

FINAL SURVEY RESULTS 2009

Checked Out: Ohioans' Views on Education 2009

These *Final Survey Results 2009* include full question wording and data for the total sample of Ohio residents as well as the following subgroups: “5 cities,” “African-American” and “Parents.” These subgroups are defined as follows: 5 cities consists of a proportionate sample of residents from five of the largest Ohio cities (Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Toledo); African-Americans self-identified as either black or African-American; and parents who have school-age children. The columns “Ohio ‘07” and “Ohio ‘05” include total data for the questions that were asked in two previous reports based on many of the same survey questions (*Ohioans' Views on Education 2007* and *Halfway Out the Door: Ohioans Sound Off on Public Schooling, with a Special Analysis of the Views of African Americans and Dayton Residents* [2005]). Results of less than .5 percent are signified by an asterisk (*); results of zero by a dash (-). Responses may not always total to 100 percent due to rounding. Combining answer categories may produce slight discrepancies between the numbers in the survey results and numbers in the report. The survey is based on 1,002 interviews conducted by telephone with a randomly drawn statewide representative sample of Ohio adults 18 and older. The fielding took place between April 1 and 9, 2009. The margin of error for the statewide sample (n=1,002) is plus or minus 3 percentage points; the margin of error increases for sub-groups within the sample.

OHIOANS' VIEWS ON EDUCATION 2009 FINAL SURVEY RESULTS	OHIO '09 (n=1002)	OHIO '07 (n=1000)	OHIO '05 (n=1001)	5 CITIES 2009 (n=214)	AF-AMER 2009 (n=100)	PARENT 2009 (n=321)
1a. Is it your sense that over the past two or three years, the quality of the public schools in your local area has:						
Gotten better	22		23	18	17	27
Stayed the same	39		38	33	26	40
Gotten worse	29		32	35	49	28
Don't know	10		6	14	8	5
1. Which statement is more accurate for the students graduating from your local public schools? A high school diploma:						
Is no guarantee that the typical student has learned the basics	39	43	42	46	44	35
Means that the typical student has at least learned the basics	58	54	54	49	52	63
Don't know	3	4	4	5	4	2
2. In your view, should there be:						
A single national standard and a single national test for all students in the U.S.	62	57		61	69	63
Different standards and tests in different states	33	38		34	29	30
Don't know	5	5		4	2	8
<i>In 2007, question wording began with "Under No Child Left Behind, should there be..."</i>						
3. Which comes closer to your view:						
Good teachers lead even students who are poor and have uninvolved parents to learn what they are supposed to	46			48	51	47
It is too hard even for good teachers to overcome these barriers	48			45	40	48
Don't know	5			8	9	4
Next, I'm going to read you ideas some people have suggested for improving Ohio's public schools. Please tell me for each of the following proposals whether you would strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose.						
4. Giving local public schools more flexibility to design curriculum?						
NET FAVOR	81	79	75	80	73	83
NET OPPOSE	18	17	19	18	26	16
Strongly favor	41	45	41	42	36	44
Somewhat favor	39	34	34	39	36	39
Somewhat oppose	11	11	11	9	16	10
Strongly oppose	6	6	8	9	10	6
Don't know	2	4	6	2	1	1

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5. Giving local public schools more freedom to fire teachers that aren't performing?						
NET FAVOR	87	85	89	86	82	91
NET OPPOSE	11	12	9	11	15	8
Strongly favor	63	61	70	57	56	64
Somewhat favor	25	24	20	29	26	27
Somewhat oppose	6	7	4	6	6	5
Strongly oppose	5	5	4	6	9	3
Don't know	2	3	2	3	3	1
6. Basing a teacher's salary, in part, on students' academic progress on state tests?						
NET FAVOR	44	49		49	45	44
NET OPPOSE	52	47		50	52	54
Strongly favor	17	23		18	15	17
Somewhat favor	28	26		31	30	27
Somewhat oppose	22	21		21	23	26
Strongly oppose	30	26		29	29	28
Don't know	4	4		1	3	3
7. Increasing the amount of time students spend in the public schools by extending the school year or the school day?						
NET FAVOR	53	53		63	69	44
NET OPPOSE	45	42		36	29	53
Strongly favor	29	28		37	48	24
Somewhat favor	24	24		26	21	21
Somewhat oppose	17	18		13	11	19
Strongly oppose	28	25		23	18	34
Don't know	2	5		1	2	3
8. Paying higher salaries to teachers who work in tough neighborhoods with hard-to-reach students?						
NET FAVOR	72		77	78	79	72
NET OPPOSE	26		19	22	21	25
Strongly favor	35		46	39	48	34
Somewhat favor	37		31	39	31	38
Somewhat oppose	14		10	12	10	13
Strongly oppose	12		9	10	11	12
Don't know	3		4	1	-	3

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9. Paying higher salaries to teachers who specialize in hard-to-fill subjects such as science or mathematics?						
NET FAVOR	66			72	73	71
NET OPPOSE	32			25	25	28
Strongly favor	32			37	43	34
Somewhat favor	34			35	30	37
Somewhat oppose	19			17	9	17
Strongly oppose	13			8	16	11
Don't know	2			3	2	1
10. Giving school principals far more freedom to run the schools but terminating their contracts if their schools fail to reach specific goals?						
NET FAVOR	65	66		60	64	65
NET OPPOSE	32	29		38	36	32
Strongly favor	29	34		25	28	30
Somewhat favor	36	32		35	36	34
Somewhat oppose	19	17		23	19	19
Strongly oppose	13	12		16	17	13
Don't know	3	5		2	-	3
11. If principals in public district schools could choose which teachers work in their buildings and had more say over work rules, do you think the public schools would:						
Improve	51	50	54	52	49	59
Get worse	12	11	8	10	16	11
Stay the same	30	31	26	32	31	25
Don't know	8	8	12	7	4	6
12. Do you think that teachers' pay should be based on:						
Their performance and how effectively they teach	69	61		67	63	72
Their years of service and the degrees they've earned	15	16		17	18	12
[Vol.] Both	13	21		12	15	13
Don't know	3	2		4	4	3
13. Which of these two statements comes closer to your own view:						
Ohio's public schools should only hire teachers who have finished a university-based professional training program in education	41	39		35	42	44
Ohio's public schools should be free to hire college graduates who have demonstrated their knowledge and skills in their subject-areas	52	44		59	55	51
[Vol.] Both	3	13		3	2	2
Don't know	3	4		3	1	3

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14. 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?						
Greatly increase	14	16		17	22	15
Increase	29	30		33	45	28
Stay about the same	44	41		39	28	43
Decrease	5	7		5	3	7
Greatly decrease	3	2		4	1	4
Don't know	4	4		3	1	3
15. If Ohio decided to spend more money on the public schools, do you think:						
The money would actually get to the classrooms and improve education	22	21	21	25	21	19
The money would actually get lost along the way	74	71	69	70	70	76
Don't know	4	8	10	6	9	5
16. Which of these do you trust most to make decisions about how to spend tax money allocated to Ohio's public schools?						
The individual schools themselves	22	25		28	18	28
Local school districts	47	43		43	37	44
The State Board of Education	17	18		14	21	14
The Governor	3	5		2	6	4
The State Legislature	4	5		8	10	5
Don't know	5	5		4	7	4
17. Do you know whether Ohio's Supreme Court has ruled the state's system of funding its public schools as constitutional, unconstitutional, or don't you know enough to say?						
Constitutional	3			3	3	2
Unconstitutional	34			24	17	37
Don't know enough to say	64			73	80	61
18. Ohio's system of funding its public schools has been ruled unconstitutional because wealthy communities have greater property values and can spend more on their schools than poor districts can. How important is it to you PERSONALLY to even out education spending across Ohio's school districts?						
NET IMPORTANT	88			88	98	87
NET UNIMPORTANT	11			11	2	12
Very important	62			67	82	57
Somewhat important	26			22	16	30
Not too important	5			6	-	6
Not important at all	6			5	2	6
Don't know	1			1	-	1

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19. Do you think that Ohio can even out education spending across school districts without raising taxes or cutting services, or do you think it will be necessary to do at least one of those things?						
Ohio can even out education spending without raising taxes or cutting services	33			36	27	33
It will be necessary to do at least one of those things	61			63	69	62
Don't know	6			1	4	4
20. Would you personally be willing to pay more in taxes to even out education spending across Ohio's school districts, or not?						
Yes, would be willing to pay more in taxes	42			51	63	46
No	55			46	33	51
Don't know	3			4	4	4
21. All of Ohio's 10th graders are required to pass tests in each of the major subjects before they can graduate from high school. Students who fail will get help and get more chances to pass, but they MUST pass in order to get a diploma. Do you favor or oppose this policy?						
NET FAVOR	69	82	83	65	56	66
NET OPPOSE	28	17	15	32	43	33
Strongly favor	49	62	60	45	43	46
Somewhat favor	20	20	23	21	13	20
Somewhat oppose	10	5	5	12	11	10
Strongly oppose	19	11	9	21	32	24
Don't know	2	2	2	2	1	1
<i>Question wording in 2005 survey began: "Starting this year...."</i>						
22. There is a proposal to change the current high school graduation requirement in Ohio. Instead of passing the Ohio Graduation Tests, students would graduate based on their score on a national college entrance exam PLUS the results of end-of-year course exams and projects. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?						
NET FAVOR	51			50	56	56
NET OPPOSE	43			45	38	40
Strongly favor	22			22	28	22
Somewhat favor	29			28	28	33
Somewhat oppose	20			24	21	19
Strongly oppose	23			21	17	21
Don't know	6			6	6	5

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23. In Ohio, schools and districts are evaluated by how well students do on standardized tests, and the results are publicized. Schools that do very badly are identified, watched carefully, and must put an improvement plan into action. Do you think that using test scores this way:						
Is mostly HARMFUL because it puts students and educators under unfair pressure	32	27	28	33	29	35
Is mostly GOOD because it calls attention to problems that need to be addressed	62	63	62	61	66	59
[Vol.] Both	3	6	4	4	2	3
Don't know	4	4	6	2	3	3
24. There's a proposal to evaluate and publicize how effectively Ohio's schools and districts use the money they get AND whether they have enough money to do their job. Generally, do you think that evaluating and publicizing Ohio's schools and districts in this way is an excellent, good, fair or poor idea?						
NET POSITIVE	58			60	61	59
NET NEGATIVE	39			37	34	38
Excellent	19			18	16	21
Good	39			42	45	39
Fair	29			30	23	28
Poor	10			7	11	10
Don't know	3			3	5	3
25. How much do you know about charter schools?						
A great deal	4	7	7	7	8	6
Quite a bit	12	12	10	15	13	15
Only some	28	31	28	28	25	29
Very little	35	31	34	31	27	32
Nothing at all	20	18	21	18	26	18
Don't know	*	*	1	1	1	*
26. Charter schools are public schools that have a lot more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are free from many existing regulations. In general, do you favor or oppose this idea?						
NET FAVOR	52	52	51	55	57	55
NET OPPOSE	38	38	34	36	35	37
Strongly favor	18	23	18	20	23	18
Somewhat favor	34	29	33	35	34	37
Somewhat oppose	18	17	18	16	14	15
Strongly oppose	20	21	16	20	21	22
Don't know	10	10	16	9	8	8

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27. Some of Ohio's public charter schools are doing a good job of teaching kids and some are doing a poor job. Do you think that Ohio:						
Should close only the worst ones	58	63		63	64	56
Should close all of them	12	11		9	9	11
Should close none of them	23	18		24	27	27
Don't know	7	8		5	-	6
28. When it comes to funding and resources, do you think that public charter schools should get higher, lower, or the same funding and resources as public district schools?						
Higher	3	3		5	7	3
Lower	22	17		19	19	30
Same	69	74		69	68	63
Don't know	6	7		6	5	4
29. Currently, some charter school boards in Ohio hire for-profit companies to run their public charter schools. These for-profit companies get paid by the state government for doing so. Do you think this practice should be:						
Stopped altogether	45			40	33	48
Continued as is	7			6	12	7
Allowed but only for the companies that are doing a good job	41			47	50	38
Don't know	8			8	5	7
30. How much do you know about Ohio's school voucher program, the EdChoice Scholarship Program?						
A great deal	3	3	7	6	6	3
Quite a bit	7	5	9	8	9	9
Only some	22	22	30	24	19	22
Very little	32	31	32	30	35	30
Nothing at all	36	38	22	33	31	36
Don't know	*	1	1	-	-	*
<i>Question wording in 2005 survey: "How much do you know about school vouchers?"</i>						
31. The EdChoice Scholarship Program gives parents a voucher of several thousand dollars to help pay tuition if they choose to send their child to a private or church-related school. It is available only to students whose public school has been failing for two years. Do you think this program should be?						
Eliminated	28			24	16	30
Expanded	24			29	36	26
Continued as is	41			44	44	41
Don't know	6			3	4	3

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32. Which of these two views about school vouchers comes closer to your own?						
Vouchers are a lifeline for kids who can finally escape failing public schools to more successful schools	52	55	47	54	54	55
Vouchers will help only a few kids and make things worse for most students who are left behind	37	31	37	35	35	36
[Vol.] Both	3	6	4	5	5	2
Don't know	8	8	12	5	6	7
33. Some see both public charter schools and school vouchers as ways to give parents more choices about where to send their children and to push public district schools to improve. Others see charters and vouchers as draining resources from public district schools and undermining them. Which comes closer to your view?						
Charters and vouchers give parents more choices and push district schools to improve	52	54		59	67	55
Charters and vouchers drain resources from district schools and undermine them	39	35		33	26	38
[Vol.] Both	2	3		1	1	2
Don't know	8	8		7	6	6
34. As you may know, there's a proposal to expand state-funded pre-school for Ohio's poorest children. In your view, is this a good idea all around, is it a good idea ONLY if it helps underprivileged kids get academically-ready for school, or is it a bad idea all around?						
A good idea all around	42	50		45	48	43
A good idea ONLY if it helps underprivileged kids get academically-ready for school	39	33		41	47	38
A bad idea all around	15	13		10	4	18
Don't know	4	4		4	1	3
35. There's also a proposal to require ALL-DAY kindergarten for all children in Ohio instead of the current half-day. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?						
NET FAVOR	62			67	84	69
NET OPPOSE	34			30	13	28
Strongly favor	46			49	65	52
Somewhat favor	17			18	19	17
Somewhat oppose	13			13	6	11
Strongly oppose	21			16	7	17
Don't know	4			3	3	3

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36. More and more “virtual schools” – sometimes called “cyber-schools” or “e-schools” – are opening in Ohio. These schools get state funding and allow students to do their work at home over the Internet, under adult supervision. Generally, do you think virtual schools are an excellent, good, fair or poor idea?						
NET POSITIVE	21		21	21	18	25
NET NEGATIVE	75		71	73	76	71
Excellent	5		5	7	2	10
Good	16		16	15	16	15
Fair	24		24	24	23	25
Poor	51		47	49	53	46
Don't know	4		8	6	6	4
37. People have different views on whether it's a good idea to have separate schools for boys and girls. Generally speaking, would you favor or oppose single-sex schools as an option for some parents and students in your community?						
NET FAVOR	34			46	47	34
NET OPPOSE	63			51	48	63
Strongly favor	15			23	28	14
Somewhat favor	20			23	19	20
Somewhat oppose	18			17	16	17
Strongly oppose	45			34	32	47
Don't know	3			4	5	3
38. Are you currently the parent or guardian of any school-age children in grades Kindergarten through 12th, or not?						
Yes	32	34	28			
No	68	66	72			
<i>Base: Parent (n=321)</i>						
39. During this current school year, are your children in:						
Elementary school	56	61				
Middle school	30	34				
High school	52	39				
[Vol.] Something else	*	3				
<i>Base: Parent (n=321)</i>						
40. If money were not an issue, would you prefer that your child attend:						
Private non-religious school	10	16	13			
Private religious school	34	34	40			
Public charter school	4	5	4			
Public district school	48	41	37			
[Vol.] Something else/Depends	2	2	3			
Don't know	2	3	3			

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41. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or something else?						
Republican	28	31				
Democrat	38	33				
Independent	25	26				
Something else	8	8				
Don't know	1	3				
<i>Base: Independent (n=244)</i>						
42. Do you lean toward the Republican party or Democratic party, or do you not lean either way?						
Lean Republican	18	19				
Lean Democratic	25	22				
Do not lean either way	56	57				
Don't know	*	2				
45. What is the highest level of school you have completed?						
Less than high school	4	6	7			
High school graduate	29	30	30			
Some college or trade school, no degree	20	19	19			
Associates degree/2 year degree	9	12	10			
Bachelors degree/4 year degree	21	16	18			
Graduate/Professional degree	17	17	16			
46. What is your age?						
18-34	16	17	16			
35-44	22	24	18			
45-54	25	23	21			
55-64	20	19	22			
65+	17	17	23			
47. Do you consider yourself to be:						
White	87	87	87			
Black or African American	10	11	10			
Hispanic	1	1	1			
Something else	2	2	2			

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48. I'm going to read some ranges of annual household income. Please stop me when I read the one that best describes your total household income in 2008.						
Under \$25,000	13	14	17			
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	26	28	30			
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	25	26	26			
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	17	15	12			
\$100,000 or more	15	13	13			
Don't know	3	4	3			
URBANICITY [From Sample]						
Urban	25	26	27			
Suburban	54	53	53			
Rural	21	21	21			
GENDER						
Male	47	48	47	49	37	50
Female	53	52	53	51	63	50