

Education Next – PEPG Survey – 2007

Accountability

Each respondent was randomly assigned to one of the following two questions:

No Child Left Behind

1a. As you may know, the No Child Left Behind Act requires states to set standards in math and reading and to test students each year to determine whether the standards are being met. This year, Congress is deciding whether to renew the No Child Left Behind Act.

What do you think Congress should do? Should they...

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Renew the Act as is	31 %	28 %	43 %	42 %	33 %	20 %
Renew with minimal changes	26	29	19	18	26	22
Renew with major changes	25	23	31	23	23	32
Not renew at all	18	20	6	17	17	25

1b. As you may know, federal legislation requires states to set standards in math and reading and to test students each year to determine whether the standards are being met. This year, Congress is deciding whether to renew this federal legislation. What do you think Congress should do? Should they...

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Renew the Act as is	37 %	36 %	50 %	31 %	39 %	30 %
Renew with minimal changes	34	37	21	32	34	29
Renew with major changes	18	16	20	21	16	26
Not renew at all	11	11	9	16	11	16

National Standards

2. Under No Child Left Behind, should there be a single national standard and a single national test for all students in the United States? Or do you think that there should be different standards and tests in different states?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
One test and standard for all students	73 %	74 %	68 %	73 %	74 %	63 %
Different tests and standards in different states	27	26	32	27	26	37

Student Accountability

3. In some states, students in certain grades must pass an exam before they are eligible to move on to the next grade. Do you support or oppose this requirement?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely support	52 %	54 %	49 %	43 %	52 %	53 %
Somewhat support	29	28	33	36	30	26
Neither support nor oppose	9	9	5	9	9	7
Somewhat oppose	6	6	8	5	6	9
Completely oppose	3	3	5	6	3	6

4. 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?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely support	60 %	61 %	53 %	53 %	61 %	53 %
Somewhat support	25	23	30	29	24	26
Neither support nor oppose	6	7	4	4	6	6
Somewhat oppose	6	5	6	7	5	9
Completely oppose	4	3	8	6	4	7

5. Do you think students who pass an examination at the tenth-grade level should be given the opportunity to transfer immediately to a community college, or do you think all students should be required to complete four years of high school before going on to further education?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Give opportunity to transfer to community college	45 %	45 %	42 %	43 %	46 %	44 %
Require four years of high school	55	55	58	57	54	56

School Accountability under NCLB

6. Do you support or oppose making available to the general public the average test scores of students at each public school?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely support	38 %	39 %	33 %	40 %	38 %	40 %
Somewhat support	22	22	18	20	21	23
Neither support nor oppose	20	20	24	21	21	16
Somewhat oppose	9	9	12	9	9	8
Completely oppose	11	10	13	10	10	12

7. Suppose a public school does not meet state-determined standards for five years in a row. Do you support or oppose the following measures?

7.1 replacing teachers

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely support	33 %	34 %	27 %	36 %	34 %	32 %
Somewhat support	34	33	44	28	34	32
Neither support nor oppose	22	23	18	25	24	14
Somewhat oppose	6	7	5	6	6	12
Completely oppose	4	3	6	6	3	9

7.2 replacing the principal

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely support	38 %	37 %	39 %	40 %	38 %	40 %
Somewhat support	30	32	28	23	30	29
Neither support nor oppose	23	23	19	28	25	14
Somewhat oppose	6	5	7	5	5	11
Completely oppose	3	2	6	5	3	5

7.3 turning the school into a charter school

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely support	12 %	12 %	14 %	12 %	11 %	19 %
Somewhat support	17	17	20	14	17	20
Neither support nor oppose	46	46	38	51	48	28
Somewhat oppose	11	11	12	10	10	15
Completely oppose	14	13	16	13	13	19

School Choice

Vouchers

8. 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?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely favor	21 %	14 %	41 %	35 %	21 %	18 %
Somewhat favor	24	24	27	26	25	22
Neither favor nor oppose	20	22	17	17	21	18
Somewhat oppose	15	17	8	12	15	17
Completely oppose	19	23	7	11	19	25

9. Some people say low-income students participating in these programs should be allowed to attend either religious or nonreligious private schools. Other people say low income students participating in these programs should be allowed to attend only non religious private schools. Which comes closer to your view?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Choose both religious and non-religious schools	85 %	84 %	91 %	82 %	85 %	81 %
Choose only non-religious schools	15	16	9	18	15	19

10. A proposal has been made to offer a tax credit to low-income parents who send their child to a private school. Would you favor or oppose such a proposal?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely favor	27 %	22 %	42 %	37 %	27 %	25 %
Somewhat favor	26	26	25	23	26	25
Neither favor nor oppose	23	22	21	24	23	22
Somewhat oppose	10	12	6	7	10	13
Completely oppose	15	17	6	8	15	15

Charter Schools

11. Many states allow for the formation of charter schools, which are privately managed under a renewable performance contract that exempts them from many of the regulations of other public schools. Do you support or oppose the formation of charter schools?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely support	19 %	18 %	25 %	19 %	19 %	22 %
Somewhat support	25	24	22	29	25	25
Neither support nor oppose	42	44	41	35	43	33
Somewhat oppose	8	8	5	10	8	8
Completely oppose	6	6	7	7	5	13

12. Do you think charter schools should be given more, less, or the same amount of government funding for each child as other public schools?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
More	7 %	4 %	14 %	9 %	7 %	9 %
Less	25	27	16	22	24	32
Same	68	68	70	69	70	59

13. Based on what you have heard about charter schools, are the following statements true or false?

13.1 Charter schools are free to teach religion

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
True	24 %	24 %	22 %	25 %	24 %	28 %
False	13	13	9	15	12	19
Don't know	63	63	69	60	64	54

13.2 Charter schools may not charge tuition

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
True	16 %	15 %	18 %	16 %	14 %	27 %
False	24	22	21	28	23	28
Don't know	60	62	61	56	63	45

School Choice under NCLB

14. Students attending a public school that fails to meet state-determined standards for two years in a row currently have the option of using government funds to attend another public school in their district, provided that school meets state determined standards for student learning. Do you support or oppose also allowing these students to attend any of the following schools?

14.1 public schools in another district

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely support	31 %	30 %	32 %	33 %	31 %	35 %
Somewhat support	29	28	35	30	29	26
Neither support nor oppose	26	27	20	23	27	16
Somewhat oppose	8	8	7	10	7	13
Completely oppose	6	7	5	5	6	10

14.2 a private school

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely support	22 %	22 %	23 %	24 %	22 %	25 %
Somewhat support	25	24	29	30	25	26
Neither support nor oppose	29	29	31	30	31	20
Somewhat oppose	10	11	9	7	10	11
Completely oppose	13	15	8	9	13	18

14.3 public schools in their district that failed to meet state standards

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely support	11 %	11 %	14 %	11 %	11 %	17 %
Somewhat support	14	13	20	14	14	16
Neither support nor oppose	30	31	24	32	32	22
Somewhat oppose	19	18	19	23	19	20
Completely oppose	25	27	24	20	25	25

Home Schooling

15. Rather than send them to a school, some parents prefer to educate their children at home. Do you favor or oppose allowing home-schooled children to attend selected classes at local public schools?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely favor	30 %	31 %	17 %	24 %	30 %	31 %
Somewhat favor	25	24	25	30	26	22
Neither favor nor oppose	28	28	36	27	29	22
Somewhat oppose	9	9	13	12	9	9
Completely oppose	8	8	10	6	6	16

16. Do you favor or oppose allowing home-schooled children to participate in sports and other extracurricular activities at local public schools?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely favor	34 %	32 %	24 %	37 %	34 %	33 %
Somewhat favor	22	22	22	24	23	18
Neither favor nor oppose	26	27	30	25	26	24
Somewhat oppose	8	8	12	7	8	12
Completely oppose	10	11	12	7	10	14

17. Do you know any family that currently home schools their child?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Yes	40 %	46 %	24 %	24 %	38 %	56 %
No	60	54	76	76	62	44

Teacher Pay and Licensure

Differential Pay

18. Do you favor or oppose basing a teacher's salary, in part, on students' academic progress [on state tests]?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely favor	14 %	14 %	11 %	16 %	14 %	13 %
Somewhat favor	31	33	22	29	32	23
Neither favor nor oppose	24	22	32	24	25	19
Somewhat oppose	16	16	19	14	16	17
Completely oppose	15	15	16	16	13	28

19. Do you think it is more important to give a larger salary increase to teachers who work in challenging schools, such as schools in central cities? Or is it better to give a smaller salary increase to all teachers?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Larger increase to teachers in challenging schools	53 %	52 %	61 %	45 %	52 %	56 %
Smaller salary increase to all teachers	47	48	39	55	48	44

20. Some states are considering increasing teacher salaries. Do you think it is more important to give a larger salary increase to teachers in subject areas where there are shortages, such as math and science? Or is it better to give a smaller salary increase to all teachers?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Larger salary increase to teachers in math and science	33 %	32 %	38 %	33 %	33 %	31 %
Smaller salary increase to all teachers	67	68	62	67	67	69

State Licensure

21. Do you favor or oppose allowing principals to hire college graduates who they believe will be effective in the classroom even if they do not have formal teaching credentials?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Completely favor	16 %	15 %	17 %	15 %	15 %	18 %
Somewhat favor	32	31	29	39	32	30
Neither favor nor oppose	20	20	19	16	21	11
Somewhat oppose	18	18	16	19	18	17
Completely oppose	15	16	19	12	13	24

School Spending

School Spending

22. Keeping in mind that the money for public education has to be paid by taxes, do you think that government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Greatly increase	13 %	12 %	22 %	16 %	12 %	22 %
Increase	38	35	43	44	38	41
Stay about the same	38	42	28	34	39	29
Decrease	8	9	3	5	8	5
Greatly decrease	2	3	4	1	2	3

23. If more money were spent on public schools in your district, how confident are you that students would learn more?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Very confident	16 %	13 %	34 %	18 %	16 %	20 %
Somewhat confident	43	40	46	52	43	44
Not very confident	29	33	17	22	30	25
Not confident at all	12	14	4	8	12	12

24. Which do you think is a better use of our educational dollars, increasing teacher salaries or decreasing class size?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Increasing teacher salaries	23 %	21 %	25 %	27 %	23 %	19 %
Decreasing class size	77	79	75	73	77	81

Voting in School Board Elections

Voting in School Board Elections

25. Many school board elections are held at a time different from other elections. As a result, many people are unable to vote in them. Do you remember for sure whether you voted in the last school board election?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Voted	40 %	40 %	42 %	34 %	36 %	57 %
Did not vote	36	36	35	34	38	25
Ineligible	4	4	2	9	4	3
Don't know, can't remember	21	20	21	23	22	15

Overall Assessment

Overall Assessment

26. 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?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
A	9 %	10 %	7 %	8 %	9 %	12 %
B	34	38	20	32	34	34
C	38	36	48	41	39	37
D	13	13	18	11	13	11
Fail	5	4	7	9	5	7

27. How about the public schools in the nation as a whole? What grade would you give the public schools nationally?

	<u>Racial/Ethnic Identity</u>				<u>Public School Employee? (Past or Present)</u>	
	<u>National</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>African-American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Not Employee</u>	<u>Employee</u>
A	3 %	1 %	7 %	8 %	2 %	5 %
B	19	18	20	17	19	16
C	55	56	52	58	55	54
D	20	22	14	14	20	19
Fail	4	3	6	2	4	6