public</b>	43	40			46	47	49	47	52	55
<b>National</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	24	22	17	19	24	23	27	24	26	28
	<b>Republicans</b>	17	18	19	16	18	19	13	15	21	22
	<b>Teachers</b>		34	27	28	38	34	36	27	32	30
	<b>Public</b>	21	20	18	18	21	21	20	20	24	25

## **SCHOOL SPENDING**

### **Question: Uninformed**

Uninformed: Do you think that government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

### **Questions: Informed**

Informed (2012-2016): According to the most recent information available, \$X 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?

Informed (2008, 2009, 2011): According to the most recent information available, in your district \$X is being spent each year per child attending public schools. Do you think that government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

### **Responses**

Responses: Greatly increase, Increase, Stay about the same, Decrease, Greatly decrease

		<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Uninformed</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	71	54	70	68	71	63	72	70	70
	<b>Republicans</b>	50	33	52	46	52	42	46	43	51
	<b>Teachers</b>	78	56	72	71	68	67	75	72	75
	<b>Public</b>	61	45	63	59	63	53	60	57	61
<b>Informed</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	59	45		57	47	45	53	58	57
	<b>Republicans</b>	39	26		28	37	33	33	29	31
	<b>Teachers</b>	67	51		54	60	52	49	59	60
	<b>Public</b>	51	37		45	43	43	43	45	45

# COMMON CORE AND TESTING

## TESTING

### Questions

Question (2015, 2016): Do you support or oppose the federal government continuing to require that all students be tested in math and reading each year in grades 3-8 and once in high school?

Question (2012): As you may know, sometime in the next year or two Congress is expected to take action on the federal school accountability law. Should the federal government continue to require that all students be tested in math and reading each year in grades 3-8 and once in high school. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

Question (2011): Some have proposed that the federal government continue to require that all students be tested in math and reading each year in grades 3-8 and once in high school. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

Question (2010): As you may know, this year Congress is expected to take action on the federal school accountability law. Some people have proposed to maintain the current requirement that all students be tested in math and reading each year in grades 3-8 and once in high school. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

### Responses

Responses: Completely support, Somewhat support, Somewhat oppose, Completely oppose (drop Neither support nor oppose)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Democrats</b>	86	88	84			79	80
<b>Republicans</b>	83	89	83			73	74
<b>Teachers</b>	60	66	58			51	52
<b>Public</b>	83	88	84			76	78

# **COMMON CORE AND TESTING**

## **COMMON CORE**

### **Questions: Common Core**

Common Core (2014-2016): As you may know, in the last few years states have been deciding whether or not to use the Common Core, which are standards for reading and math that are the same across the states. In the states that have these standards, they will be used to hold public schools accountable for their performance. Do you support or oppose the use of the Common Core standards in your state?

Common Core (2012, 2013): 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?

### **Questions: Common Core, not named**

Common Core, not named (2014-2016): As you may know, in the last few years states have been deciding whether or not to use standards for reading and math that are the same across the states. In the states that have these standards, they will be used to hold public schools accountable for their performance. Do you support or oppose the use of these standards in your state?

Common Core, not named (2012): As you may know, all states are currently deciding whether or not to adopt the same academic 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 the adoption of these standards in your state?

### **Responses**

Responses (2013-2016): Strongly support, Somewhat support, Somewhat oppose, Strongly oppose (drop Neither support nor oppose)

Responses (2012): Completely support, Somewhat support, Somewhat oppose, Completely oppose (drop Neither support nor oppose)

		<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Common Core</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	92	86	79	70	60
	<b>Republicans</b>	88	82	54	43	39
	<b>Teachers</b>	82	87	54	44	44
	<b>Public</b>	90	83	67	58	50
<b>Common Core, not named</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	94		83	71	70
	<b>Republicans</b>	89		79	57	61
	<b>Teachers</b>	73		59	52	50
	<b>Public</b>	92		80	64	66

# **SCHOOL CHOICE**

## **CHARTERS**

### **Questions**

Question (2008-2016): 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?

### **Responses**

Responses: Completely support, Somewhat support, Somewhat oppose, Completely oppose (drop Neither support nor oppose)

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Democrats</b>	72	68	70	66	63	59	59	56	58
<b>Republicans</b>	75	75	70	76	82	76	76	76	74
<b>Teachers</b>	59	55	52	54	52	46	48	43	46
<b>Public</b>	72	71	70	70	73	67	66	65	65

## **VOUCHERS**

### **Questions: Universal Vouchers**

Universal Vouchers (2012, 2015, 2016): A proposal has been made that would give all 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?

Universal Vouchers (2011, 2013, 2014): 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?

### **Questions: Targeted Vouchers, Government funds**

Targeted Vouchers, Government funds (2007-2009, 2013-2016): A proposal has been made that would use government funds to help pay the tuition of low-income students whose families would like them to attend private schools. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

Targeted Vouchers, Government funds (2010-2012): 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?

### **Questions: Targeted Vouchers, Wider choice**

Targeted Vouchers, Wider choice (2009): A proposal has been made that would give low-income 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?

Targeted Vouchers, Wider choice (2010): Now we would like to ask about other schooling opportunities. A proposal has been made that would give low-income 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?

Targeted Vouchers, Wider choice (2012, 2015, 2016): A proposal has been made that would give low-income 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?



## Responses

Responses, Universal Vouchers: Completely support, Somewhat support, Somewhat oppose, Completely oppose (drop Neither support nor oppose)

Responses, Targeted Vouchers, Government funds (2011, 2015, 2016): Completely support, Somewhat support, Somewhat oppose, Completely oppose (drop Neither support nor oppose)

Responses, Targeted Vouchers, Government funds (2008-2010, 2012-2014): Completely favor, Somewhat favor, Somewhat oppose, Completely oppose (drop Neither favor nor oppose)

Responses, Targeted Vouchers, Wider choice: Completely support, Somewhat support, Somewhat oppose, Completely oppose (drop Neither support nor oppose)

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Universal Vouchers</b>	<b>Democrats</b>					63	51	49	59	57	56
	<b>Republicans</b>					64	67	55	51	55	45
	<b>Teachers</b>					40	40	41	42	38	37
	<b>Public</b>					64	60	54	56	56	50
<b>Targeted Vouchers, Government funds</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	59	56	48	45	53	55	51	52	49	39
	<b>Republicans</b>	53	43	41	38	45	40	35	26	32	29
	<b>Teachers</b>		37	34	33	36	19	33	19	19	21
	<b>Public</b>	56	50	46	42	50	48	47	42	41	36
<b>Targeted Vouchers, Wider choice</b>	<b>Democrats</b>			54	57		58			57	49
	<b>Republicans</b>			48	55		51			43	37
	<b>Teachers</b>			29	31		39			34	30
	<b>Public</b>			54	55		55			50	43

## TAX CREDITS

### Question

Question (2009, 2012, 2014-2016): A proposal has been made to offer a tax credit for individual and corporate donations that pay for scholarships to help low-income parents send their children to private schools. Would you favor or oppose such a proposal?

Question (2010, 2011): A proposal has been made to offer a tax credit for individual and corporate donations that pay for scholarships to help parents send their children to private schools. Would you favor or oppose such a proposal?

### Responses

Responses (2014-2016): Completely support, Somewhat support, Somewhat oppose, Completely oppose (drop Neither support nor oppose)

Responses (2009-2012): Completely favor, Somewhat favor, Somewhat oppose, Completely oppose (drop Neither favor nor oppose)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Democrats</b>	64	63	70	76		71	69	69
<b>Republicans</b>	59	75	70	76		68	65	60
<b>Teachers</b>	57	58	54	60		44	48	47
<b>Public</b>	63	69	70	77		70	68	65

# **TEACHER POLICIES**

## **MERIT PAY**

### **Questions**

Question (2014-2016): Do you favor or oppose basing part of the salaries of teachers on how much their students learn?

Question (2013): Do you favor or oppose basing the salaries of teachers, in part, on their students' academic progress on state tests?

Question (2011): Do you favor or oppose basing the salaries of teachers *in your local schools*, in part, on their students' academic progress on state tests?

Question (2008-2010): Do you favor or oppose basing a teacher's salary, in part, on his or her students' academic progress on state tests?

### **Responses**

Responses: Completely favor, Somewhat favor, Somewhat oppose, Completely oppose (drop Neither favor nor oppose)

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Democrats</b>	56	60	62	61		53	62	56	57
<b>Republicans</b>	68	62	70	69		58	68	65	63
<b>Teachers</b>	20	15	28	20		19	22	20	20
<b>Public</b>	61	61	66	65		56	65	60	60

## TENURE

### Questions

Question (2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016): 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. Do you favor or oppose giving tenure to teachers?

Question (2014): Teachers with tenure cannot be dismissed unless a school district follows detailed procedures. Some say that tenure provides teachers with the necessary independence for their work. 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 giving tenure to teachers?

Question (2011): 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 *in your local schools*?

### Responses

Responses (2009-2012): Completely favor, Somewhat favor, Somewhat oppose, Completely oppose (drop Neither favor nor oppose)

Responses (2013-2016): Strongly favor, Somewhat favor, Somewhat oppose, Strongly oppose (drop Neither favor nor oppose)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Democrats</b>	41	46	46	49	47	38	41	41
<b>Republicans</b>	29	23	23	27	33	23	28	29
<b>Teachers</b>	65	59	69	67	62	57	60	67
<b>Public</b>	36	35	36	38	41	31	35	31

## **UNIONS**

### **Questions**

Question (2012-2016): 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?

Question (2011): (a) 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 across the country, or do you think they have a generally negative effect?

Question (2009, 2010): 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 the schools in your community, or do you think they have a generally negative effect?

### **Responses**

Responses (2009, 2010): Completely positive effect, Somewhat positive effect, Somewhat negative effect, Completely negative effect (drop Neither positive nor negative effect)

Responses (2011, 2012): Very positive effect, Somewhat positive effect, Somewhat negative effect, Very negative effect (drop Neither positive nor negative effect)

Responses (2013-2016): Strongly positive effect, Somewhat positive effect, Somewhat negative effect, Strongly negative effect (drop Neither positive nor negative effect)

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Democrats</b>	63	61	61	58	63	63	60	65
<b>Republicans</b>	26	26	25	22	26	25	25	31
<b>Teachers</b>			65	58	64	72	69	76
<b>Public</b>	48	46	44	41	43	45	43	49

## **SALARIES**

### **Questions: Uninformed**

Uninformed (2014-2016): Do you think that public school teacher salaries should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Uninformed (2013): Do you think that public school teacher salaries in your state should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Uninformed (2012): Do you think that teacher salaries should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Uninformed (2011): Do you think that teacher salaries *at your local schools* should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Uninformed (2009, 2010): Do you think that teacher salaries in your state should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

### **Questions: Informed**

Informed (2014-2016): As it turns out, public school teachers in your state are paid an average annual salary of \$X. Do you think that public school teacher salaries should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Informed (2013): As it turns out, public school teachers in your state receive, on average, salaries of \$X. In your view, should their salaries increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Informed (2012): As it turns out, teachers in your state are paid an average annual salary of \$X. Do you think that teacher salaries should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Informed (2011): According to the most recent information available, teachers in your state are paid an average annual salary of \$X. Do you think that teacher salaries *at your local schools* should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Informed (2009, 2010): In your state, teachers are paid an average annual salary of \$X. Do you think that these teacher salaries should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

### **Responses**

Responses: Greatly increase, Increase, Stay about the same, Decrease, Greatly decrease

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Informed</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	60	41	50	49	39	39	44	51	49
	<b>Republicans</b>	47	37	30	28	32	33	30	38	33
	<b>Teachers</b>	81	71	75	65	73	63	68	83	79
	<b>Public</b>	54	40	42	41	37	38	38	45	41
<b>Uninformed</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	75	59	64	61	73	66	71	74	76
	<b>Republicans</b>	61	48	50	39	52	39	52	49	52
	<b>Teachers</b>	89	77	76	66	85	79	85	83	89
	<b>Public</b>	69	55	58	52	64	55	62	63	65