

Education Next – PEPG Survey – 2011

1. How much attention do you pay to issues involving education?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
A great deal	13 %	24 %	60 %	16 %	22 %	28 %	21 %	26 %
Quite a bit	24	30	24	24	35	31	23	29
Some	41	38	14	39	33	31	38	31
Very little	16	7	2	15	7	8	10	10
None	6	1	1	5	3	3	7	4

EVALUATING SCHOOLS

Each respondent was randomly assigned to one of the following 2 questions:

2a. 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	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
A	3 %	1 %	3 %	5 %	4 %	7 %	3 %	7 %
B	19	14	34	19	22	21	14	29
C	54	58	46	50	52	42	55	47
D	19	23	14	21	15	24	16	12
Fail	6	3	3	6	7	6	11	6

2b. 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 give the public schools in your community?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
A	10 %	13 %	16 %	7 %	14 %	13 %	8 %	17 %
B	36	41	48	33	43	38	30	41
C	36	33	27	37	29	28	44	29
D	13	10	8	17	9	13	10	8
Fail	5	2	2	6	5	8	8	5

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SCHOOL SPENDING

Each respondent was randomly assigned to one of the following 2 questions:

3a. According to the most recent information available, in your district \$[CURRENT SPENDING LEVEL] 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?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Greatly increase	10 %	7 %	20 %	12 %	16 %	20 %	22 %	11 %
Increase	36	29	33	39	40	39	45	34
Stay about the same	45	53	38	40	34	33	30	47
Decrease	8	8	6	6	8	5	2	5
Greatly decrease	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2

3b. Do you think that government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Greatly increase	16 %	12 %	27 %	17 %	26 %	25 %	26 %	25 %
Increase	43	40	44	45	47	50	48	46
Stay about the same	33	40	24	29	22	21	22	22
Decrease	5	7	5	7	3	4	2	6
Greatly decrease	3	1		2	2	*	2	2

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SCHOOL CHOICE POLICIES

Each respondent was randomly assigned to one of the following 2 questions:

4a. 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?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely support	16 %	27 %	13 %	18 %	14 %	18 %	11 %	18 %
Somewhat support	27	37	32	31	29	26	27	20
Neither support nor oppose	39	18	18	36	44	48	49	45
Somewhat oppose	11	15	16	9	10	5	9	8
Completely oppose	7	4	21	5	4	4	4	9

4b. 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?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Support	42 %	55 %	42 %	49 %	42 %	47 %	42 %	38 %
Oppose	23	20	39	20	22	20	16	24
Don't know	35	25	19	32	36	33	42	38

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Each respondent was randomly assigned to one of the following 2 questions:

5a. 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?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely support	19 %	25 %	15 %	21 %	27 %	36 %	21 %	28 %
Somewhat support	28	22	20	32	33	33	32	32
Neither support nor oppose	26	14	14	21	23	16	23	25
Somewhat oppose	16	20	16	15	8	6	15	8
Completely oppose	11	19	36	10	10	9	8	7

5b. 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?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely support	15 %	12 %	15 %	16 %	18 %	17 %	22 %	26 %
Somewhat support	24	31	17	28	22	25	28	28
Neither support nor oppose	22	15	13	22	20	19	29	21
Somewhat oppose	18	14	19	16	18	16	8	15
Completely oppose	20	28	37	17	22	22	12	10

6. Another proposal has been made to offer a tax credit for educational expenses (fees, supplies, computers, and tuition) to low- and moderate-income parents who send their children to public and private schools. Would you favor or oppose such a proposal?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely favor	21 %	21 %	20 %	25 %	28 %	32 %	28 %	32 %
Somewhat favor	34	35	32	33	34	35	38	32
Neither favor nor oppose	26	17	20	24	21	19	26	20
Somewhat oppose	11	12	15	10	10	8	5	8
Completely oppose	8	15	12	9	7	7	5	8

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7. Another 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?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely favor	19 %	19 %	19 %	23 %	24 %	28 %	25 %	33 %
Somewhat favor	31	38	28	32	36	38	32	27
Neither favor nor oppose	29	19	15	26	25	20	30	26
Somewhat oppose	13	11	16	12	8	7	6	8
Completely oppose	8	14	23	7	7	7	6	7

8. Another proposal has been made to allow high school students *across the country* to receive credit for state-approved courses taken over the internet. Would you favor or oppose such a proposal?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely favor	14 %	10 %	11 %	17 %	20 %	24 %	20 %	23 %
Somewhat favor	33	32	38	32	39	36	37	34
Neither favor nor oppose	26	15	16	25	18	16	25	25
Somewhat oppose	18	26	21	19	17	19	14	13
Completely oppose	8	17	14	8	7	6	5	6

9. Some people have proposed that school districts *around the nation* offer parents the option of sending their child to an all-boys or all-girls school? What do you think about this proposal?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely support	12 %	14 %	17 %	13 %	11 %	13 %	13 %	11 %
Somewhat support	22	33	29	22	23	19	22	22
Neither support nor oppose	42	32	35	41	40	39	46	44
Somewhat oppose	14	12	11	13	15	14	12	11
Completely oppose	9	9	8	10	11	15	6	12

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PERSONNEL POLICIES

Each respondent was randomly assigned to one of the following 2 questions:

10a. According to the most recent information available, teachers *in the United States* are paid an average annual salary of \$ 54,819. Do you think that these teacher salaries should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Greatly increase	9 %	17 %	34 %	11 %	10 %	9 %	15 %	9 %
Increase	34	35	42	39	37	42	47	42
Stay about the same	48	43	17	42	44	41	34	43
Decrease	7	4	4	6	7	5	3	5
Greatly decrease	2	1	2	1	1	3	*	1

10b. Do you think that teacher salaries *in the United States* should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Greatly increase	14 %	15 %	36 %	13 %	18 %	19 %	27 %	12 %
Increase	41	44	46	45	41	45	53	52
Stay about the same	39	33	16	38	37	34	16	34
Decrease	5	5	1	2	3	2	1	1
Greatly decrease	2	2	1	1	2	1	3	*

11. Some argue that teachers *around the nation* should be required to pay from their salaries 20 percent of the cost of their health care and pension benefits, with the government covering the remainder. What do you think of this proposal?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely favor	15 %	24 %	8 %	13 %	13 %	10 %	7 %	11 %
Somewhat favor	28	31	15	28	26	24	22	27
Neither favor nor oppose	33	20	22	33	34	38	43	43
Somewhat oppose	14	15	22	16	18	16	17	12
Completely oppose	9	10	34	10	9	12	10	8

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12. Reducing average class sizes by 3 students would cost roughly the same amount as increasing teacher salaries by \$10,000. Which do you think is the best use of funds for schools *across the country*, increasing teacher salaries by \$10,000 or reducing class size by 3 students?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Strongly favor increasing teacher salaries by \$10,000	10 %	16 %	26 %	12 %	11 %	14 %	13 %	11 %
Somewhat favor increasing teacher salaries by \$10,000	18	19	16	18	16	11	21	16
No opinion either way	29	19	11	29	26	29	31	39
Somewhat favor reducing class sizes by 3 students	26	28	28	22	29	30	18	22
Strongly favor reducing class sizes by 3 students	18	18	19	18	19	17	17	13

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

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely favor	14 %	17 %	6 %	13 %	13 %	16 %	12 %	18 %
Somewhat favor	33	35	12	30	37	37	35	33
Neither favor nor oppose	26	13	10	26	24	24	27	29
Somewhat oppose	18	26	24	21	16	16	17	12
Completely oppose	9	10	48	9	10	8	8	8

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14. A proposal has been made that would require teachers *across the country* 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?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely favor	21 %	21 %	11 %	21 %	24 %	27 %	15 %	29 %
Somewhat favor	34	40	19	34	36	40	43	33
Neither favor nor oppose	25	14	9	25	20	19	27	25
Somewhat oppose	13	17	23	14	11	8	11	8
Completely oppose	7	9	37	5	9	6	4	5

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

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely favor	11 %	23 %	7 %	13 %	9 %	10 %	9 %	14 %
Somewhat favor	31	39	21	29	32	34	34	29
Neither favor nor oppose	26	12	11	27	24	22	27	24
Somewhat oppose	19	15	19	18	20	16	18	19
Completely oppose	12	11	41	14	15	18	12	15

16. 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 *across the country*?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely favor	5 %	5 %	26 %	7 %	5 %	7 %	4 %	9 %
Somewhat favor	15	15	27	18	15	19	24	19
Neither favor nor oppose	31	13	14	35	29	39	47	39
Somewhat oppose	30	31	18	23	29	22	18	23
Completely oppose	19	36	14	18	22	13	6	11

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17. 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 your local schools*, or do you think they have a generally negative effect?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Very positive effect	8 %	7 %	26 %	9 %	9 %	10 %	16 %	11 %
Somewhat positive effect	21	17	32	21	22	30	32	25
Neither positive nor negative effect	38	20	25	39	38	35	40	43
Somewhat negative effect	21	25	10	18	19	14	10	15
Very negative effect	12	31	7	12	13	11	3	6

ACCOUNTABILITY

18. 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?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely support	35 %	40 %	19 %	39 %	39 %	44 %	36 %	43 %
Somewhat support	36	35	38	34	33	30	36	33
Neither support nor oppose	19	13	14	18	17	15	22	17
Somewhat oppose	6	8	18	6	7	7	5	4
Completely oppose	3	4	11	3	4	4	2	3

19. For holding schools accountable, should all state governments adopt the same set of educational standards and give the same tests in math, science and reading? Or do you think that there should be different standards and tests in different states?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
One test and standard for all students	72 %	75 %	63 %	73 %	73 %	73 %	71 %	69 %
Different tests and standards in different states	19	19	22	20	18	21	22	23
No national or state tests should be given	9	6	15	7	9	7	7	8

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20. In your state, students in public schools regularly take the [state test]. Do you think the results from these tests provide good information about the quality of the schools *in your state*?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Excellent information	7 %	5 %	4 %	10 %	10 %	14 %	10 %	13 %
Good information	34	33	21	33	40	41	29	42
Fair information	34	40	45	32	30	26	36	23
Poor information	13	10	24	14	15	14	11	11
No opinion	12	12	6	11	5	5	13	12

21. 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 for students *around the nation*?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely support	32 %	34 %	25 %	37 %	30 %	36 %	31 %	45 %
Somewhat support	38	41	35	36	38	37	36	33
Neither support nor oppose	19	14	15	16	18	16	20	16
Somewhat oppose	7	7	14	7	9	6	9	4
Completely oppose	5	4	11	3	6	5	5	3

22. 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 for students *nationwide*?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely support	41 %	44 %	32 %	45 %	38 %	46 %	37 %	50 %
Somewhat support	31	36	34	30	34	36	30	26
Neither support nor oppose	16	13	12	14	14	10	16	16
Somewhat oppose	7	5	14	8	8	4	13	6
Completely oppose	5	3	8	3	6	5	5	3

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SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT PRACTICES

23. Should school districts *across the country* take the family income of students into account when assigning students to schools in order to ensure that each school has a mix of students from different backgrounds?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Definitely	7 %	4 %	8 %	10 %	5 %	7 %	12 %	16 %
Probably	17	21	19	17	15	15	25	21
Not sure	33	22	20	32	31	33	34	31
Probably not	19	23	26	21	20	18	13	13
Definitely not	23	30	26	20	29	27	15	19

24. Some people say that students who have been diagnosed with emotional and behavioral disabilities should be taught in regular classrooms with other students. Other people say that these students should be taught in separate settings at the school. What do you think should be done with students *around the nation* who have emotional and behavioral disabilities?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Completely support teaching them in regular classrooms	7 %	5 %	9 %	7 %	8 %	8 %	7 %	13 %
Somewhat support teaching them in regular classrooms	20	27	24	19	19	17	22	23
Neither support nor oppose teaching them in regular classrooms	24	16	9	24	26	25	21	26
Somewhat oppose teaching them in regular classrooms	33	34	41	32	30	31	29	21
Completely oppose teaching them in regular classrooms	16	20	18	17	18	18	21	18

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NON-POLICY QUESTIONS

25a. Do you think that local taxes to fund public schools *around the nation* should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Greatly increase	6 %	5 %	15 %	8 %	9 %	12 %	9 %	9 %
Increase	29	34	35	33	32	36	35	35
Stay about the same	51	45	38	47	47	43	49	48
Decrease	10	10	9	9	9	6	5	7
Greatly decrease	4	5	4	4	2	3	2	2

25b. Do you think that local taxes to fund public schools *in your district* should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Greatly increase	6 %	5 %	9 %	8 %	8 %	14 %	12 %	9 %
Increase	22	24	33	27	26	32	29	26
Stay about the same	57	53	47	50	55	45	53	52
Decrease	10	12	9	10	9	8	4	10
Greatly decrease	6	6	1	4	2	2	1	2

26. Rather than send them to a school, some parents prefer to educate their children at home. Do you know any family that currently home schools their child?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Yes	35 %	49 %	52 %	34 %	43 %	33 %	22 %	21 %
No	65	51	48	66	57	67	78	79

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

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Very willing	20 %	19 %	21 %	20 %	25 %	25 %	17 %	18 %
Somewhat willing	32	36	41	33	33	34	37	30
Neither willing nor unwilling	22	11	11	21	18	19	24	23
Somewhat unwilling	15	18	16	15	14	13	12	16
Very unwilling	10	15	11	11	10	9	10	13

28a. What is your best guess as to the percentage of students *in U.S. public schools* who graduate from high school within four years of entering 9th grade?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Mean	65 %	66 %	66 %	62 %	66 %	63 %	58 %	57 %

28b. What is your best guess as to the percentage of students *in your local school district* who graduate from high school within four years of entering 9th grade?

	National	Affluent	Teachers	Charter sample	Parents	Charter sample parents	African Americans	Hispanics
Mean	72 %	78 %	78 %	67 %	73 %	67 %	63 %	61 %