

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

For details on the methodology behind these survey responses, please see “The 2013 *Education Next* Survey on What Americans Are Thinking about Common Core and Other Education Policies” by Michael Henderson and Paul E. Peterson at <http://educationnext.org/>. William G. Howell is the *Education Next*-PEPG survey director.

*Note: For questions with both “a” and “b” versions (9, 14, and 20), a random half of the respondents were assigned version “a” and the other half were assigned version “b”.

Knowledge About and Evaluations of Schools

1. A 2009 government survey ranked the math skills of 15-year-olds in 34 industrialized countries. What is your best guess of where American 15-year-olds ranked on this test?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
1-5 (best)	2	1	3	4	8
6-10	7	6	10	8	13
11-15	14	12	16	14	18
16-20	28	26	25	27	26
21-25	25	27	23	23	16
26-30	15	18	15	12	10
31-34 (worst)	9	10	8	12	8

2. What is your best guess as to the percentage of students in U.S. public school who graduate from high school within four years of entering 9th grade?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
%	66	71	66	57	59

3. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
A	2%	1%	3%	2%	6%
B	19	35	19	15	31
C	57	54	58	53	41
D	17	10	17	20	12
Fail	6	0	4	10	10

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

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
A	10%	22%	16%	9%	12%
B	39	49	39	21	39
C	35	25	27	38	34
D	12	3	12	24	7
Fail	4	1	6	9	8

5. And what about the private schools in your community? What grade would you give them?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
A	19%	17%	21%	20%	21%
B	55	55	55	54	52
C	22	25	20	17	19
D	3	2	2	6	2
Fail	2	1	2	3	5

6. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Extremely Well	12%	20%	14%	12%	11%
Somewhat Well	61	57	59	42	56
Somewhat Poorly	17	18	17	29	17
Extremely Poorly	5	4	6	7	4
Neither Well Nor Poorly	6	0	5	10	13

7. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Extremely Well	6%	19%	11%	6%	9%
Somewhat Well	39	47	39	29	31
Somewhat Poorly	34	26	32	32	36
Extremely Poorly	14	7	11	22	16
Neither Well Nor Poorly	6	1	7	11	9

School Spending

8. Based on your best guess, what is the average amount of money spent each year for a child in public schools in your school district?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
\$	\$6,680 (\$6,177)	\$6,076 (\$6,042)	\$6,001 (\$5,660)	\$5,778 (\$5,637)	\$5,948 (\$5,119)

Note: Figures in parentheses exclude guesses of \$0 and exceeding \$50,000.

9a. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Greatly Increase	9%	22%	11%	15%	13%
Increase	34	31	35	47	46
Stay About the Same	44	41	42	28	46
Decrease	9	7	11	4	6
Greatly Decrease	4	0	3	7	4

9b. Do you think that government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Greatly Increase	14%	29%	26%	22%	22%
Increase	39	38	41	48	46
Stay About the Same	40	29	28	27	30
Decrease	6	4	4	3	1
Greatly Decrease	1	0	1	0	1

School Choice Policies

10. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely Support	18%	20%	17%	19%	21%
Somewhat Support	33	21	32	34	33
Somewhat Oppose	18	23	19	16	18
Completely Oppose	8	25	7	9	4
Neither Support nor Oppose	24	12	26	23	24

11. To the best of your knowledge, can charter schools hold religious services?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Yes	19%	19%	19%	17%	16%
No	20	39	25	18	27
Don't Know	61	42	56	64	58

12. To the best of your knowledge, can charter schools charge tuition?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Yes	28%	24%	25%	26%	23%
No	22	47	34	26	31
Don't Know	50	29	42	48	45

13. To the best of your knowledge, when more students apply to a charter school than there are spaces available, can the school pick the students they want or must they hold a lottery?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Pick Students They Want	19%	33%	18%	13%	19%
Must Hold Lottery	30	40	36	35	31
Don't Know	52	27	46	52	50

14a. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely Support	17%	23%	20%	14%	29%
Somewhat Support	27	18	31	37	26
Somewhat Oppose	20	18	16	15	19
Completely Oppose	17	40	16	16	5
Neither Support nor Oppose	19	1	19	18	21

14b. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely Favor	13%	12%	15%	16%	21%
Somewhat Favor	28	19	26	38	31
Somewhat Oppose	21	12	23	7	26
Completely Oppose	24	54	24	15	9
Neither Favor nor Oppose	13	2	12	24	13

15. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely Support	14%	10%	14%	13%	14%
Somewhat Support	28	24	29	30	28
Somewhat Oppose	14	23	15	9	17
Completely Oppose	9	28	10	10	7
Neither Support nor Oppose	35	14	32	38	33

16. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely Favor	26%	38%	31%	37%	42%
Somewhat Favor	34	35	30	31	24
Somewhat Oppose	14	10	11	8	10
Completely Oppose	13	12	15	5	10
Neither Favor nor Oppose	14	5	13	18	14

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

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Yes, students should be given the option.	53%	63%	60%	59%	52%
No, students should only take courses in school.	47	37	40	41	48

18. Would you be willing to have a child of yours go through high school taking some academic courses over the Internet?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Very Willing	25%	33%	27%	24%	25%
Somewhat Willing	31	29	31	28	25
Somewhat Unwilling	18	15	20	12	18
Very Unwilling	17	21	16	22	21
Neither Willing nor unwilling	10	2	6	14	10

Personnel Policies

19. Based on your best guess, what is the average salary of a public school teacher in your state?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
\$	\$36,428 (\$36,493)	\$43,674 (\$43,674)	\$35,757 (\$35,776)	\$29,401 (\$29,609)	\$26,259 (\$26,345)

Note: Figures in parentheses exclude guesses of \$0.

20a. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Greatly Increase	5%	19%	5%	15%	11%
Increase	32	45	38	37	44
Stay About the Same	54	36	48	39	32
Decrease	5	1	8	7	8
Greatly Decrease	3	0	1	3	4

20b. Do you think that public school teacher salaries in your state should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Greatly Increase	10%	39%	19%	18%	12%
Increase	45	40	37	54	62
Stay About the Same	37	19	40	25	22
Decrease	7	0	4	3	3
Greatly Decrease	1	2	0	0	2

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

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely Favor	15%	1%	17%	16%	33%
Somewhat Favor	34	18	33	33	25
Somewhat Oppose	23	21	26	20	13
Completely Oppose	16	58	11	12	11
Neither Favor nor Oppose	12	2	13	19	18

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

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Complete Trust and Confidence	6%	30%	7%	6%	10%
A Lot of Trust and Confidence	36	48	41	31	29
Some Trust and Confidence	47	23	41	47	48
Little Trust and Confidence	11	0	11	16	13

23. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Strongly Favor	8%	30%	8%	9%	13%
Somewhat Favor	25	28	17	22	21
Somewhat Oppose	26	25	32	25	23
Strongly Oppose	21	10	23	12	20
Neither Favor nor Oppose	20	8	21	33	24

24. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Strongly Favor	21%	2%	24%	22%	37%
Somewhat Favor	37	22	40	35	31
Somewhat Oppose	17	28	17	11	12
Strongly Oppose	10	44	7	10	6
Neither Favor nor Oppose	15	5	13	21	14

25. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Strongly Positive Effect	6%	27%	6%	8%	12%
Somewhat Positive Effect	26	29	24	32	28
Somewhat Negative Effect	26	23	20	12	20
Strongly Negative Effect	17	8	19	7	13
Neither Positive nor Negative Effect	25	12	30	40	26

Political Participation

26. To the best of your knowledge, are members of your local school board elected or appointed by another public official such as a mayor?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Elected	83%	91%	80%	73%	69%
Appointed	17	9	20	27	31

27. In talking to people about school board elections, we often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they weren't registered, they were sick, they just didn't have the time, or because school board elections are held at different times from other elections. Which of the following statements best describes you?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
I did not vote in the last school board election.	47%	28%	52%	57%	60%
I thought about voting in the school board election, but didn't.	5	4	7	4	6
I usually vote, but did not vote in the school board election.	15	17	12	14	14
I'm sure I voted in the school board election.	33	51	30	24	20

28. What about the future? How likely are you to vote in the next school board election?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Extremely Likely	25%	48%	24%	24%	11%
Very Likely	19	17	19	18	28
Moderately Likely	21	9	23	21	25
Slightly Likely	11	11	13	8	14
Not at all Likely	24	16	21	29	22

29. Who do you think you will be more likely to vote for in the next school board election? An existing school board member or a new candidate for school board membership?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
An Existing School Board Member	44%	46%	46%	47%	38%
A New Candidate	56	54	54	53	62

30. In the future, how likely are you to attend a school board meeting?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Extremely Likely	4%	12%	4%	5%	6%
Very Likely	7	9	11	5	18
Moderately Likely	15	29	24	18	29
Slightly Likely	20	22	27	19	10
Not at all Likely	55	28	34	54	38

31. What about helping out at your local public school? In the future, how likely are you to volunteer in some way at your local public school?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Extremely Likely	9%	40%	19%	8%	13%
Very Likely	12	14	20	16	25
Moderately Likely	15	16	17	17	22
Slightly Likely	20	13	19	15	15
Not at all Likely	45	17	24	43	25

Accountability

32. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Strongly Support	19%	24%	17%	22%	27%
Somewhat Support	46	52	45	40	40
Somewhat Oppose	8	7	8	11	12
Strongly Oppose	5	4	7	2	3
Neither Support nor Oppose	23	12	23	26	18

33. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely Support	44%	38%	39%	43%	45%
Somewhat Support	33	39	32	28	27
Somewhat Oppose	10	16	14	8	15
Completely Oppose	5	3	4	7	4
Neither Support nor Oppose	9	5	10	13	9

34. 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?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely Support	42%	31%	43%	40%	48%
Somewhat Support	35	32	31	34	24
Somewhat Oppose	11	15	10	7	12
Completely Oppose	4	14	7	6	5
Neither Support nor Oppose	8	7	9	13	11

Talking about Digital Learning

35. Educators use different phrases when they talk about learning designed to put student needs first. Some say “student-centered,” while others say “student-centric” or “student-driven.” Which term do you think is best?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Student-Centered Learning	38%	55%	36%	33%	31%
Student-Centric Learning	8	3	12	5	27
Student-Driven Learning	16	25	18	17	8
No Preference	38	17	34	44	35

36. Educators use different phrases when they talk about learning materials that are created specifically for each student. Some say “personalized learning,” while others say “individualized learning” or “customized learning.” Which term do you think is best?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Personalized Learning	20%	9%	20%	19%	24%
Individualized Learning	30	55	30	28	24
Customized Instruction	14	14	16	12	17
No Preference	36	22	34	43	35

37. Educators also use different phrases when they talk about computer-assisted instruction. Some say “customized instruction,” while others say “adaptive instruction.” Which term do you think is best?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Adaptive Instruction	24%	41%	24%	22%	26%
Customized Instruction	24	29	26	26	23
No Preference	52	29	51	52	52

38. Educators similarly use different phrases when they talk about ensuring that students advance to new material only after having completely learned the previous lesson. Which of the following do you think is best?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Competency-Based Learning	14%	9%	13%	8%	6%
Mastery-Based Learning	11	27	13	12	13
Proficiency-Based Learning	17	20	17	13	10
Performance-Based Learning	16	16	17	13	29
Standards-Based Learning	6	8	8	12	7
No Preference	35	21	33	42	36

39. “Blended learning” combines a curriculum delivered online with face-to-face instruction between students and classroom teachers. On average, do you think students learn more in a blended learning classroom or in a traditional classroom?

	Public	Teachers	Parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Definitely learn more in blended classroom.	7%	9%	10%	11%	9%
May learn more in blended classroom.	31	27	28	28	20
May learn more in traditional classroom.	27	24	19	31	24
Definitely learn more in traditional classroom.	16	22	20	7	20
Learn about the same.	19	18	23	24	27