

HAVING THEIR SAY:



THE VIEWS OF DAYTON-AREA PARENTS ON EDUCATION

2003



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**Findings of a survey by Paragon Alliance
with analysis by Chester E. Finn, Jr. and Terry Ryan**

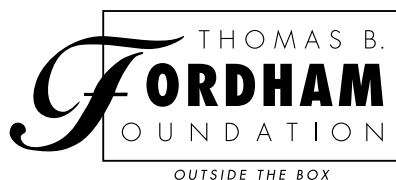


Table of Contents

FOREWORD

by Chester E. Finn, Jr.5

HIGHLIGHTS *by Chester E. Finn, Jr. and Terry Ryan*

I. Daytonians Embrace School Choice7

II. School Satisfaction and School Problems12

III. Receptivity to School-Reform Proposals17

IV. Who is Responsible for Reforming the Schools?20

FINAL ANALYSIS *by Paragon Alliance*

The Fordham Foundation 2003 Dayton Education Study25

Background & Methodology27

Complete Survey Results29

FOREWORD

Much has changed in education in Dayton during the past two years. The remarkable election of a “reform” majority to the Dayton school board, and the selection of a new superintendent. Passage of a huge levy for school-building construction and renewal. The arrival of the federal No Child Left Behind act and Ohio’s Senate Bill 1. The dramatic growth of the charter-school sector—and of controversy surrounding it. Some ferment on the high-school reform front. And much more.

To us at the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, it felt like time once again to “take the community’s temperature” with respect to a wide array of K-12 education issues.

This is the fourth time we have underwritten and helped to organize such surveys—always with the help of the estimable Dayton-based firm, Paragon Alliance.

In 1998, we published *Education Reform in the Dayton Area: Public Attitudes and Opinions*. (You can find it on-line at <http://www.edexcellence.net/foundation/publication/publication.cfm?id=49>) In 1999-2000, we sponsored a survey of parents of children enrolled in Dayton’s then-new charter schools. And in 2001 we published *Dayton Education in 2001: The Views of Citizens and Parents*. (You can locate it at http://www.edexcellence.net/foundation/publication/index.cfm?topic_id=6#6).

Why conduct such surveys? As we said in introducing the first of these, five years back, education increasingly finds itself at the top of America’s domestic policy agenda. Politicians of all stripes talk constantly about improving the schools and boosting student achievement. But how best to do this? It’s our view that important decisions about such vital issues ought not be shaped entirely by the enthusiasms of politicians and the demands of education’s countless interest groups. It’s vital that the public—parents, especially, but also voters, taxpayers and the “man and woman in the street”—be heard, too. Accordingly, we set out to provide Dayton (and Ohio) policymakers with reliable information about the concerns that the consumers of education hold and the reform ideas that they favor. In a successful democracy, it is essential that policymakers not be estranged from the citizens they represent.

This year, we once again enlisted Paragon’s services and outstanding work was done—prompt, professional, responsive—by Susan McLaughlin, Kristen Van Wert and their team at Paragon. Their telephone survey was conducted from July to October 2003.

We asked the survey team to focus on four groups of parents: within Dayton, parents of children attending public, private and charter schools; and suburban public-school parents. Parents are not the only “consumers” of education whose views matter but they are surely the most fully engaged.

As you will see in the “highlights” that follow this introduction, and in the full Paragon report and technical notes that follow them, Dayton-area parents present a fascinating array of opinions and judgments, both about today’s schools (and those who are responsible for them) and about changes

that could be made tomorrow. There is some evidence of improvement over the past couple of years—and much evidence of the distance yet to go.

Surveys have their limits, to be sure. Sometimes it's difficult to find willing respondents who comprise a solid statistical sample. But this one is respectable, very similar to 1998 and 2001. The technical notes explain the statistical robustness of the data presented here, data that, in our judgment, offer many lessons and tantalizing clues that are timely and relevant to education decisions that community (and state and federal) leaders face today.

I commend these findings to your attention and reflection. I would also like to thank Fordham's terrific program director, Terry Ryan, who recently moved himself and his family to Dayton to be better positioned to work (24/7 as far as I can tell) on behalf of improving education for the community's children. In partnership with the Paragon team, he did all the heavy lifting on this project.

The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation is a private foundation that supports research, publications and action projects in elementary/secondary education reform at the national level and in the Dayton area. Further information can be found by surfing to www.edexcellence.net or writing us at 1627 K Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006. (We can also be e-mailed at backtalk@edexcellence.net). This report is available in full on the website at <http://www.edexcellence.net/foundation/publication/publication.cfm?id=322>, and hard copies can be obtained by calling 888-TBF-7474, or be emailing fordham@dunst.com. The Foundation is neither connected with nor sponsored by Fordham University.

Chester E. Finn, Jr.
President
November 2003

HIGHLIGHTS

by Chester E. Finn, Jr. and Terry Ryan

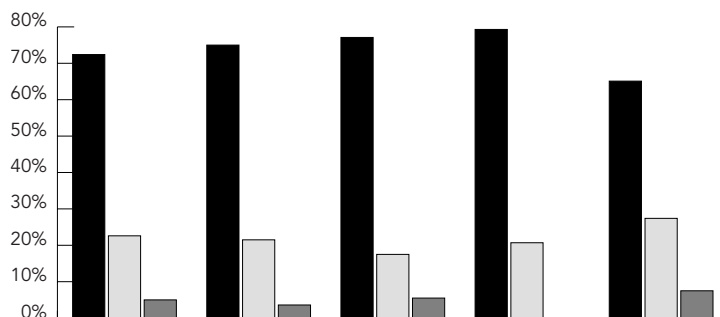
I. Daytonians Embrace School Choice

NB: see page 28 for an explanation of abbreviations used in tables and graphs.

Dayton parents have been living with school choice since 1997 and strongly support it in many forms.

Over 70% would allow students in failing schools to attend another school of their choice.

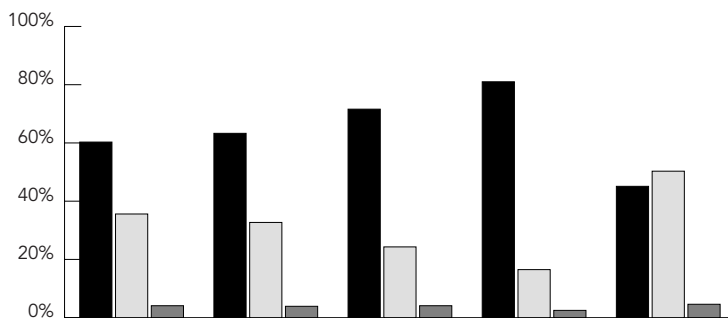
Q20. Do you support or oppose allowing students in a poorly-performing school to attend another school of their choice?



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Support	72.4%	75.0%	77.1%	79.3%	65.1%
Oppose	22.6%	21.5%	17.5%	20.7%	27.4%
DK/NA	5.0%	3.6%	5.5%	0.0%	7.5%

Most urban parents favor government paying the tuition so families can choose non-public schools (the proposal commonly known as “vouchers”). Among private-school parents, this rises to 72%; among charter-school parents to 81%.

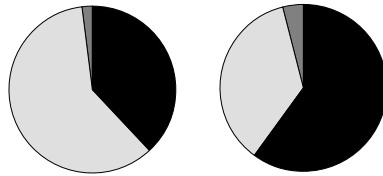
Q17. Would you favor or oppose a proposal in which parents could choose their child's school and the government would pay all or part of the tuition for parents who choose non-public schools?



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Favor	60.3%	63.3%	71.6%	81.0%	45.1%
Oppose	35.6%	32.7%	24.3%	16.5%	50.3%
DK/NA	4.1%	3.9%	4.1%	2.5%	4.6%

Dayton parents are more receptive to vouchers than are Americans in general. This chart compares their views with those of respondents on the 2003 Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup survey.

Attending a private school at public expense...

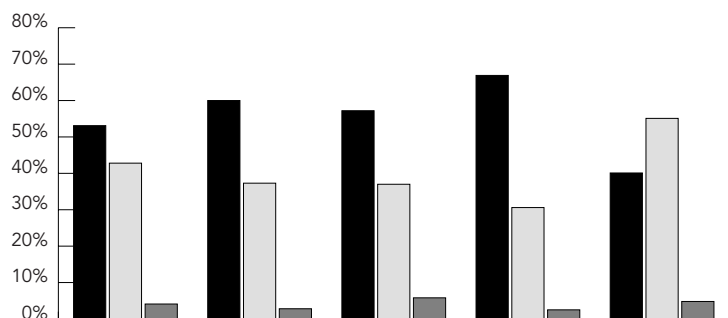


	National '03	Dayton School Parents '03
Favor	38%	60%
Oppose	60%	36%
Don't know	2%	4%

(National data from the 35th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools, 2003).

Except in the suburbs, most Dayton-area parents (and two-thirds of charter parents) would allow students to choose any public school in the state.

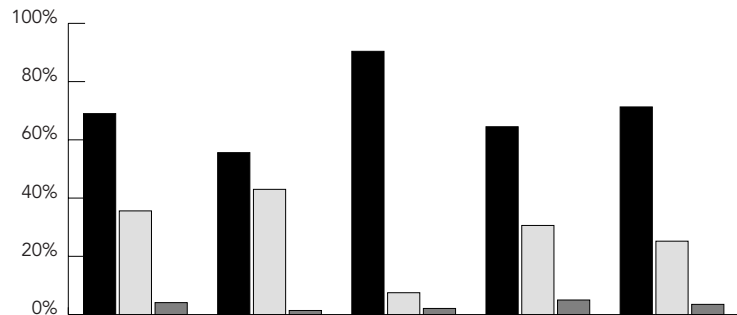
Q19. Do you support or oppose allowing students to choose any public school in the state, even one in another school district?



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Support	53.1%	60.0%	57.2%	66.9%	40.1%
Oppose	42.8%	37.3%	37.0%	30.6%	55.1%
DK/NA	4.1%	2.8%	5.8%	2.5%	4.8%

Even if they had options, most parents say they would keep their child in his/her present school. This is especially true of private-school parents. Within Dayton, however, more than two-fifths of public-school parents (and 31% of charter parents) would move their child if they could. In 1998, 59% of Dayton Public School parents said they would send their oldest child to a different school if given the support to do so. See (<http://www.edexcellence.net/foundation/publication/publication.cfm?id=49>) By, 2003, perhaps many parents who wanted choice have availed themselves to it.

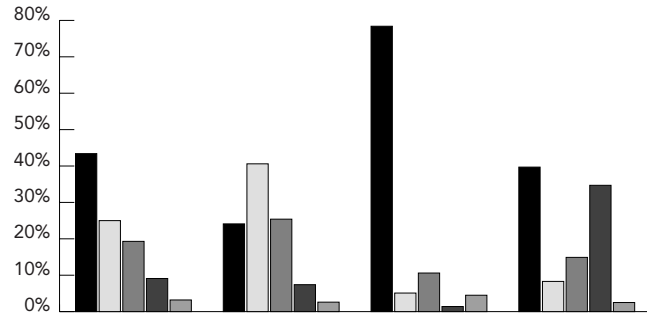
Q18. If you could send your oldest child to any school you chose, would you send your child to the school he/she now attends or to a different school?



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Current school	69.0%	55.6%	90.4%	64.5%	71.3%
Different school	35.6%	43.0%	7.5%	30.6%	25.2%
DK/NA	4.1%	1.4%	2.1%	5.0%	3.5%

3 If they could choose, most Dayton parents would not send their children to DPS high schools. 57% of DPS parents would prefer a private or charter school or high school in another district versus 41% choosing a DPS high school. That is also true of nearly all private and charter-school parents.

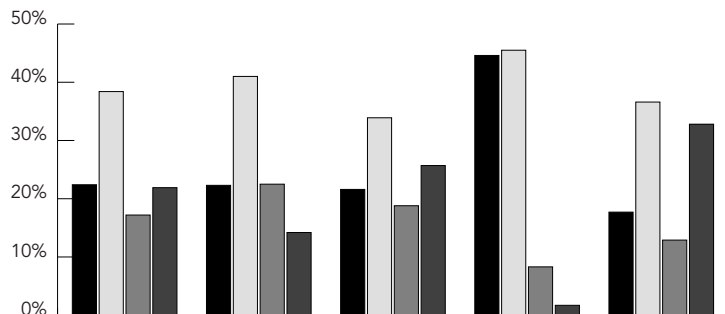
Q35. If you could choose a high school for your oldest child, what kind of school would it be?



	All DP Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter
Private high school	43.4%	24.1%	78.4%	39.7%
Current Dayton public high school	25.0%	40.6%	5.1%	8.3%
High school in another district	19.3%	25.4%	10.6%	14.9%
Charter high school	9.1%	7.4%	1.4%	34.7%
DK/NA	3.2%	2.6%	4.5%	2.5%

3 As in 2001, Dayton area parents support charter schools. For every one who would stop them, four would keep or expand them. Among DPS parents, the ratio is 1:3.

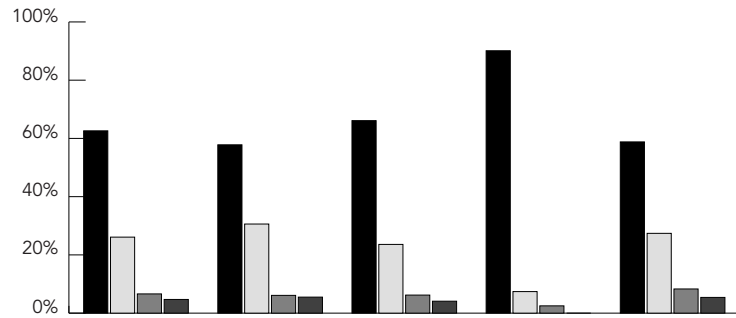
Q21. Do you believe that charter schools should be expanded, continued as they are now, or be stopped altogether?



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Expanded	22.4%	22.3%	21.6%	44.6%	17.7%
Continued	38.4%	41.0%	33.9%	45.5%	36.6%
Stopped	17.2%	22.5%	18.8%	8.3%	12.9%
DK/NA	21.9%	14.2%	25.7%	1.7%	32.8%

Daytonians don't buy the assertion that charter schools sap resources from traditional public schools. Almost two-thirds say that "tax money is for a child's education, no matter what school he attends."

Q32. Which statement comes closest to your views regarding school tax dollars?



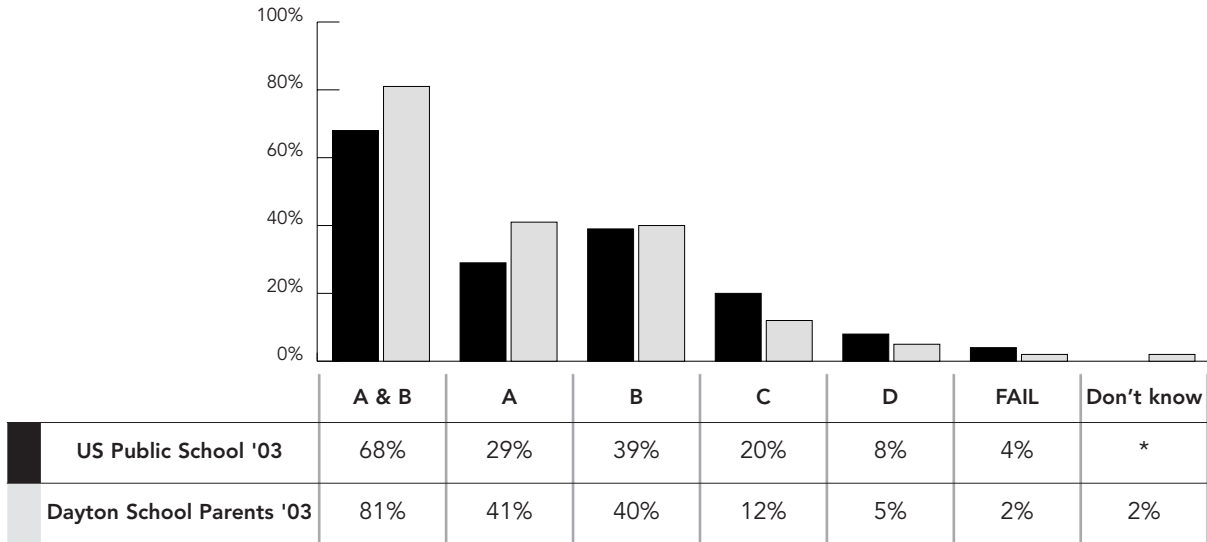
	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Tax money is for a child's education, no matter what school he/she attends.	62.6%	57.8%	66.1%	90.1%	58.8%
Charter schools drain tax money away from the public schools.	26.1%	30.6%	23.6%	7.4%	27.4%
DK/NA	6.6%	6.1%	6.2%	2.5%	8.3%
Neither	4.7%	5.5%	4.1%	0.0%	5.4%

II. School Satisfaction and School Problems

Dayton parents, like other Americans, generally give high marks to their own child's school, but the strength of their satisfaction varies by school type and community, as do the school problems that parents perceive.

³ Eight in ten Dayton parents give their oldest child's school grades of A or B, compared with seven nationally.

What grade would you give the school that your oldest child attends?

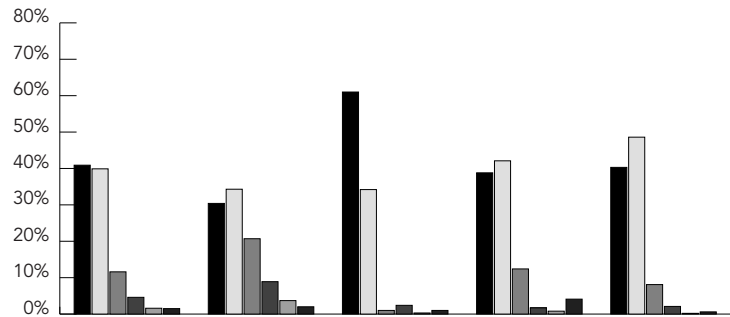


(National data from the 35th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools, 2003).

*- Less than 1% of the response

Suburban, private-school and charter parents are more apt to give “A” grades than DPS parents. (This was also true in 2001. See www.edexcellence.net/foundation/publication/index.cfm?topic_id=6#6)

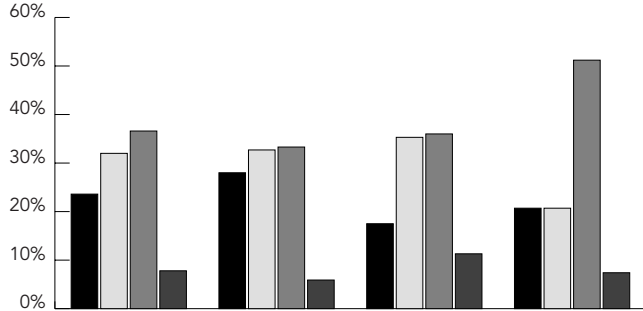
Q2. What grade would you give the school your oldest child attends?



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
A	40.9%	30.4%	61.0%	38.8%	40.3%
B	39.9%	34.3%	34.2%	42.1%	48.6%
C	11.6%	20.7%	1.0%	12.4%	8.1%
D	4.6%	8.9%	2.4%	1.7%	2.1%
F	1.6%	3.7%	0.3%	0.8%	0.2%
DK/NA	1.5%	2.0%	1.0%	4.1%	0.6%

3 A growing number of Dayton parents see the public schools improving. In 2001, only 12% felt that the Dayton Public Schools had improved in the previous five years while 53.8% felt they had “gotten worse.” In 2003, 24 percent of Dayton parents feel the schools have “gotten better;” while 37% think they have “gotten worse.” (To see the 2001 survey surf to: www.edexcellence.net/foundation/publication/index.cfm?topic_id=6#6)

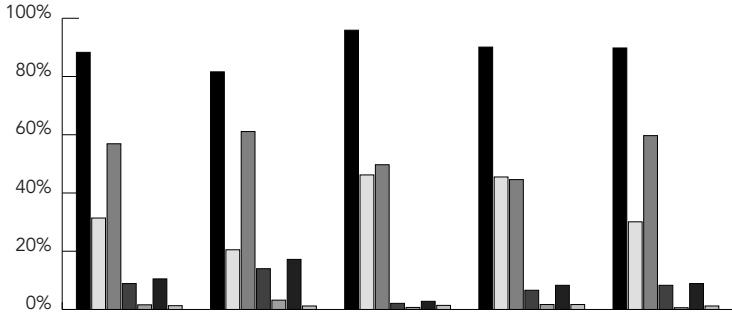
Q33. Over the last 5 years, do you think the quality of the Dayton Public Schools has...?



	All DP Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter
Gotten better	23.6%	28.0%	17.5%	20.7%
Stayed the same	32.0%	32.7%	35.3%	20.7%
Gotten worse	36.6%	33.3%	36.0%	51.2%
DK/NA	7.8%	5.9%	11.3%	7.4%

3 In every sector, parents are generally satisfied with their children’s class sizes, though private and charter parents are more likely to be very satisfied.

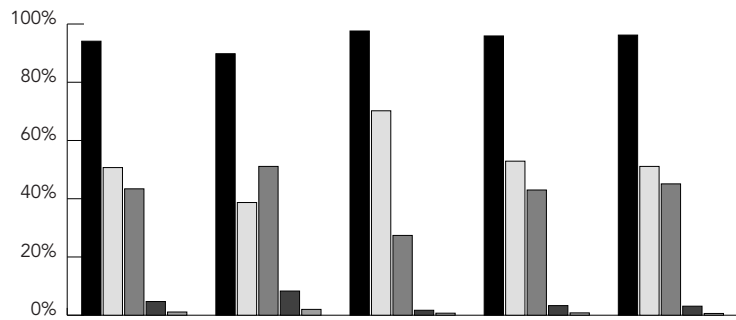
Q3. The size of the classes.



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Very satisfied plus satisfied	88.3%	81.6%	95.9%	90.1%	89.8%
Very satisfied	31.4%	20.5%	46.2%	45.5%	30.1%
Satisfied	56.9%	61.1%	49.7%	44.6%	59.7%
Unsatisfied	8.9%	14.0%	2.1%	6.6%	8.3%
Very unsatisfied	1.6%	3.2%	0.7%	1.7%	0.6%
Unsatisfied plus very unsatisfied	10.5%	17.2%	2.8%	8.3%	8.9%
DK/NA	1.3%	1.2%	1.4%	1.7%	1.2%

3 The vast majority of Dayton-area parents are fairly satisfied with their schools' teachers.

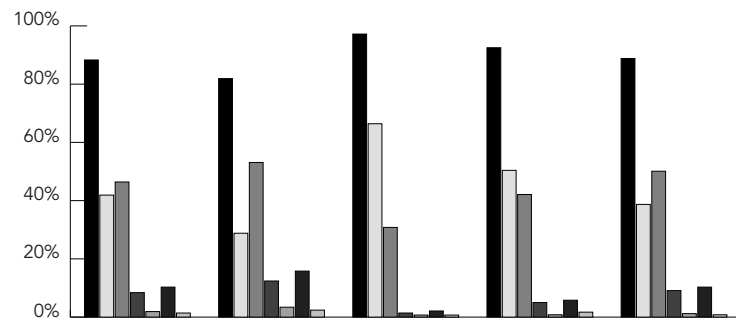
Q8. How satisfied are you with the quality of the teachers?



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Very satisfied plus somewhat satisfied	94.1%	89.8%	97.6%	95.9%	96.2%
Very satisfied	50.7%	38.7%	70.2%	52.9%	51.1%
Somewhat satisfied	43.4%	51.1%	27.4%	43.0%	45.1%
Not satisfied	4.7%	8.3%	1.7%	3.3%	3.1%
DK/NA	1.1%	2.0%	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%

3 When it comes to curriculum and academics, parents in private and charter schools are more apt to be very satisfied than public-school parents.

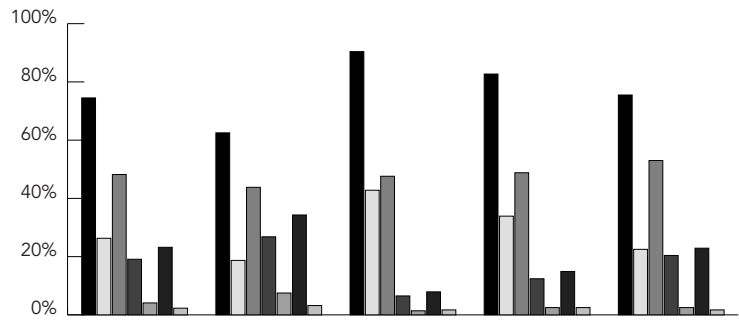
Q6. The quality of the curriculum or academic program.



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Very satisfied plus satisfied	88.3%	81.9%	97.2%	92.5%	88.8%
Very satisfied	41.9%	28.8%	66.4%	50.4%	38.7%
Satisfied	46.4%	53.1%	30.8%	42.1%	50.1%
Unsatisfied	8.4%	12.4%	1.4%	5.0%	9.1%
Very unsatisfied	1.9%	3.4%	0.7%	0.8%	1.2%
Unsatisfied plus very unsatisfied	10.3%	15.8%	2.1%	5.8%	10.3%
DK/NA	1.4%	2.4%	0.7%	1.7%	0.8%

Private and charter-school parents are also more satisfied with teachers' efforts to ensure that all children attain high academic standards.

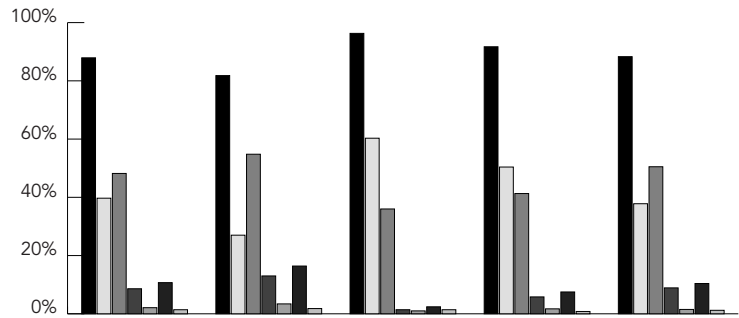
Q11. Teachers make every effort to ensure that every child in their class attains high academic standards.



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Strongly agree plus agree	74.5%	62.5%	90.4%	82.7%	75.5%
Strongly agree	26.3%	18.7%	42.8%	33.9%	22.5%
Agree	48.2%	43.8%	47.6%	48.8%	53.0%
Disagree	19.1%	26.8%	6.5%	12.4%	20.4%
Strongly disagree	4.1%	7.5%	1.4%	2.5%	2.5%
Disagree plus strongly disagree	23.2%	34.3%	7.9%	14.9%	22.9%
DK/NA	2.3%	3.2%	1.7%	2.5%	1.7%

Most parents rate their schools positively on parental involvement but private and charter school parents are again more likely to be very satisfied..

Q5. The extent of parental involvement.



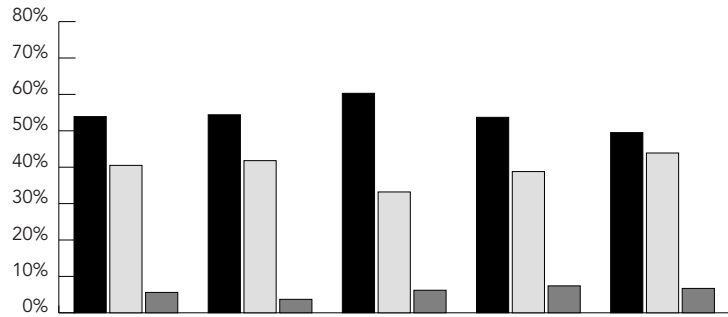
	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Very satisfied plus satisfied	87.9%	81.8%	96.3%	91.7%	88.3%
Very satisfied	39.7%	27.0%	60.3%	50.4%	37.8%
Satisfied	48.2%	54.8%	36.0%	41.3%	50.5%
Unsatisfied	8.6%	13.0%	1.4%	5.8%	8.9%
Very unsatisfied	2.1%	3.4%	1.0%	1.7%	1.5%
Unsatisfied plus very unsatisfied	10.7%	16.4%	2.4%	7.5%	10.4%
DK/NA	1.4%	1.8%	1.4%	0.8%	1.2%

III. Receptivity to School-Reform Proposals

Dayton-area parents have mixed views about strategies for improving public education.

3 Most would empower individual schools to make more key decisions.

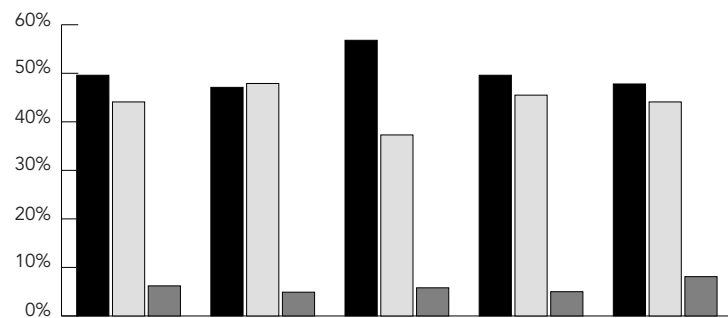
Q15. Allow individual schools to make decisions about what to teach, which teachers to hire, and how to spend their money.



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Support	53.9%	54.4%	60.3%	53.7%	49.5%
Oppose	40.5%	41.8%	33.2%	38.8%	43.9%
DK/NA	5.6%	3.7%	6.2%	7.4%	6.7%

3 A narrow majority supports holding principals accountable for student results.

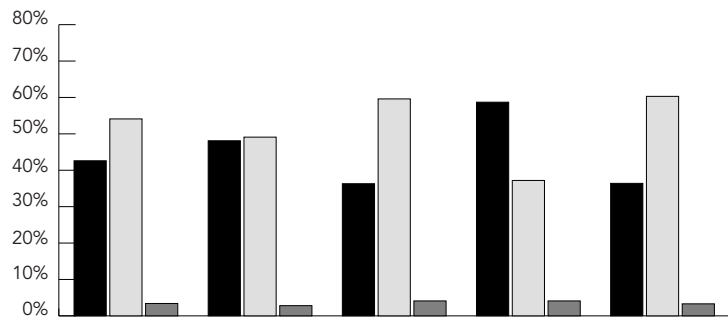
Q14. End the jobs of school leaders and principals whose schools repeatedly fail to pass the state achievement tests.



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Support	49.6%	47.1%	56.8%	49.6%	47.8%
Oppose	44.1%	47.9%	37.3%	45.5%	44.1%
DK/NA	6.2%	4.9%	5.8%	5.0%	8.1%

3 Only charter parents favor financial rewards for principals whose pupils pass state tests.

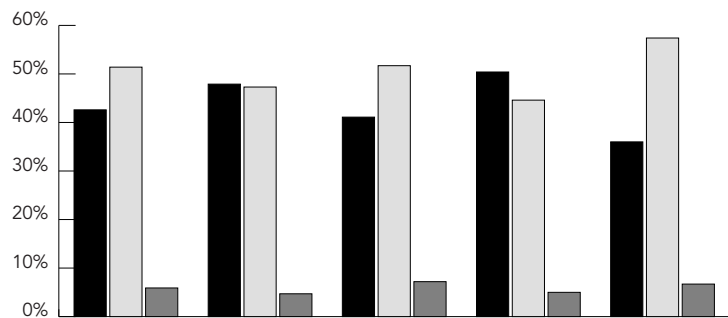
Q13. Dramatically increase the pay of school leaders and principals when their schools pass the state achievement tests.



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Support	42.6%	48.1%	36.3%	58.7%	36.4%
Oppose	54.1%	49.1%	59.6%	37.2%	60.3%
DK/NA	3.4%	2.8%	4.1%	4.1%	3.3%

3 Charter parents would reward and punish teachers for their students' results. DPS parents are evenly split.

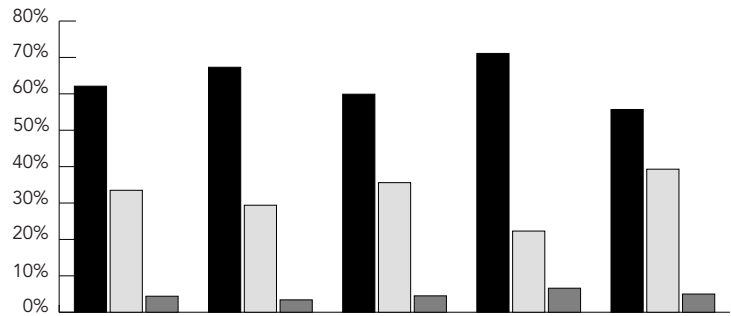
Q16. Pay teachers extra if their students all pass the state achievement tests and do not retain them if more than a few of their students fail those tests.



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Support	42.6%	47.9%	41.1%	50.4%	36.0%
Oppose	51.4%	47.3%	51.7%	44.6%	57.4%
DK/NA	5.9%	4.7%	7.2%	5.0%	6.7%

Parents in every sector support the use of standardized tests.

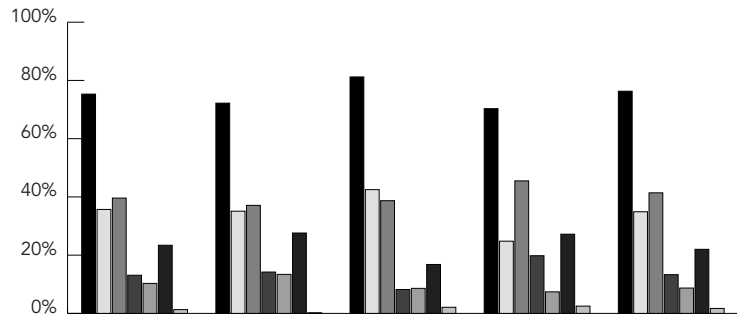
Q24. Which statement comes closest to your views on standardized tests?



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
If it's a good test, teachers should work to make sure students pass it.	62.1%	67.3%	59.9%	71.1%	55.7%
Teaching to the test places undesirable constraints on teachers.	33.5%	29.4%	35.6%	22.3%	39.3%
DK/NA	4.4%	3.4%	4.5%	6.6%	5.0%

Parents in every sector also favor attaching consequences for students to their test results.

Q23. Getting promoted to the next grade or graduating from high school should depend, in part, on passing the state tests.



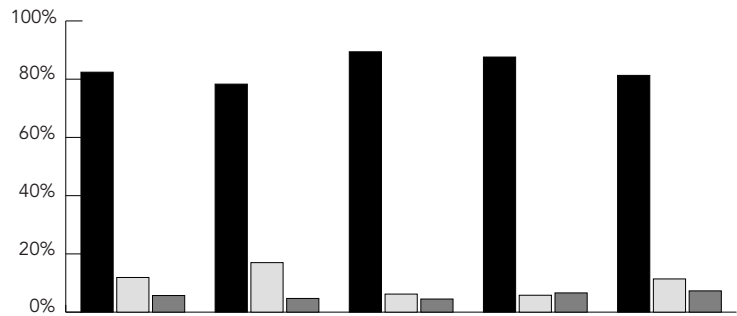
	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Strongly agree plus somewhat agree	75.3%	72.2%	81.2%	70.3%	76.3%
Strongly agree	35.7%	35.1%	42.5%	24.8%	34.9%
Somewhat agree	39.6%	37.1%	38.7%	45.5%	41.4%
Somewhat disagree	13.1%	14.2%	8.2%	19.8%	13.3%
Strongly disagree	10.3%	13.4%	8.6%	7.4%	8.7%
Somewhat disagree plus strongly disagree	23.4%	27.6%	16.8%	27.2%	22.0%
DK/NA	1.3%	0.2%	2.1%	2.5%	1.7%

IV. Who is Responsible for Reforming the Schools?

Daytonians give mixed reviews to local, state and national leaders with respect to education reform.

More than 80% of Dayton-area parents feel the principal of their child's school is providing the necessary leadership.

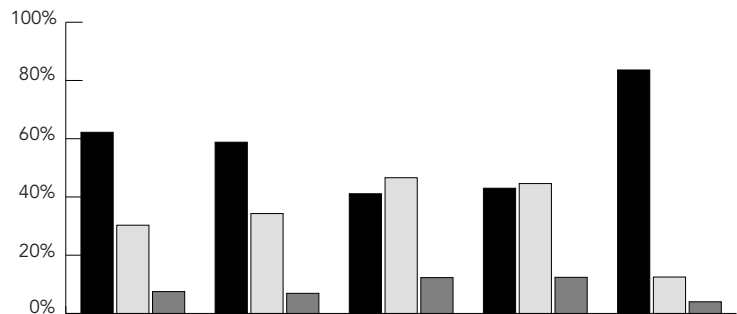
Q28. Do you think the principal in your oldest child's school is providing the leadership that the schools need to become better?



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Yes	82.4%	78.3%	89.4%	87.6%	81.3%
No	11.9%	17.0%	6.2%	5.8%	11.4%
DK/NA	5.7%	4.7%	4.5%	6.6%	7.3%

Support for the job being done by local school boards is moderately strong among Dayton public-school parents and very strong among suburban parents. Charter and private-school parents are less contented.

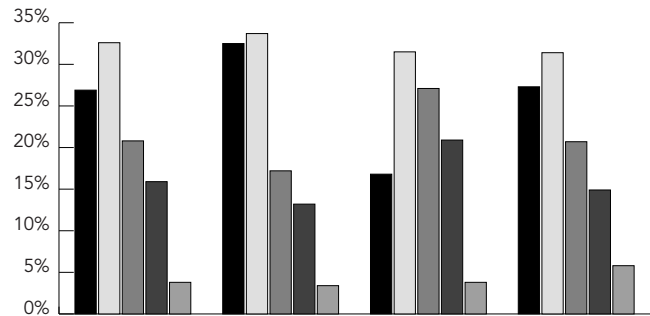
Q27. Do you think the local school board in your community is doing a good job or a poor job of improving public education?



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Good job	62.2%	58.8%	41.1%	43.0%	83.6%
Poor job	30.3%	34.3%	46.6%	44.6%	12.5%
DK/NA	7.5%	6.9%	12.3%	12.4%	4.0%

3 Three-fifths of Dayton parents believe the recent building levy will help school performance—though not “a lot”.

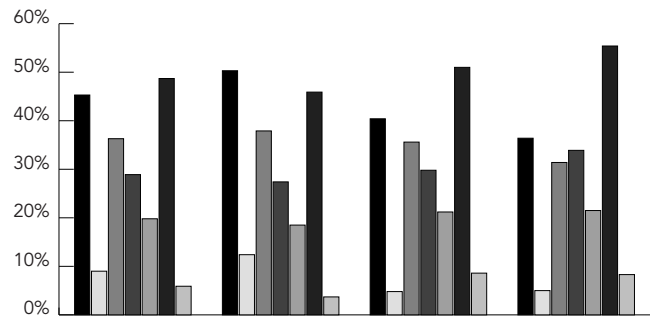
Q34. How much do you think the \$650 million recently approved by voters will help school performance?



	All DP Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter
A lot	26.9%	32.5%	16.8%	27.3%
Some	32.6%	33.7%	31.5%	31.4%
A little	20.8%	17.2%	27.1%	20.7%
Not at all	15.9%	13.2%	20.9%	14.9%
DK/NA	3.8%	3.4%	3.8%	5.8%

3 Most parents think local business and political leaders could do more to improve education.

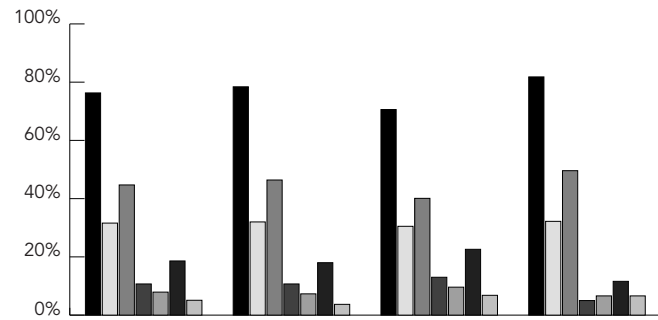
Q38. Dayton's business and political leaders are doing everything they can to help improve education for all students.



	All DP Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter
Strongly agree plus somewhat agree	45.3%	50.3%	40.4%	36.4%
Strongly agree	9.0%	12.4%	4.8%	5.0%
Somewhat agree	36.3%	37.9%	35.6%	31.4%
Somewhat disagree	28.9%	27.4%	29.8%	33.9%
Strongly disagree	19.8%	18.5%	21.2%	21.5%
Somewhat disagree plus strongly disagree	48.7%	45.9%	51.0%	55.4%
DK/NA	5.9%	3.7%	8.6%	8.3%

3 Three quarters of parents think Dayton would benefit by having a “third party” in the community to push for educational change, even if such changes create controversy.

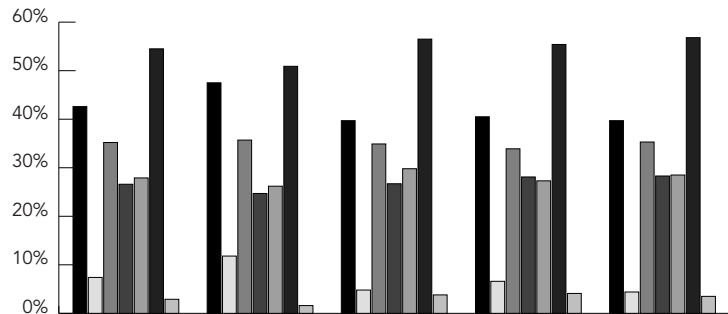
Q37. Dayton needs a third party who can press for educational change, even when the changes may be controversial.



	All DP Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter
Strongly agree plus somewhat agree	76.3%	78.4%	70.6%	81.8%
Strongly agree	31.6%	32.0%	30.5%	32.2%
Somewhat agree	44.7%	46.4%	40.1%	49.6%
Somewhat disagree	10.7%	10.7%	13.0%	5.0%
Strongly disagree	7.9%	7.3%	9.6%	6.6%
Somewhat disagree plus strongly disagree	18.6%	18.0%	22.6%	11.6%
DK/NA	5.1%	3.7%	6.8%	6.6%

3 Local parents think state leaders could do more to help improve public education.

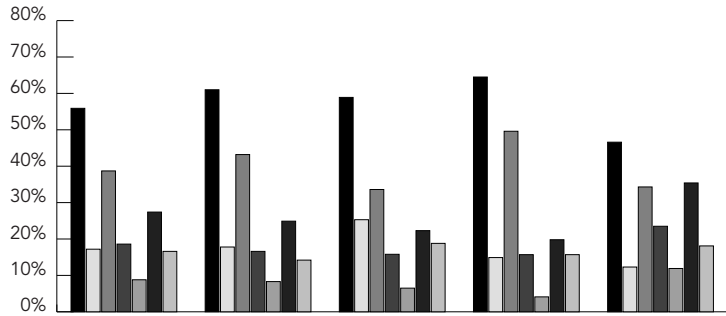
Q29. The governor and the state legislature are doing everything they can to help improve public education for all students in Ohio.



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Strongly agree plus somewhat agree	42.6%	47.5%	39.7%	40.5%	39.7%
Strongly agree	7.4%	11.8%	4.8%	6.6%	4.4%
Somewhat agree	35.2%	35.7%	34.9%	33.9%	35.3%
Somewhat disagree	26.6%	24.7%	26.7%	28.1%	28.3%
Strongly disagree	27.9%	26.2%	29.8%	27.3%	28.5%
Somewhat disagree plus strongly disagree	54.5%	50.9%	56.5%	55.4%	56.8%
DK/NA	2.9%	1.6%	3.8%	4.1%	3.5%

3 Most Dayton parents feel that teacher unions obstruct school reform efforts.

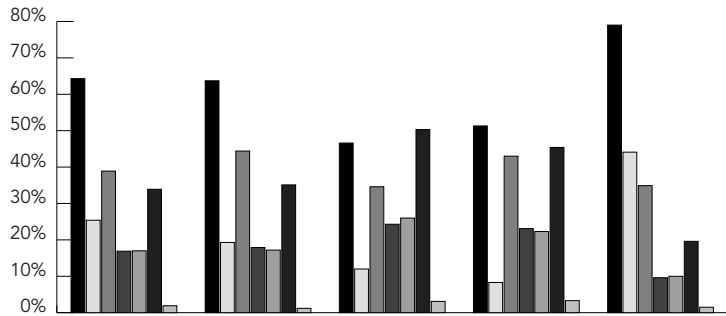
Q26. Teacher unions use all their political clout to block or reverse education reforms.



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Strongly agree plus somewhat agree	55.9%	61.0%	58.9%	64.5%	46.6%
Strongly agree	17.2%	17.8%	25.3%	14.9%	12.3%
Somewhat agree	38.7%	43.2%	33.6%	49.6%	34.3%
Somewhat disagree	18.6%	16.6%	15.8%	15.7%	23.5%
Strongly disagree	8.8%	8.3%	6.5%	4.1%	11.9%
Somewhat disagree plus strongly disagree	27.4%	24.9%	22.3%	19.8%	35.4%
DK/NA	16.6%	14.2%	18.8%	15.7%	18.1%

3 Public and charter school parents are guardedly optimistic about the impact of the federal No Child Left Behind act.

Q22. How likely do you think it is that the goal of "No Child Left Behind" will be achieved by the public schools in your community?



	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Very likely plus somewhat likely	64.3%	63.7%	46.6%	51.3%	79.0%
Very likely	25.4%	19.3%	12.0%	8.3%	44.1%
Somewhat likely	38.9%	44.4%	34.6%	43.0%	34.9%
Somewhat unlikely	16.9%	17.9%	24.3%	23.1%	9.6%
Very unlikely	17.0%	17.2%	26.0%	22.3%	10.0%
Somewhat unlikely plus very unlikely	33.9%	35.1%	50.3%	45.4%	19.6%
DK/NA	1.9%	1.2%	3.1%	3.3%	1.5%

FINAL ANALYSIS

The Fordham Foundation
2003 Dayton Education Study

PREPARED BY: KRISTEN VAN WERT

PARAGON ALLIANCE

October 23, 2003

Background & Methodology

In June 2003, The Fordham Foundation contracted with Paragon Opinion Research to conduct a phone survey with parents of school-age children living in and around the Dayton Public School District. The study's purpose was to get a snapshot of the views of Dayton-area parents on issues related to education circa 2003. The study contrasts the views of four groups of parents: Dayton public school parents, Dayton charter school parents, Dayton private school parents and Miami Valley parents (parents who have children in Montgomery County public school systems other than the Dayton Public School District).

The questionnaire's focus for the parents was to be upon 1) an evaluation of their child's education and school, and 2) an evaluation of their opinions on the Dayton Public School system, school choice, and a variety of school-related issues. Miami Valley parents were required to participate in all questions with the exception of those directly related to the Dayton Public School District.

Interviewing of parents began on July 8, 2003 and was completed on October 20, 2003. The demographic emphasis of all interviews conducted after October 1, 2003 was on African American parents with children in a public school within the Dayton Public School District. The survey sample was pulled from the total population of parents with school-age children living within the Dayton Public School District and Montgomery County boundaries. Those surveyed included parents with a child attending a public or vocational school, private or parochial school, or charter school. At the 95th% confidence level, had Paragon Opinion Research completed surveys for the entire sample, the results would differ from the results presented below by no more than 2.65% in either direction for the total sample of 1,400 respondents. The populations and sampling errors of each group follow:

Group	Population	Completed Surveys	Sampling Error at 95%
Dayton Public - Charter	4,500	121	+/- 8.97%
Dayton Public - Private/Church	12,485	291	+/- 5.79%
Dayton Public - Public	21,000	507	+/- 4.39%
Public/Charter/Private	37,985	919	+/- 3.26%
Miami Valley – Public	63,435	481	+/- 4.54%
ALL	101,420	1,400	+/- 2.65%

Up to three calls were made to each of the telephone numbers available in order to complete an interview. Once the quotas were reached for each of the group types, calls were restricted to parents from school types where quotas were not yet met. The time of the day and the day of the week for callbacks were varied so as to maximize the chances that any given respondent from the sample could participate in the survey. Interviews were also conducted on weekday evenings in order to reach the working population of residents within these areas.

When using a confidence level of 95% as we did throughout this study, the results can be read to mean that statistically each response total could be 5% higher or 5% lower than what is actually stated.

Paragon Opinion Research would like to point out that, while the Caucasian vs. African American percentages may seem out of proportion based on the actual populations of these races within the school district, the sample used for the survey was a *random* sample and every member of the community with school-age children had an equal opportunity of being contacted to participate in the survey. Telephone research has become increasingly difficult in recent years and we find that members of the community with higher than average education and income levels are more likely to participate in surveys, which in most cases includes a higher Caucasian population. These racial breakdowns are almost identical to the results from the 2001 Fordham survey.

The analysis of some questions also includes comparative results pulled from this year's Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup education poll of parents nationwide.

Important to note is the use of abbreviations throughout the report for the various school types:

- *DP-Public* / Public School within the Dayton Public School District
- *DP-Private* / Private or Church-Related School within the Dayton Public School District
- *DP-Charter* / Charter School within the Dayton Public School District
- *MV-Public* / Public school outside the Dayton Public School District (Miami Valley Public School)
- *ALL Types* / The combined responses of respondents from the DP-Public, DP-Private, DP-Charter, and MV-Public Groups
- *All DP Types* / The combined responses of respondents from the DP-Public, DP-Private, and DP-Charter Groups

Complete Survey Results

Q1. What grade would you give the public schools here in your community?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
A	20.3%	16.8%	7.2%	5.8%	35.6%
B	29.9%	25.6%	12.0%	12.4%	49.7%
C	22.3%	33.9%	18.5%	31.4%	10.2%
D	13.7%	16.4%	25.3%	17.4%	2.9%
FAIL	9.1%	6.5%	22.6%	19.0%	1.0%
Don't know	4.7%	0.8%	14.4%	14.0%	0.6%

Q2. What grade would you give the school that your oldest child attends?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
A	40.9%	30.4%	61.0%	38.8%	40.3%
B	39.9%	34.3%	34.2%	42.1%	48.6%
C	11.6%	20.7%	1.0%	12.4%	8.1%
D	4.6%	8.9%	2.4%	1.7%	2.1%
FAIL	1.6%	3.7%	0.3%	0.8%	0.2%
Don't know	1.5%	2.0%	1.0%	4.1%	0.6%

Q3. Please tell me if you are very satisfied, satisfied, unsatisfied, or very unsatisfied with the following: The size of the classes.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Very satisfied plus satisfied	88.3%	81.6%	95.9%	90.1%	89.8%
Very satisfied	31.4%	20.5%	46.2%	45.5%	30.1%
Satisfied	56.9%	61.1%	49.7%	44.6%	59.7%
Unsatisfied	8.9%	14.0%	2.1%	6.6%	8.3%
Very unsatisfied	1.6%	3.2%	0.7%	1.7%	0.6%
Unsatisfied plus very unsatisfied	10.5%	17.2%	2.8%	8.3%	8.9%
DK/NA	1.3%	1.2%	1.4%	1.7%	1.2%

Q4. Please tell me if you are very satisfied, satisfied, unsatisfied, or very unsatisfied with the following: Your child’s safety at school.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Very satisfied plus satisfied	90.1%	81.0%	97.3%	92.5%	94.6%
Very satisfied	40.6%	25.2%	64.4%	44.6%	41.2%
Satisfied	49.5%	55.8%	32.9%	47.9%	53.4%
Unsatisfied	7.1%	13.2%	1.7%	5.0%	4.4%
Very unsatisfied	2.1%	4.5%	1.0%	1.7%	0.4%
Unsatisfied plus very unsatisfied	9.2%	17.7%	2.7%	6.7%	4.8%
DK/NA	0.7%	1.2%	0.0%	0.8%	0.6%

Q5. Please tell me if you are very satisfied, satisfied, unsatisfied, or very unsatisfied with the following: The extent of parental involvement.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Very satisfied plus satisfied	87.9%	81.8%	96.3%	91.7%	88.3%
Very satisfied	39.7%	27.0%	60.3%	50.4%	37.8%
Satisfied	48.2%	54.8%	36.0%	41.3%	50.5%
Unsatisfied	8.6%	13.0%	1.4%	5.8%	8.9%
Very unsatisfied	2.1%	3.4%	1.0%	1.7%	1.5%
Unsatisfied plus very unsatisfied	10.7%	16.4%	2.4%	7.5%	10.4%
DK/NA	1.4%	1.8%	1.4%	0.8%	1.2%

Q6. Please tell me if you are very satisfied, satisfied, unsatisfied, or very unsatisfied with the following: The quality of the curriculum or academic program.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Very satisfied plus satisfied	88.3%	81.9%	97.2%	92.5%	88.8%
Very satisfied	41.9%	28.8%	66.4%	50.4%	38.7%
Satisfied	46.4%	53.1%	30.8%	42.1%	50.1%
Unsatisfied	8.4%	12.4%	1.4%	5.0%	9.1%
Very unsatisfied	1.9%	3.4%	0.7%	0.8%	1.2%
Unsatisfied plus very unsatisfied	10.3%	15.8%	2.1%	5.8%	10.3%
DK/NA	1.4%	2.4%	0.7%	1.7%	0.8%

Q7. Off the top of your head, what would you say are the top three problems facing public schools today?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Don't know	60.9%	70.2%	49.7%	73.6%	54.5%
Parents: lack of involvement or support	23.9%	18.3%	36.6%	18.2%	23.7%
School: lack of or poor funding	23.2%	17.0%	16.4%	9.1%	37.6%
School/Teachers: lack of discipline/supervision	19.7%	16.4%	27.1%	18.2%	19.1%
School: class size too big, over-crowded classrooms	16.9%	14.0%	12.7%	26.4%	20.0%
Teachers: unqualified/lacking quality	9.9%	9.9%	9.2%	11.6%	9.8%

Q8. How satisfied are you with the quality of the teachers (in your oldest child's school)?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Very satisfied plus somewhat satisfied	94.1%	89.8%	97.6%	95.9%	96.2%
Very satisfied	50.7%	38.7%	70.2%	52.9%	51.1%
Somewhat satisfied	43.4%	51.1%	27.4%	43.0%	45.1%
Not satisfied	4.7%	8.3%	1.7%	3.3%	3.1%
DK/NA	1.1%	2.0%	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%

Q9. What is your level of agreement with the following statement: Teachers let me know right away if my child is having problems

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Strongly agree plus agree	79.9%	73.2%	87.4%	88.4%	80.5%
Strongly agree	38.8%	31.2%	52.1%	56.2%	34.3%
Agree	41.1%	42.0%	35.3%	32.2%	46.2%
Disagree	14.5%	18.9%	8.2%	8.3%	15.2%
Strongly disagree	4.0%	5.9%	2.1%	3.3%	3.3%
Disagree plus strongly disagree	18.5%	24.8%	10.3%	11.6%	18.5%
DK/NA	1.6%	2.0%	2.4%	0.0%	1.0%

Q10. What is your level of agreement with the following statement: Teachers know their subjects well

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Strongly agree plus agree	88.6%	80.4%	96.9%	92.5%	91.3%
Strongly agree	38.2%	25.6%	56.8%	44.6%	38.7%
Agree	50.4%	54.8%	40.1%	47.9%	52.6%
Disagree	7.0%	13.2%	1.0%	1.7%	5.4%
Strongly disagree	1.7%	2.6%	0.3%	3.3%	1.2%
Disagree plus strongly disagree	8.7%	15.8%	1.3%	5.0%	6.6%
DK/NA	2.6%	3.7%	1.7%	2.5%	2.1%

Q11. What is your level of agreement with the following statement: Teachers make every effort to ensure that every child in their class attains high academic standards.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Strongly agree plus agree	74.5%	62.5%	90.4%	82.7%	75.5%
Strongly agree	26.3%	18.7%	42.8%	33.9%	22.5%
Agree	48.2%	43.8%	47.6%	48.8%	53.0%
Disagree	19.1%	26.8%	6.5%	12.4%	20.4%
Strongly disagree	4.1%	7.5%	1.4%	2.5%	2.5%
Disagree plus strongly disagree	23.2%	34.3%	7.9%	14.9%	22.9%
DK/NA	2.3%	3.2%	1.7%	2.5%	1.7%

Q12. Please tell me if you support or oppose the following: Allowing a college graduate the opportunity to teach in the public schools even if that person has not been trained as a teacher.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Support	53.9%	37.7%	39.0%	39.7%	36.6%
Oppose	40.5%	59.2%	55.5%	54.5%	60.7%
DK/NA	5.6%	3.2%	5.5%	5.8%	2.7%

Q13. Please tell me if you support or oppose the following: Dramatically increase the pay of school leaders and principals when their schools pass the state achievement tests.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Support	42.6%	48.1%	36.3%	58.7%	36.4%
Oppose	54.1%	49.1%	59.6%	37.2%	60.3%
DK/NA	3.4%	2.8%	4.1%	4.1%	3.3%

Q14. Please tell me if you support or oppose the following: End the jobs of school leaders and principals whose schools repeatedly fail to pass the state achievement tests.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Support	49.6%	47.1%	56.8%	49.6%	47.8%
Oppose	44.1%	47.9%	37.3%	45.5%	44.1%
DK/NA	6.2%	4.9%	5.8%	5.0%	8.1%

Q15. Please tell me if you support or oppose the following: Allow individual schools to make decisions about what to teach, which teachers to hire, and how to spend their money, rather than having decisions made by the board or the superintendent’s office.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Support	53.9%	54.4%	60.3%	53.7%	49.5%
Oppose	40.5%	41.8%	33.2%	38.8%	43.9%
DK/NA	5.6%	3.7%	6.2%	7.4%	6.7%

Q16. Please tell me if you support or oppose the following: Pay teachers extra if their students all pass the state achievement tests and do not retain them if more than a few of their students fail those tests.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Support	42.6%	47.9%	41.1%	50.4%	36.0%
Oppose	51.4%	47.3%	51.7%	44.6%	57.4%
DK/NA	5.9%	4.7%	7.2%	5.0%	6.7%

Q17. A proposal has been made that would allow parents to send their school-age children to any public, private, or church-related school they choose. For those parents choosing non-public schools, the government would pay all or part of the tuition. Would you favor or oppose this proposal for Ohio?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Favor	60.3%	63.3%	71.6%	81.0%	45.1%
Oppose	35.6%	32.7%	24.3%	16.5%	50.3%
DK/NA	4.1%	3.9%	4.1%	2.5%	4.6%

Q18. Suppose you could send your oldest child to any public, private, or church-related school of your choice, with tuition paid for by the government. Would you send your oldest child to the school he or she now attends or to a different school?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Current school	69.0%	55.6%	90.4%	64.5%	71.3%
Different school	35.6%	43.0%	7.5%	30.6%	25.2%
DK/NA	4.1%	1.4%	2.1%	5.0%	3.5%

Q19. Do you support or oppose allowing students to choose any public school in the state, even one in another school district?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Support	53.1%	60.0%	57.2%	66.9%	40.1%
Oppose	42.8%	37.3%	37.0%	30.6%	55.1%
DK/NA	4.1%	2.8%	5.8%	2.5%	4.8%

Q20. Do you support or oppose allowing students in a poorly-performing school to attend another public school, even in another district, a charter school, or a private school of their choice?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Support	72.4%	75.0%	77.1%	79.3%	65.1%
Oppose	22.6%	21.5%	17.5%	20.7%	27.4%
DK/NA	5.0%	3.6%	5.5%	0.0%	7.5%

Q21. As you are probably aware, the Dayton area has a number of charter schools. Do you believe that the charter schools should be expanded, continue as they are now, or be stopped altogether?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Expanded	22.4%	22.3%	21.6%	44.6%	17.7%
Continued	38.4%	41.0%	33.9%	45.5%	36.6%
Stopped	17.2%	22.5%	18.8%	8.3%	12.9%
DK/NA	21.9%	14.2%	25.7%	1.7%	32.8%

Q22. There is a new federal act called “No Child Left Behind” that requires public schools to guarantee that every student pass proficiency tests in reading and math by the school year 2013-2014. How likely do you think it is that this goal will be achieved by the public schools in your community?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Very likely plus somewhat likely	64.3%	63.7%	46.6%	51.3%	79.0%
Very likely	25.4%	19.3%	12.0%	8.3%	44.1%
Somewhat likely	38.9%	44.4%	34.6%	43.0%	34.9%
Somewhat unlikely	16.9%	17.9%	24.3%	23.1%	9.6%
Very unlikely	17.0%	17.2%	26.0%	22.3%	10.0%
Somewhat unlikely plus very unlikely	33.9%	35.1%	50.3%	45.4%	19.6%
DK/NA	1.9%	1.2%	3.1%	3.3%	1.5%

Q23. Please tell me your level of agreement with the following statement: “A child should have several opportunities to pass the state tests, but in the end, getting promoted to the next grade or graduating from high school should depend, in part, on passing those tests.”

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Strongly agree plus somewhat agree	75.3%	72.2%	81.2%	70.3%	76.3%
Strongly agree	35.7%	35.1%	42.5%	24.8%	34.9%
Somewhat agree	39.6%	37.1%	38.7%	45.5%	41.4%
Somewhat disagree	13.1%	14.2%	8.2%	19.8%	13.3%
Strongly disagree	10.3%	13.4%	8.6%	7.4%	8.7%
Somewhat disagree plus strongly disagree	23.4%	27.6%	16.8%	27.2%	22.0%
DK/NA	1.3%	0.2%	2.1%	2.5%	1.7%

Q24. Here are two statements that parents have told us about standardized tests. Please tell me which one comes closest to your views on the topic of standardized tests

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
If it's a good test, teachers should work to make sure students pass it.	62.1%	67.3%	59.9%	71.1%	55.7%
Teaching to the test places undesirable constraints on teachers.	33.5%	29.4%	35.6%	22.3%	39.3%
DK/NA	4.4%	3.4%	4.5%	6.6%	5.0%

Q25. Please tell me which of the following statements best represents your opinion about how concerned the teacher unions are about the success of students.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Very concerned plus somewhat concerned	70.1%	71.0%	62.0%	74.4%	73.0%
Very concerned	23.0%	23.9%	19.2%	18.2%	25.8%
Somewhat concerned	47.1%	47.1%	42.8%	56.2%	47.2%
Not very concerned	13.1%	14.4%	15.1%	9.9%	11.4%
Not at all concerned	7.2%	5.9%	12.7%	8.3%	5.0%
Not very concerned plus not at all concerned	20.3%	20.3%	27.8%	18.2%	16.4%
DK/NA	9.6%	8.7%	10.3%	7.4%	10.6%

Q26. Please tell me your level of agreement with the following statement: "Teacher unions use all their political clout to block or reverse education reforms, such as school choice and holding teachers accountable for students' academic success."

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Strongly agree plus somewhat agree	55.9%	61.0%	58.9%	64.5%	46.6%
Strongly agree	17.2%	17.8%	25.3%	14.9%	12.3%
Somewhat agree	38.7%	43.2%	33.6%	49.6%	34.3%
Somewhat disagree	18.6%	16.6%	15.8%	15.7%	23.5%
Strongly disagree	8.8%	8.3%	6.5%	4.1%	11.9%
Somewhat disagree plus strongly disagree	27.4%	24.9%	22.3%	19.8%	35.4%
DK/NA	16.6%	14.2%	18.8%	15.7%	18.1%

Q27. Do you think that the local school board in your community is doing a good job or a poor job of improving public education?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Good job	62.2%	58.8%	41.1%	43.0%	83.6%
Poor job	30.3%	34.3%	46.6%	44.6%	12.5%
DK/NA	7.5%	6.9%	12.3%	12.4%	4.0%

Q28. Do you think the principal in your oldest child's school is providing the leadership that the school needs to become better?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Yes	82.4%	78.3%	89.4%	87.6%	81.3%
No	11.9%	17.0%	6.2%	5.8%	11.4%
DK/NA	5.7%	4.7%	4.5%	6.6%	7.3%

Q29. Please tell me your level of agreement with the following statement: "The governor and the state legislature are doing everything they can to help improve public education for all students in Ohio."

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Strongly agree plus somewhat agree	42.6%	47.5%	39.7%	40.5%	39.7%
Strongly agree	7.4%	11.8%	4.8%	6.6%	4.4%
Somewhat agree	35.2%	35.7%	34.9%	33.9%	35.3%
Somewhat disagree	26.6%	24.7%	26.7%	28.1%	28.3%
Strongly disagree	27.9%	26.2%	29.8%	27.3%	28.5%
Somewhat disagree plus strongly disagree	54.5%	50.9%	56.5%	55.4%	56.8%
DK/NA	2.9%	1.6%	3.8%	4.1%	3.5%

Q30. Based on the current taxes you are paying, do you believe that the taxpayers in your community are getting their money's worth for the public schools or not getting their money's worth for the public schools?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Not getting their money's worth	53.4%	63.5%	70.9%	79.3%	25.8%
Getting their money's worth	44.1%	34.1%	24.3%	15.7%	73.8%
DK/NA	2.4%	2.4%	4.8%	5.0%	0.4%

Q31. Based on the current taxes you are paying, do you believe that the taxpayers in your community are getting their money's worth for the charter schools or not getting their money's worth for the charter schools?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Not getting their money's worth	29.5%	35.7%	33.2%	33.1%	20.0%
Getting their money's worth	27.0%	34.5%	21.6%	55.4%	15.2%
DK/NA	43.5%	29.8%	45.2%	11.6%	64.9%

Q32. When a child attends a charter school, most of the state and local tax dollars designated to pay for that child's education goes with child to the charter school. Please tell me which of the following two opinions best matches yours.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Tax money is for a child's education, no matter what school he/she attends.	62.6%	57.8%	66.1%	90.1%	58.8%
Charter schools drain tax money away from the public schools.	26.1%	30.6%	23.6%	7.4%	27.4%
DK/NA	6.6%	6.1%	6.2%	2.5%	8.3%
Neither	4.7%	5.5%	4.1%	0.0%	5.4%

Q33. Over the last 5 years, do you think that the quality of Dayton Public Schools has...?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter
Gotten better	23.6%	57.8%	17.5%	20.7%
Stayed the same	32.0%	30.6%	35.3%	20.7%
Gotten worse	36.6%	6.1%	36.0%	51.2%
DK/NA	7.8%	5.5%	11.3%	7.4%

Q34. How much do you think the \$650 million recently approved by voters for school construction will help improve school performance?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter
A lot	26.9%	32.5%	16.8%	27.3%
Some	32.6%	33.7%	31.5%	31.4%
A little	20.8%	17.2%	27.1%	20.7%
Not at all	15.9%	13.2%	20.9%	14.9%
DK/NA	3.8%	3.4%	3.8%	5.8%

Q35. If you could choose a high school for your oldest child, would it be . . . ?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter
Private high school	43.4%	24.1%	78.4%	39.7%
Current Dayton public high school	25.0%	40.6%	5.1%	8.3%
High school in another district	19.3%	25.4%	10.6%	14.9%
Charter high school	9.1%	7.4%	1.4%	34.7%
DK/NA	3.2%	2.6%	4.5%	2.5%

Q36. Please tell me your level of agreement with the following statement: Dayton needs a third-party who can provide parents with objective information about how different schools are performing academically.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter
Strongly agree plus somewhat agree	76.4%	78.3%	71.6%	80.2%
Strongly agree	34.2%	36.9%	29.8%	33.1%
Somewhat agree	42.2%	41.4%	41.8%	47.1%
Somewhat disagree	10.2%	9.9%	11.6%	8.3%
Strongly disagree	8.5%	8.7%	9.9%	4.1%
Somewhat disagree plus strongly disagree	18.7%	18.6%	21.5%	12.4%
DK/NA	4.9%	3.2%	6.8%	7.4%

Q37. Please tell me your level of agreement with the following statement: Dayton needs a third-party who can press for educational change, even when the changes may be controversial.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter
Strongly agree plus somewhat agree	76.3%	78.4%	70.6%	81.8%
Strongly agree	31.6%	32.0%	30.5%	32.2%
Somewhat agree	44.7%	46.4%	40.1%	49.6%
Somewhat disagree	10.7%	10.7%	13.0%	5.0%
Strongly disagree	7.9%	7.3%	9.6%	6.6%
Somewhat disagree plus strongly disagree	18.6%	18.0%	22.6%	11.6%
DK/NA	5.1%	3.7%	6.8%	6.6%

Q38. Please tell me your level of agreement with the following statement: Dayton’s political and business leaders are doing everything they can to help improve education for all students.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter
Strongly agree plus somewhat agree	45.3%	50.3%	40.4%	36.4%
Strongly agree	9.0%	12.4%	4.8%	5.0%
Somewhat agree	36.3%	37.9%	35.6%	31.4%
Somewhat disagree	28.9%	27.4%	29.8%	33.9%
Strongly disagree	19.8%	18.5%	21.2%	21.5%
Somewhat disagree plus strongly disagree	48.7%	45.9%	51.0%	55.4%
DK/NA	5.9%	3.7%	8.6%	8.3%

Q39. In your opinion, is the academic achievement of white students in your community higher, lower, or about the same as the black and Hispanic students?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Higher	25.5%	28.2%	25.7%	38.0%	19.3%
About the same	50.6%	48.5%	44.2%	33.9%	61.1%
Lower	4.0%	6.7%	3.8%	6.6%	0.6%
DK/NA	19.9%	16.6%	26.4%	21.5%	18.9%

Q40. In your opinion, how important is it to close the academic achievement gap between the white students and the black and Hispanic students?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Very important plus somewhat important	91.8%	92.7%	90.2%	94.7%	91.0%
Very important	76.1%	79.0%	75.8%	84.2%	71.3%
Somewhat important	15.7%	13.7%	14.4%	10.5%	19.7%
Not too important	2.5%	3.1%	1.9%	1.1%	2.6%
Not at all important	2.8%	2.6%	4.2%	2.1%	2.3%
Not too important plus not at all important	5.3%	5.7%	6.1%	3.2%	4.9%
DK/NA	2.9%	1.7%	3.7%	2.1%	4.1%

Q41. Do you think the academic achievement gap between white, black, and Hispanic students is mostly caused by the quality of schooling received or mostly related to other factors?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Related to other factors	63.5%	55.3%	67.9%	46.3%	74.1%
Related to quality of schooling	28.9%	34.8%	26.0%	47.4%	19.7%
DK/NA	7.6%	9.9%	6.0%	6.3%	6.2%

Q42. What do you think some of the factors are that cause the achievement gap between white, black, and Hispanic students?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Lack of involvement or support from parents or family	37.4%	29.9%	47.3%	20.5%	41.2%
Home environment/upbringing	30.4%	25.6%	29.5%	22.7%	36.0%
Economic situation/Low family income	22.6%	26.5%	18.5%	29.5%	20.4%
Racism among students, within school or at home	18.0%	19.7%	15.1%	27.3%	16.6%
Family/parental situation, one-parent households	11.5%	9.0%	15.1%	2.3%	13.1%
DK/NA	13.5%	15.4%	12.3%	22.7%	11.1%

Q43. What is your primary source for learning how well the schools are doing in educating their students?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Newspaper	22.1%	15.2%	38.4%	18.2%	20.8%
Personal experience	20.4%	22.3%	16.8%	28.9%	23.0%
Children/students	18.7%	24.5%	8.6%	14.9%	19.8%
School employees	8.7%	8.9%	5.5%	12.4%	9.6%
Word of mouth	5.6%	5.3%	9.2%	5.8%	3.5%
Television or Radio	5.7%	7.5%	9.2%	7.4%	1.2%
School/district mailings	4.6%	3.6%	1.7%	3.3%	7.9%
Report cards, progress reports	4.4%	4.3%	3.1%	0.0%	6.4%
PTA Meetings, school meetings	1.8%	1.8%	1.7%	0.0%	2.3%
Parent-Teacher conferences	1.4%	0.6%	1.4%	0.0%	2.7%
PACE	1.3%	1.2%	1.0%	3.3%	1.0%
Internet	1.1%	0.6%	2.7%	0.0%	1.0%
DK/NA	1.4%	1.8%	0.7%	5.0%	0.4%
Other	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.8%	0.2%

Q44. Please stop me when I reach the category that best represents your race.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Caucasian/White	65.5%	43.0%	82.2%	13.2%	92.3%
African-Amer./Black	28.7%	52.1%	10.3%	80.2%	2.3%
Bi- or Multi-racial	1.7%	2.2%	2.1%	2.5%	0.8%
Refused	1.6%	0.8%	2.4%	2.5%	1.9%
American Indian	1.1%	1.2%	1.0%	1.7%	0.8%
Latin Amer./ Hispanic	0.7%	0.4%	1.4%	0.0%	0.8%
Asian	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%

Q45. Please stop me when I mention the category that best represents your age

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
18-30	8.8%	13.6%	5.1%	18.2%	3.5%
31-40	37.7%	34.1%	36.6%	45.5%	40.1%
41-50	42.5%	39.4%	48.3%	23.1%	47.2%
51-60	8.4%	9.1%	9.2%	5.0%	8.1%
61-70	1.1%	1.6%	0.0%	4.1%	0.6%
Over 70	0.8%	1.6%	0.7%	0.8%	0.0%
Refused	0.6%	0.6%	0.0%	3.3%	0.4%

Q46. Please stop me when I mention the category that best represents your income.

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Under \$20,000	7.9%	14.0%	2.1%	14.9%	3.3%
\$20,000 - \$30,000	11.4%	17.8%	9.2%	19.8%	3.7%
\$30,001 - \$40,000	15.0%	17.9%	14.0%	18.2%	11.6%
\$40,001 - \$50,000	13.6%	14.6%	11.3%	15.7%	13.7%
\$50,001 - \$60,000	11.7%	10.7%	14.0%	11.6%	11.4%
\$60,001 - \$70,000	9.7%	7.7%	11.6%	2.5%	12.5%
Over \$70,000	22.1%	11.2%	27.1%	8.3%	33.9%
Refused	8.6%	6.1%	10.6%	9.1%	9.8%

Q47. Of the following, please stop me when I reach your education level.

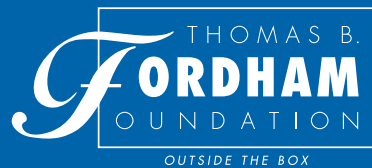
	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Less than high school	1.4%	3.4%	0.3%	1.7%	0.0%
High school or GED	17.4%	24.5%	9.2%	19.0%	14.3%
Some college or technical	39.0%	42.2%	36.6%	52.1%	33.7%
4-year degree	25.9%	19.1%	30.8%	20.7%	31.4%
Advanced degree	14.9%	8.9%	21.2%	5.0%	20.0%
Refused	1.4%	2.0%	1.7%	1.7%	0.6%

Q48: Are you currently registered to vote?

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Yes	91.8%	89.5%	95.2%	89.3%	92.7%
No	8.2%	10.5%	4.8%	10.7%	7.3%

Q49: Gender

	ALL Types	DP-Public	DP-Private	DP-Charter	MV-Public
Male	27.1%	26.0%	31.2%	19.8%	27.4%
Female	72.9%	74.0%	68.8%	80.2%	72.6%



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