



National Survey Results

REGISTERED VOTER POLL



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This survey was conducted from May 29 to June 16, 2013 for 50CAN by Lincoln Park Strategies.

Methodology

*6,400 interviews among likely voters were conducted by internet survey, and the results were down-weighted to 1,000 respondents to ensure proportional responses. The margin of error is ± 1.22 at the 95% confidence level.

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**LINCOLN PARK
STRATEGIES**

SAMPLE SIZE TOTAL

1,000*

TOTAL

47%

53%

GENDER

Men

Women

1. Starting out, are you registered to vote at your current address?

TOTAL

100% **Yes**

2. In general, when it comes to the direction of your area of the country would you say you are:

TOTAL

- 9% **Very satisfied**
- 39% **Satisfied**
- 33% **Dissatisfied**
- 16% **Very dissatisfied**
- 3% **Don't know/refused**

Below is a list of proposals that people have suggested for improving things in the United States. For each proposal please indicate how helpful you feel it would be in helping to improve things across the nation. (Rate on a scale of 0 to 10, where 10 means that you feel the proposal would be very helpful in improving the country and a 0 means that the proposal would not be helpful at all)

% VERY HELPFUL

- 3. 62% **Improving local K-12 public schools**
- 4. 55% **Expanding the number of small and local businesses**
- 5. 44% **Investing in infrastructure projects such as roads and bridges**
- 6. 45% **Expanding access to public universities, state colleges, and community colleges**
- 7. 52% **Lowering state and federal taxes**

Now, using an A-F letter grade scale, where A is exceptional and F is failing, what grade would you give the following?

	GPA	A	B	C	D	F
8. Your local school system	2.47	15%	37%	32%	11%	5%
9. Public schools in your state	2.21	7%	32%	41%	14%	6%
10. Public schools across the country	1.96	3%	23%	48%	18%	8%

11. Thinking about the education system in the states in your region, which state would you give the gold medal to, which state would receive the silver medal, and which state would receive the bronze medal for its education system?

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
NEW ENGLAND	Massachusetts	Connecticut	New Hampshire
MID ATLANTIC	Pennsylvania	New Jersey	Delaware
NATIONAL CAPITAL	Virginia	Maryland	DC
SOUTH	Florida	North Carolina	Georgia
MIDWEST	Minnesota	Wisconsin	Ohio
BORDER STATES	Texas	Arizona	New Mexico
MOUNTAIN STATES	Colorado	Utah	Idaho
WEST	Washington	Oregon	California

12. Now going back to your local school system, on a scale of 1 to 10 what level of improvement do you think is necessary in your local public schools? (Use a 1 if only very small changes are needed and a 10 if the school system needs a complete overhaul. You may use any other number between 1 and 10. If you think that your local school system does not need to change at all please say so.)

TOTAL

- 1% **No changes needed (0)**
- 30% **Only very small changes needed (1-5)**
- 30% **Some changes needed (6-7)**
- 35% **A lot of changes needed (8-10)**
- 4% **Don't know/refused**

13. In addition to what is taught in the classroom, which of the following do you feel best describes the long-term value of education?

TOTAL

- 26% **Builds character and instills values**
- 17% **Builds independence and leadership**
- 15% **Creates a lifelong love of learning**
- 13% **Helps create a healthy economy**
- 10% **Provides equal opportunities**
- 9% **Helps people become good citizens**
- 5% **Provides self fulfillment**
- 3% **Other-Specify**
- 2% **Don't know**

Over the last couple of years, cities and towns around the country have taken a number of different approaches to improving their school systems. For each of the following, please indicate how strongly you would support this approach being used in your own local school system. (Use a scale of 0 to 10 where a 10 means you strongly support this approach being used and a 0 means you strongly oppose this approach being used in your local school system. You may use any number between 0 and 10.)

% STRONGLY SUPPORT

- 14. 73% **Giving schools the ability to make changes without having to cut through administrative and bureaucratic red tape.**
- 15. 74% **Providing parents with multiple school options so they can find the learning environment that best meets the needs of their children.**

% STRONGLY SUPPORT

- 16. 58% **Using public school funding to create schools that are allowed to set their own administrative rules and explore innovative solutions.**
- 17. 73% **Ensuring that all public schools are equally funded.**
- 18. 71% **Rewarding teachers for student performance in the classroom as opposed to for how long they have worked in the system.**
- 19. 54% **Creating more competition in our school system by allowing more charter schools to open.**
- 20. 56% **Providing public schools with the option to provide a longer school day and a longer school year.**
- 21. 77% **Giving principals more freedom and flexibility in their schools while also holding them more accountable.**
- 22. 66% **Holding all students across the country to a uniform set of high standards.**
- 23. 62% **Providing all 3- and 4-year-old children with high-quality preschool.**
- 24. 74% **Giving teachers more freedom in their own classroom.**
- 25. 79% **Using new technologies to allow teachers to create individualized learning opportunities for their students that aren't just limited to their school building.**
- 26. 79% **Setting a much higher standard on teacher training programs and entrance tests to ensure a quality teacher in every classroom.**

When it comes to questions surrounding public education in the country, how much do you trust each of the following groups to determine what is best for improving schools? (Rate each group on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means you do not trust that group at all and 10 means you trust that group completely.)

% TOTAL TRUST

- 27. 78% **Individual teachers**
- 28. 40% **Teachers unions**
- 29. 67% **Principals**
- 30. 30% **Local elected officials**
- 31. 26% **Elected officials in your state capital**
- 32. 17% **Elected officials in Washington, DC**
- 33. 68% **Parents**
- 34. 44% **Your state education department**
- 35. 41% **The US Department of Education**

Below is the same list of groups. For each please indicate what level of influence you feel each of these groups has on the education system in your area. (Rate each on a scale of 0 to 10, where a 0 means that the group has too little influence, a 10 means the group has too much influence and a 5 means that the group has just the right amount of influence on the education system.)

% TOO MUCH INFLUENCE

- 36. 33% **Individual teachers**
- 37. 40% **Teachers unions**
- 38. 36% **Principals**
- 39. 38% **Local elected officials**
- 40. 45% **Elected officials in your state capital**
- 41. 44% **Elected officials in Washington, DC**
- 42. 31% **Parents**
- 43. 52% **Your state education department**
- 44. 52% **The US Department of Education**

45. **When you think about charter schools, do you consider them to be public schools, private schools, or are you not sure?**

TOTAL

- 30% **Public schools**
- 44% **Private schools**
- 26% **Not sure**

46. **Do you favor or oppose your state adopting Common Core standards?**

TOTAL

- 31% **Favor**
- 12% **Oppose**
- 58% **Unfamiliar with Common Core**

The last few questions are for statistical purposes only.

47. **In this past November's election for President did you vote for or did something come up where you could not vote?**

TOTAL

- 50% **Barack Obama**
- 37% **Mitt Romney**
- 5% **Someone else**
- 5% **Did not vote**
- 2% **Don't know/refused**

48. **Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a:**

TOTAL

- 13% **Strong Republican**
- 10% **Not-so-strong Republican**
- 11% **Independent—lean Republican**
- 16% **Independent**
- 12% **Independent—lean Democratic**
- 13% **Not-so-strong Democrat**
- 20% **Strong Democrat**
- 3% **Other**
- 1% **Refused**

49. And politically speaking, would you say you are:

TOTAL

- 32% **Conservative**
- 39% **Moderate**
- 25% **Liberal/ Progressive**
- 4% **Refused**

50. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

TOTAL

- 1% **1-11th grade**
- 16% **High school graduate**
- 1% **Non-college post H.S.**
- 34% **Some college**
- 32% **College graduate**
- 15% **Post-graduate school**
- 0% **Don't know/refused**

51. Do you have any children 18 years of age or younger living in your household?

TOTAL

- 31% **Yes**
- 69% **No**
- 0% **Don't know/refused**

52. And what type of school or schools do your children attend?

TOTAL

- 69% **Public school**
- 10% **Private or parochial school**
- 4% **Charter school**
- 7% **Home schooled**
- 1% **Technical or vocational school**
- 1% **Other type of school**
- 16% **Not old enough for school**
- 1% **Don't know/refused**

53. In what year where you born?

TOTAL

44% **Under 45**
31% **45-59**
25% **60+**

54. We want to make sure we are talking to a lot of different kinds of people. Could you please indicate your race/ethnicity? Please check all that apply.

TOTAL

76% **White**
12% **Black**
8% **Hispanic**
2% **Asian**
1% **Native American**
1% **Other**
0% **Don't know/refused**

About 50CAN

50CAN: The 50-State Campaign for Achievement Now is a nonprofit organization that works at the local level to advocate for a high-quality education for all kids regardless of their address. We help develop local education leaders by providing them with the research, tools and ideas needed to create learning environments that best meet every child's needs. We focus our work on starting earlier, expanding choices, aiming higher, cultivating talent and reaching everyone.

