

LOUISIANA

K-12 & SCHOOL CHOICE SURVEY

What Do Voters Say About K-12 Education?

Polling Paper No. 7

March 19, 2012

With questions on state performance, education spending, charter schools, school vouchers, and teacher tenure reform

Paul DiPerna

Research Director

paul@edchoice.org



www.edchoice.org

Survey Project & Profile

Title:	Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey
Survey Organization:	Braun Research Incorporated (BRI)
Survey Sponsor:	The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice
Release Partner:	Pelican Institute for Public Policy
Interview Dates:	February 14-18, 23-27, 2012
Interview Method:	Live Telephone 70% landline and 30% cell phone
Interview Length:	13 minutes
Language(s):	English
Sample Frame:	Registered Voters
Sampling Method:	Dual Frame; Probability Sampling; Random Digit Dial (RDD)
Sample Sizes:	LOUISIANA=802; East Baton Rouge=326; Livingston=325; Orleans=325; St. Tammany=333; Tangipahoa=325
Split Sample Sizes:	“Split A”=401; “Split B”=401
Margin of Error:	± 3.5 percentage points for the statewide sample ± 5.4 percentage points (approx.) for each parish sample ± 4.1 percentage points for each split sample
Response Rates:	(LL) LOUISIANA=19.7%; Parish Avg=20.6% (Cell) LOUISIANA=18.9%; Parish Avg=19.8%
Weighting?	Yes (Age, Gender, Race/Ethnicity for parishes and statewide; also, Parish for statewide)
Oversampling?	Yes (Five Parishes: East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Orleans, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa)

Project Contact:
Paul DiPerna | Research Director | paul@edchoice.org

The author is responsible for overall polling design; question wording and ordering; this paper’s analysis, charts, and writing; and any unintentional errors or misrepresentations.

Survey Demographics

	STATE %	East Baton Rouge %	Livingston %	Orleans %	St. Tammany %	Tangipahoa %
K-12 Parent	37	37	46	38	38	38
Democrat	37	39	20	55	20	33
Republican	29	31	43	18	40	30
Independent	24	20	26	17	30	23
Urban	20	33	6	57	10	5
Suburban	24	36	19	30	39	12
Small Town	30	14	31	8	26	49
Rural	26	14	42	3	23	33
18 - 29	19	25	17	25	15	24
30 - 39	15	17	21	16	16	15
40 - 49	18	17	22	18	20	18
50 - 64	30	25	26	26	30	27
65 & Over	18	15	14	14	18	16
Hispanic	4	5	3	3	4	4
Not Hispanic	94	94	94	91	95	95
Asian	1	2	0	2	1	0
Black	29	41	5	58	9	25
Mixed	1	0	0	1	1	0
Other	2	1	2	2	1	1
White	67	56	93	38	89	74
Catholic	31	20	18	26	42	24
Jewish	0	0	0	1	1	2
Mormon	1	0	1	0	0	1
Muslim	0	1	0	1	1	0
Protestant	58	65	67	58	45	64
None	7	8	11	9	8	6
Under \$25,000	20	14	16	22	8	27
\$25,000 - \$49,999	20	20	25	21	18	26
\$50,000 - \$74,999	17	17	16	21	21	14
\$75,000 - \$124,999	19	22	18	15	16	15
\$125,000 - \$200,000	5	7	7	4	10	3
Over \$200,000	4	3	1	3	5	2
< HS Graduate	8	4	11	5	4	11
HS Graduate	30	27	33	28	22	29
Tech, Trade, Vocational	5	5	6	2	4	9
Some College	23	23	23	23	24	22
≥ College	34	41	25	41	45	30
Male	48	50	51	49	49	47
Female	53	51	49	51	51	53

March 19, 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

5	Louisiana's K-12 Profile
7	Overview
8	Key Findings
20	Survey Snapshots
45	Methods Summary
46	<i>Sample Design</i>
46	<i>Contact Procedures</i>
47	<i>Call Dispositions and Response Rates</i>
49	<i>Weighting Procedures and Analysis</i>
50	About Us, Acknowledgements
54	Survey Questionnaire and Topline

Louisiana's K-12 Profile

Average State Rank on NAEP¹	48
High School Graduation Rate²	67%
# Regular Public School Students³	660,051
# Charter School Students⁴	30,864
# Private School Students⁵	114,300
% Regular Public School Students⁶	82.0%
% Charter School Students⁶	3.8%
% Private School Students⁶	14.2%
# School Districts³	69
# Regular Public Schools³	1,601
# Charter Schools³	77
# Private Schools⁵	340
Online Learning Climate⁷	Weak
% Free and Reduced-Price Lunch³	66%
% Individualized Education Program (IEP)³	12%
% English Language Learners (ELL)³	2%
\$ Revenue Per Student⁸	\$11,827
\$ Per Student Spending⁸	\$10,625

Louisiana Profile Notes

1. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Average of four rankings (rounded upward to nearest single digit) based on 2011 state scale scores for 4th grade reading (#47); 4th grade math (#49); 8th grade reading (#49); 8th grade math (#47).
URL: nationsreportcard.gov/data_tools.asp
2. Reported high school graduation rates, determined by the Average Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR) on the National Center for Education Statistics section on the U.S. Department of Education website. Data for 2008-2009 school year.
URL: nces.ed.gov/ccd
3. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD). Data for the 2009-2010 school year.
URL: nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states
4. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD). Data for the 2009-2010 school year.
URL: nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch
5. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Private School Universe Survey (PSS). Data for 2009–2010 school year. Includes schools with K-12 enrollments ≥ 5 students.
URL: nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/index.asp
6. Percentages are meant for general impressions only. State-level data on home-school students are generally unreliable, and this subpopulation of students could not be included in this table. Due to rounding, percentage totals may be slightly greater or less than 100%.
7. Author rating (Weak, Moderate, or Strong), based on John Watson, Amy Murin, Lauren Vashaw, Butch Gemin, and Chris Rapp, *Keeping Pace with K-12 Online Learning: An Annual Review of State-Level Policy and Practice*, (Evergreen Education Group, 2011), Table 2.
URL: kpk12.com/cms/wp-content/uploads/KeepingPace2011.pdf
8. Frank Johnson, Lei Zhou, and Nanae Nakamoto, *Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2008–09 (Fiscal Year 2009)* (NCES 2011-329). U.S. Department of Education. Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Statistics (June 2011).
URL: nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011329.pdf
“Current Expenditures” data include dollars spent on instruction, instruction-related, support services, and other elementary/secondary current expenditures, but exclude expenditures on long-term debt service, facilities and construction, and other programs.

Overview

The “Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey” project, commissioned by the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice and conducted by Braun Research Incorporated (BRI), measures Louisiana registered voters’ familiarity and views on a range of K-12 education topics and school choice reforms. In this paper we report response *levels* of public opinion. For some questions, we also expand the discussion to examine *differences* of voter opinion (using the term “net score” or “net”) and the *intensity* of responses.

Where do Louisiana’s voters stand on important issues and policy proposals in K-12 education? We make an effort to provide some observations and insights.

A randomly selected and statistically representative sample of Louisiana voters recently responded to 18 substantive questions and 11 demographic questions. Our methodology included probability sampling and random-digit dial. A total of 2,218 telephone interviews were completed in English from February 14 to 27, 2012, by means of both landline and cell phone. There was a hiatus between February 19 through February 22 to account for prohibited Sunday dialing, Mardi Gras, and Ash Wednesday. The statewide sample includes 802 registered voters in Louisiana. BRI oversampled to reach another 1,634 total interviews in the following parishes to complete, combined with the statewide sample, approximately 325 interviews in each: East Baton Rouge (326), Livingston (325), Orleans (325), St. Tammany (333), Tangipahoa (325). Based on U.S. Census data, statistical results were weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the statewide sample is ± 3.5 percentage points. The margins of sampling error for the parish samples are approximately ± 5.4 percentage points.

Our polling paper has four sections. The first section summarizes key findings. We call **the second section “Survey Snapshots,”** which offers charts highlighting the core findings of the project. **The third section describes the survey’s methodology,** summarizes response statistics, and presents additional technical information on call dispositions for landline and cell phone interviews. The fourth section presents our

questionnaire and results (“topline **numbers**”), essentially allowing the reader to follow the actual interview as it was conducted, with respect to question wording and ordering. We set out to give a straight-forward analysis, going light on editorial commentary, and letting the numbers and charts communicate the major findings.

Key Findings:

- ▶ **The vast majority of Louisiana’s voters (79%) are paying attention to issues in K-12 education. Only 21% of voters say they pay “very little” or no attention.**

See Question 1

In the state, those Louisianans who say they pay “a lot” of attention (50%) to K-12 education issues outnumber those who say they pay no attention (6%) by more than an eight-to-one ratio.

Democrats (54%) and Republicans (51%) appear to be a little more engaged (saying **they pay “a lot” of attention**) than Independents (42%).

A significantly larger proportion of middle-age voters (57%) say they pay “a lot of attention” to K-12 education issues, compared to younger voters (40%) and older voters (50%).

Nearly 6 of 10 African American voters (57%) say they pay “a lot of attention” to K-12 education issues, significantly higher than white voters (48%).

- ▶ **Louisianans are much less likely to think that K-12 education is heading in the “right direction” (34%) compared to being on the “wrong track” (50%).**

See Question 2

Orleans (48%) and St. Tammany (50%) parishes are significantly more positive than other surveyed parishes. By far, East Baton Rouge is most negative about the direction of K-12 education in the state (20% “right direction” vs. 64% “wrong track”).

Suburban and rural voters (56% and 54%, respectively, say “wrong track”) are more negative on this question than urban and small town voters (both groups have 45% proportion of voters saying “wrong track”).

Older voters (29%) are much less likely than younger (40%) and middle-age (38%) voters to say that K-12 education in Louisiana is going in the “right direction.”

- ▶ **Louisiana voters are much more likely to share negative ratings when assessing the state’s public school system (34% say “good” or “excellent”; 63% say “fair” or “poor”).**

See Question 3

St. Tammany (43%) and Livingston (38%) most frequently give positive ratings to the state’s public school system. Voters in East Baton Rouge are overwhelmingly negative in their assessment (19% “good” or “excellent”; 80% “fair” or “poor”).

Suburban voters (72%) most frequently offered negative ratings for the public schools, and there is a significant difference between their views and proportionally lower negative opinions of urban and small town voters (60% and 57%, respectively).

Democrats, Republicans, and Independents are all negative on the public school system. Independents (69%) are significantly more negative than Democrats (60%).

- ▶ **Generally speaking, Louisiana voters do not know how much is spent per student in public schools. There is a clear lack of information.**

See Question 4

Approximately \$10,625 is spent on each student in Louisiana’s public schools, and 11% of respondents could estimate the correct per-student spending range for the state (this dollar figure reflects “current expenditures” per student). Nearly three times the number of respondents (29%) thought that less than \$4,000 is spent per student in the state’s public schools. Another one of four voters said “don’t know” to the question and did not offer a number.

When considering “total expenditures” per student (\$12,075 in 2008-2009), which is another definition for educational spending, voter estimates look even more off-target. Only 3% of voters estimated the “\$12,001 to \$16,000” spending range. Of the 592 respondents who offered an estimate or guess to this question, more than 9 of 10 (92%) underestimated total educational spending per student.

Louisiana’s spending estimates are fairly typical compared to other states where we have polled. But no matter how one defines K-12 educational spending (per student), voters are woefully uninformed about how money is spent in K-12 education.

- ▶ **When given the latest per-student spending information, voters are less likely to say public school funding is at a level that is “too low,” compared to answering without having such information.**

See Questions 5A and 5B

We asked two slightly different questions about the level of public school funding in Louisiana. On version 5A, 57% of voters said that public school funding is “too low.” However, on version 5B, which included a sentence referring to data on per-

student funding in Louisiana (\$7,992), the proportion of voters saying “too low” shrank by 12 percentage points, effectively a 21% reduction.¹

It appears Louisianans are likely to change their views on public school funding – **at least when initially saying it is “too low”** – if given accurate per-student spending information. The implication that opinion can turn on a single piece of data is important for political sound bites that focus on aggregate levels of public spending rather than how the money is allocated and spent per student.

St. Tammany is more likely than other parishes to say **that funding is “about right” (26% on 5A; 46% on 5B)**. Orleans is more likely **to say that funding is “too low” when compared to Livingston and Tangipahoa**.

Democrats (66% on 5A; 52% on 5B) are more likely than Republicans (54% on 5A; 41% on 5B) to say funding is “too low,” but voters across parties will change their opinion given more information on per-student spending.

► **Voters are much more likely to give grades “A” or “B” to private/parochial schools in their areas, compared to other types of schools.**

See Questions 6A, 6B, and 6C

Approximately 64% of voters give an A or B to private schools, 34% give an A or B to regular public schools, and 34% give an A or B to charter schools. More than 3 of 10 voters (31%) give a D or F grade to their local public schools. About 7% give low grades to charter schools. Similarly, about 5% give low grades to private/parochial schools.

Livingston and St. Tammany give the highest grades to their local public schools. East Baton Rouge, Orleans, and Tangipahoa are more likely to give lower grades.

¹ The author made an error when constructing this question. The actual 2008-2009 per-student “current” spending figure for Louisiana is \$10,625. The state’s per-student “total” spending figure is \$12,075 for 2008-2009. The general finding here is likely to understate the shift in opinion.

Orleans gave higher marks to charter schools than the other parishes. This makes a lot of sense considering the prominent role of charter schools in the region's educational recovery after Hurricane Katrina.

Like the statewide average, four of the five surveyed parishes give high grades to private/parochial schools. Livingston stands out though and appears least likely to give high grades. Voters from that parish were also most likely to skip the question and say "don't know."

- ▶ **When asked for a preferred school type, Louisiana voters demonstrate a serious disconnect between their preferred school types and actual enrollment patterns in the state. Nearly half of the state's voters (49%) would first choose a private school over other school types. About 3 of 10 voters (31%) would select a regular public school.**

See Question 7

Less than 15% of Louisiana's K-12 student population attends private schools, but in our survey interviews, half of voters (49%) would select a private school as a first option. Approximately 82% of the state's students attend regular public schools, but a much lower percentage of voters (31%) would choose a regular public school as their first choice. Roughly 30,000 students in the state attend charter schools (close to 4% of the state's K-12 student population), but 10% of Louisiana voters would like to send their child to a charter school. About 7% of voters said he/she would opt to homeschool their child. The results suggest the capability to choose a preferred school type is highly constrained in Louisiana.

Orleans residents clearly would like to see more charter school options, and are more apt than other parishes to want charters. About one-fourth of Orleans respondents (26%) say they would choose a charter school. East Baton Rouge residents (60%) tend to favor private schools, above the state average. Livingston

and St. Tammany differ from other parishes by being more preferential to regular public schools, though respondents still would choose private schools first.

Majorities or pluralities of voters across all community types first prefer private schools. Urban voters (17%) are more likely to say they want to send their child to a charter school. Residents in small towns (37%) tend to be more favorable toward regular public schools. Rural voters (12%) are more likely to say they would want to homeschool their children.

Compared to Democrats, Republicans and Independents are more likely to want to send their children to private schools and less likely to choose regular public schools. Though a plurality of Democrats (44%) would still first choose a private school.

- ▶ **Roughly equal numbers of respondents in our survey prioritize a “better education” and “individual attention” (14% each impression) as the key attribute they are looking for in the selection of his/her preferred school. The next most important attributes, each suggested by 8% of all respondents, are “teachers” and “discipline or structure.”**

See Question 8

Some caution. These characteristics appear to be a higher priority over others on the list. However, any of these qualities may or may not attract more urgency as a second or third priority, which we do not explore in our survey.

- ▶ **Louisiana voters are much more likely to favor charter schools (61%), rather than oppose such schools (22%). Nearly 4 of 10 voters (37%) say they are at least “somewhat familiar” with charter schools.**

See Questions 9 and 10

Orleans Parish respondents stand out. Almost four of five voters in Orleans (77%) say they favor charter schools. Livingston and St. Tammany were more

likely than the other three parishes to decline a response, saying “don’t know.” A majority of Livingston voters (55%) support charter schools, but the negative reactions (22%) were significantly higher than responses detected among voters in St. Tammany and Tangipahoa.

Majorities in all community types favor charter schools. Suburbanites are more likely than small town and rural voters to support charter schools. The greatest enthusiasm, though, can be found among urban voters (37% “strongly favor” vs. 10% “strongly oppose”).

Regardless of political party affiliation, more than 6 of 10 partisan voters support charter schools. Independents (15%) are significantly less likely than Democrats (24%) to state opposition to charter schools.

The net scores are all strongly positive across demographic groups. Suburban voters (+53 net) and middle-age voters (+52 net) registered the largest scores.

Enthusiasm for charter schools also is strong across demographics. Voters in urban areas (+27 intensity) and middle-age voters (+30 intensity) indicate an even stronger passion for charter schools compared to statewide intensity (+19 intensity).

Only about 37% of voters say they are at least “somewhat familiar” with charter schools. There is potential to broaden awareness and possibly expand support for charters. The association between charter school familiarity and favorability is positive in direction, though pretty modest in size ($r=.203$, $p < .01$).

- ▶ **Louisiana voters solidly support school vouchers—63% say they favor the school choice policy compared to 29% who say they oppose such a voucher system. Almost 4 of 10 voters (39%) say they are at least “somewhat familiar” with school vouchers.**

See Questions 11 and 12

Despite at least 60% support across the five oversampled parishes, some regional differences emerge in the data. Voters in Orleans are more likely to say they favor school vouchers than voters in Livingston or St. Tammany. Tangipahoa clearly **registers the highest positive intensity favoring school vouchers (47% “strongly favor” vs. 14% “strongly oppose”). East Baton Rouge and St. Tammany voters** (about one of five in each parish) are more likely than Orleans and Tangipahoa to state strong opposition.

Voters across all community types and party affiliations favor school vouchers. Nearly a quarter of Republicans (23%) suggested strong opposition, which is significantly different from Democrat and Independent levels.

Voters of all age groups support vouchers (at least 59% in each group favors vouchers), but the extent differs between groups. Younger voters are clearly more supportive than older voters (71% favor and 59% favor, respectively). Nearly half of younger (46%) and middle-age (**44%**) voters say they “strongly favor” vouchers, whereas a third of older voters (**33%**) give strong support.

Voters in households earning less than \$50,000 indicate the largest and most enthusiastic support for school vouchers, compared to other income groups. Approximately three of four voters (74%) in this lower income say they favor vouchers, a significantly different result from higher income voters (earning more than \$75,000) – about half of these voters (53%) say they favor vouchers. Nearly **half of lower income voters (48%) say they “strongly favor” school vouchers**, compared to about 34% of voters in the higher income groups.

Both African Americans and whites say they favor school vouchers (71% favor and 57% favor, respectively) but the latter are significantly more likely to indicate **such support, and say they “strongly favor” vouchers** (African Americans: 44% “strongly favor”; whites: 34% “strongly favor”).

The margins of support for vouchers are greatest and most positive among younger voters (+49 net), less than \$25,000 households (+57 net), households earning between \$25,000 and \$49,999 (+52 net), and African Americans (+51 net).

Intense support for school voucher is high among most demographic groups. Voters who are younger, living in lower income households (< \$50,000), or African American indicate greatest enthusiasm for vouchers. Though still a net positive intensity, the least enthusiasm among demographic groups is among older voters, those earning more than \$50,000, and whites.

In Louisiana, there does not appear to be an association between familiarity with school vouchers and favorability toward the school choice policy. The correlation between school voucher familiarity and favorability is positive in direction, though weak in size ($r=.078$, $p < .01$).

- ▶ **Voters from across the state, and across many demographics, support the Student Scholarships Program. Nearly two of three voters (63%) say they favor the program, versus 26% of respondents who say they oppose it. Almost one-fourth of voters (23%) say they are at least “somewhat familiar” with the voucher program.**

See Questions 13 and 14

Voters in Orleans (70%) and Tangipahoa (68%) clearly favor the Student Scholarships Program. The latter two parishes, along with St. Tammany (64%), register significantly different responses when compared to Livingston. A smaller majority in Livingston (55%) favor the program, and a larger proportion (21%) are more likely to say they “strongly oppose” the program.

Democrats (71%) and Independents (68%) are more likely than Republicans (54%) to support the current school voucher program.

Across all examined demographic groups, there are majorities of support for the current voucher program. The statistically significant differences between groups mirror those differences with respect to the previous general voucher question.

The largest margins of support (all above +40 net) are among urban and suburban voters, Democrats and Independents, younger and middle-age voters, voters earning less than \$50,000, and African Americans.

The greatest enthusiasm for the program (at least +30 intensity) is among Democrats, young voters, those earning less than \$25,000, and African Americans.

It appears there could be some opportunity to generate greater levels of support for the Student Scholarships voucher program. Because this is a geographically limited program, it's not that surprising a low proportion of voters (23%) say they are at least "somewhat familiar" with the program. The association between program familiarity and favorability is positive in direction, though modest in size ($r=.133, p < .01$).

- ▶ **More than 17% of respondents say they support the Student Scholarships Program because it offers a "better education," doubling the number of responses given for the second-most frequently cited reason. Almost 9% of voters said the program afforded "choice, freedom, or flexibility."**

See Question 15

Some caution. These characteristics appear to be a higher priority over others on the list. However, any of these qualities may or may not attract more urgency as a second or third priority, which we do not explore in our survey.

- ▶ **By a two-to-one margin, Louisiana voters support expanding school voucher eligibility—statewide, low and middle income families, and low-rated C, D, and F schools (60% favor vs. 30% oppose).**

See Question 16

Majorities in all five of the oversampled parishes favor the plan to expand school vouchers in Louisiana. Orleans and Tangipahoa parishes show areas of greatest support for the plan (61% and 67%, respectively). Even in Livingston there is still majority support (53%) for the plan. More Livingston voters expressed strong favorability (30%) than strong opposition (22%). Tangipahoa voters are **most likely to express strong support (38% “strongly favor”)**.

Like the oversampled parishes, the expansion proposal garners majority support across all types of communities and party affiliations. The margin of support is at least + 22 percentage points for each of the four examined community types. Net intensity scores – **the difference between proportions saying “strongly favor” and “strongly oppose”** – are also positive for all community types (urban = +24; suburban = +1; small town = +16; rural = +12). Likewise, the margin of support is at least +19 percentage points for Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. Net intensity scores are positive regardless of political leanings (Democrats = +23; Republicans = +6; Independents = +9). Solid support reaches across party lines.

The patterns and statistical differences across other demographic groups generally mirror what we have noticed with the previous voucher questions. Middle-age voters, Louisianans earning less than \$50,000, and African Americans represent some of the large bases of support to expand the current voucher program.

Intense support for expansion is greatest among urban voters, Democrats, younger voters, those earning less than \$50,000, and African Americans.

- ▶ **A plurality of voters (47%) say they favor allowing tenure for public school teachers. There is about equal intensity, positive versus negative, on both sides of the issue (23% “strongly favor” vs. 24% “strongly oppose”).**

See Question 17

In terms of intensity, St. Tammany stands out. Voters there are less likely than Orleans and Tangipahoa to support tenure, and less likely than all oversampled parishes to say they “strongly support” tenure. Conversely, St. Tammany is more likely to “strongly oppose” tenure. Orleans is least likely to “strongly oppose.”

Suburban and rural voters are more likely than urban and small town voters to “strongly oppose” tenure policies.

Democrats clearly differ with Republicans and Independents on this issue. A majority of Democrats (55%) favor tenure policies, but significantly fewer Republicans and Independents favor them (both 43%). On the other hand, significantly more Republicans and Independents (32% and 29%, respectively) than Democrats (16%) say they “strongly oppose” teacher tenure.

- ▶ **A solid majority of Louisianans (56%) support a new plan to overhaul the guidelines for tenure, seniority status, and teacher salaries. About one of three voters (33%) say they oppose the proposal. There is considerable positive intensity regarding the idea. Those who say they “strongly favor” outnumber those who “strongly oppose” by a two-to-one margin (36% vs. 18%, respectively).**

See Question 18

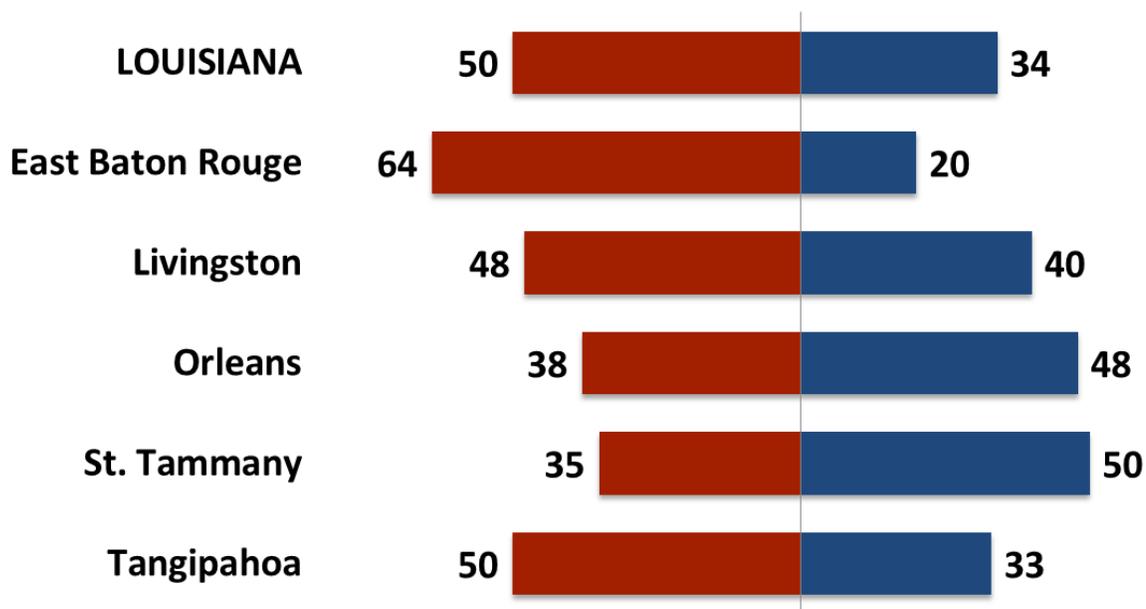
Majority support is found across all oversampled parishes, community types, and political party affiliations. Favorability does not dip below 51% for any of these demographic groups.



Survey Snapshots

Q2. Do you feel things in Louisiana's K-12 education system are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have generally gotten off on the wrong track?

■ Wrong Track ■ Right Direction



FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey, Q2.*

Q2. Do you feel things in Louisiana’s K-12 education system are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have generally gotten off on the wrong track?

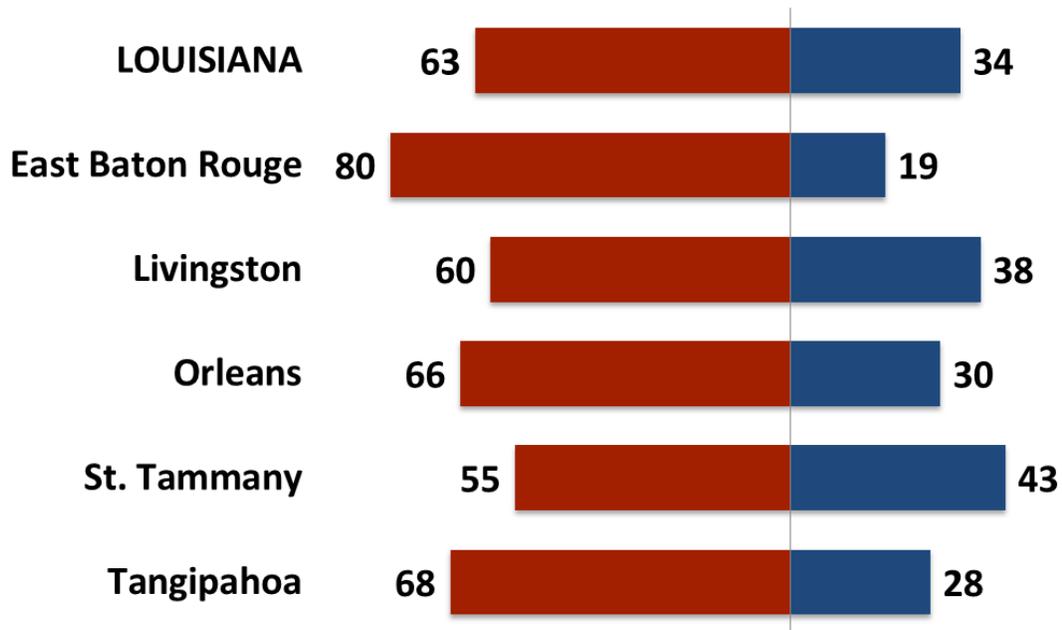
	Right Direction %	Wrong Track %	Net	N=
ALL VOTERS	34	50	- 16	802
COMMUNITY				
Urban	35	45	- 10	156
Suburban	30	56	- 26	191
Small Town	39	45	- 6	242
Rural	31	54	- 23	206
PARTY ID				
Democrat	33	52	- 19	298
Republican	39	48	- 9	234
Independent	35	49	- 14	192
AGE GROUP				
18 – 29	40	41	- 1	151
30 – 49	38	52	- 14	266
50 & Over	29	52	- 23	382
HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
Under \$25,000	32	49	- 17	159
\$25,000 - \$49,999	37	50	- 13	161
\$50,000 - \$74,999	35	48	- 13	133
\$75,000 - \$124,999	28	57	- 29	148
\$125,000 & Over	33	53	- 20	74
RACE/ETHNICITY				
Black	32	55	- 23	236
Hispanic	49	43	+ 6	30
White	35	49	- 14	512

NOTE: Please consider that each subgroup has a unique margin of error based on its registered voter population size in the state and the sample size (N) obtained in this survey. Reference to Whites refers to the non-Hispanic component of the self-identified white population. Reference to Hispanics includes self-identification as “Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin or descent.” We exclude demographic subgroups that constitute less than 2% of the statewide sample.

SOURCE: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey*, Q2.

Q3. How would you rate Louisiana's public school system?

Fair/Poor Good/Excellent



FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey, Q3.

Q3. How would you rate Louisiana's public school system?

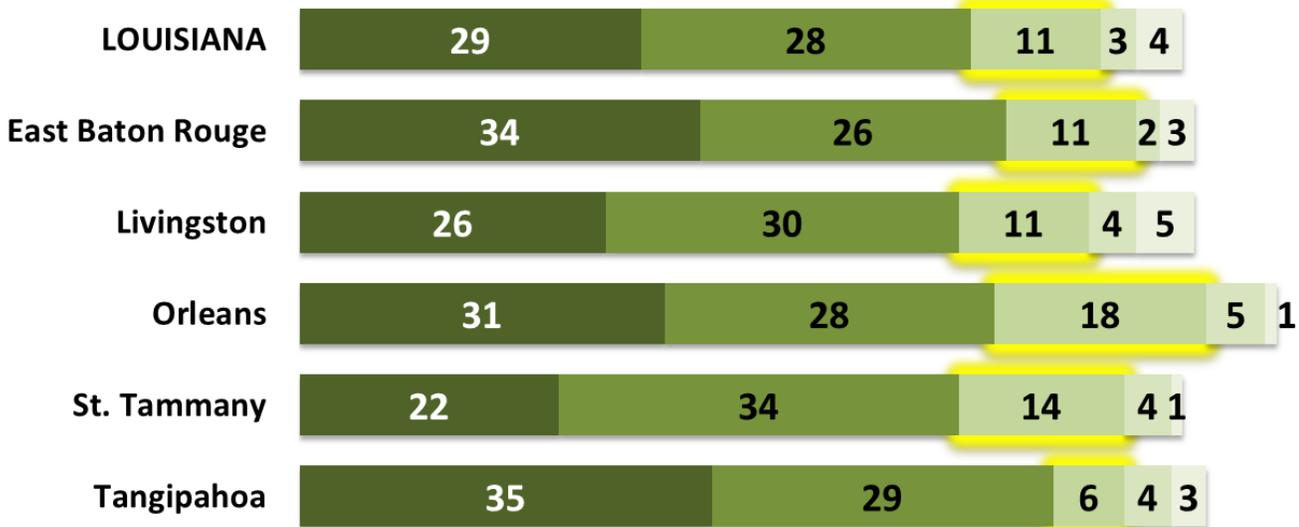
	Good/Excellent %	Fair/Poor %	Net	Intensity	N=
ALL VOTERS	34	63	- 29	- 20	802
COMMUNITY					
Urban	36	60	- 24	- 26	156
Suburban	26	72	- 46	- 22	191
Small Town	39	57	- 18	- 14	242
Rural	32	65	- 33	- 18	206
PARTY ID					
Democrat	37	60	- 23	- 14	298
Republican	37	61	- 24	- 19	234
Independent	27	69	- 42	- 25	192
AGE GROUP					
18 – 29	40	58	- 18	- 20	151
30 – 49	34	63	- 29	- 22	266
50 & Over	31	66	- 35	- 18	382
HOUSEHOLD INCOME					
Under \$25,000	32	61	- 29	- 21	159
\$25,000 - \$49,999	38	58	- 20	- 13	161
\$50,000 - \$74,999	36	64	- 28	- 15	133
\$75,000 - \$124,999	29	70	- 41	- 26	148
\$125,000 & Over	27	72	- 45	- 28	74
RACE/ETHNICITY					
Black	31	67	- 36	- 20	236
Hispanic	18	70	- 52	- 32	30
White	35	62	- 27	- 18	512

NOTE: Please consider that each subgroup has a unique margin of error based on its registered voter population size in the state and the sample size (N) obtained in this survey. Reference to Whites refers to the non-Hispanic component of the self-identified white population. Reference to Hispanics includes self-identification as "Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin or descent." We exclude demographic subgroups that constitute less than 2% of the statewide sample.

SOURCE: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey*, Q3.

Q4. How much do you think is currently spent on each student in Louisiana's public schools? Your estimate (to the nearest thousand dollars) will represent the combined expenditures of local, state, and federal governments.

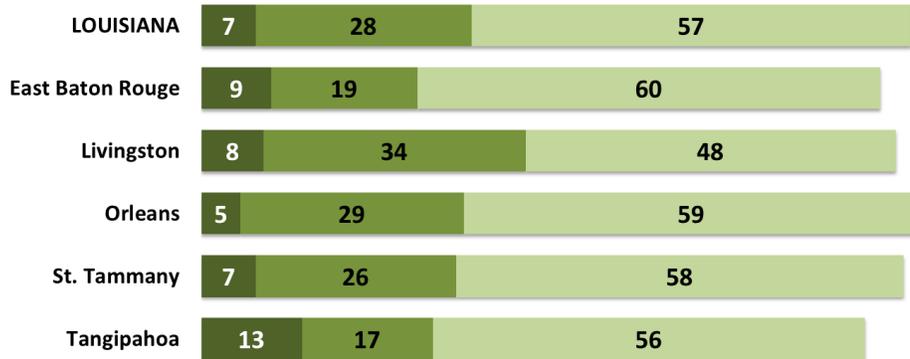
- Less Than \$4,000
- \$4,001 - \$8,000
- \$8,001 - \$12,000
- \$12,001 - \$16,000
- Over \$16,000



FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey, Q4.*

Q5. (Split A) Do you believe that public school funding in Louisiana is at a level that is:

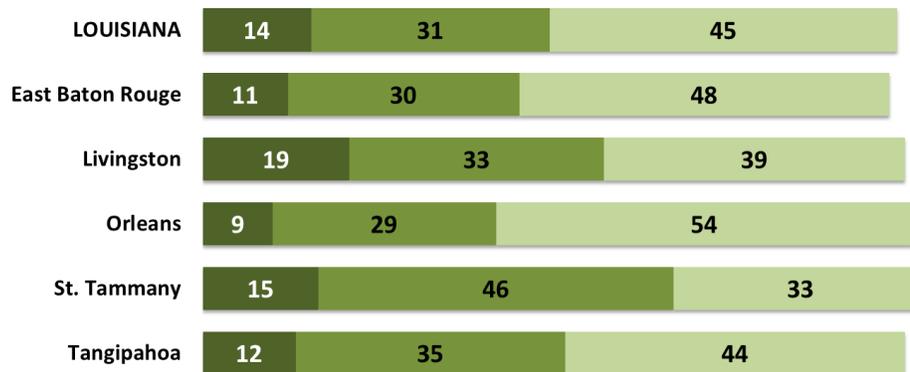
- Too High
- About Right
- Too Low



FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey, Q5A.

Q5. (Split B) * According to the most recent information available, in Louisiana \$7,992 is being spent each year per student attending public schools. Do you believe that public school funding in Louisiana is at a level that is:

- Too High
- About Right
- Too Low



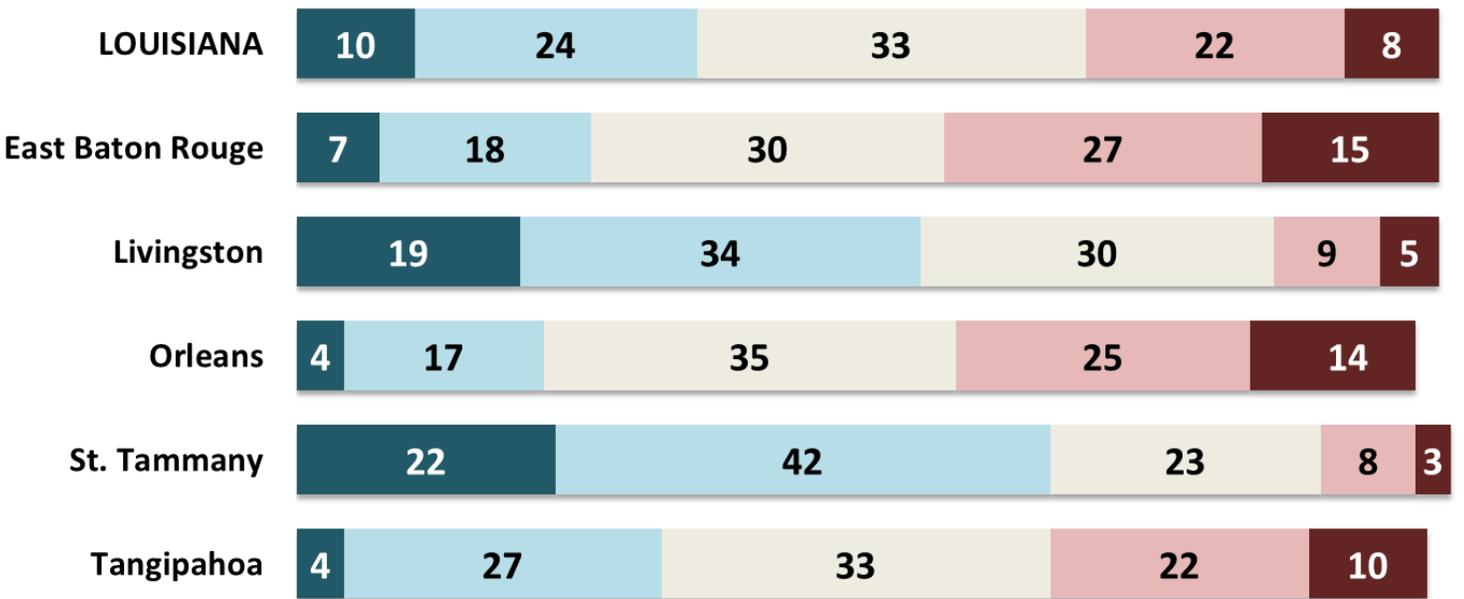
* The author made an error when constructing this question. The actual 2008-2009 per-student spending figure for Louisiana is \$10,625.

FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey, Q5B.

Q6a. In thinking about the schools in your area, what grade would you give...



REGULAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

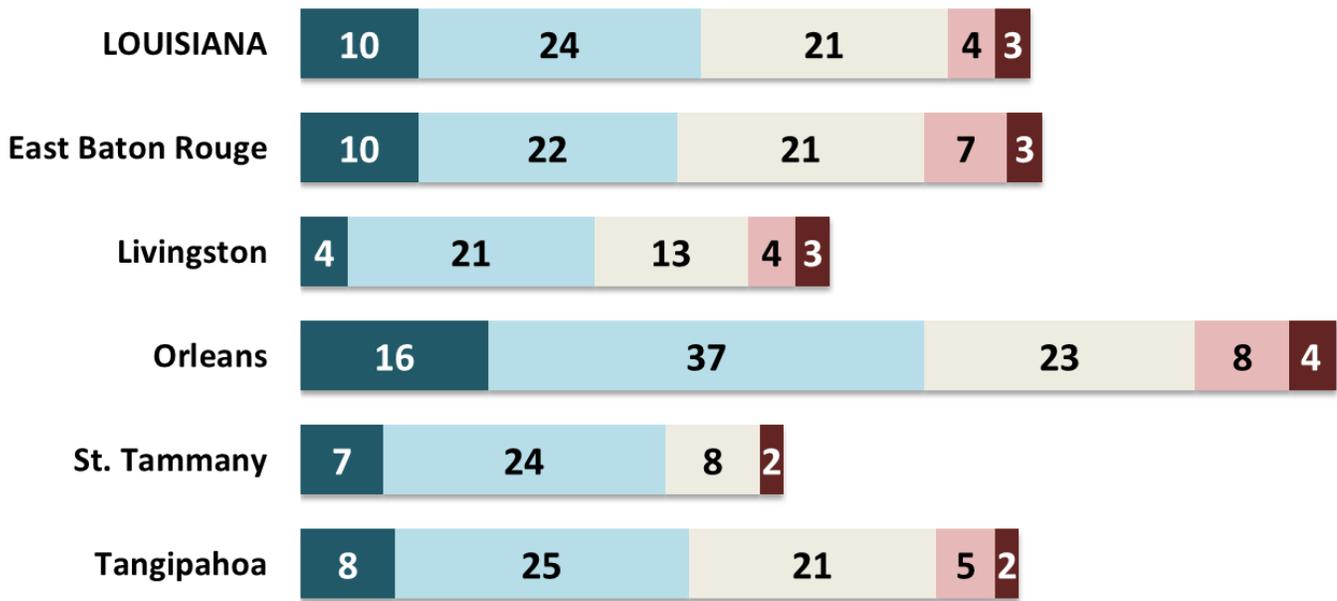


FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey, Q6a.

Q6b. In thinking about the schools in your area, what grade would you give...



CHARTER SCHOOLS

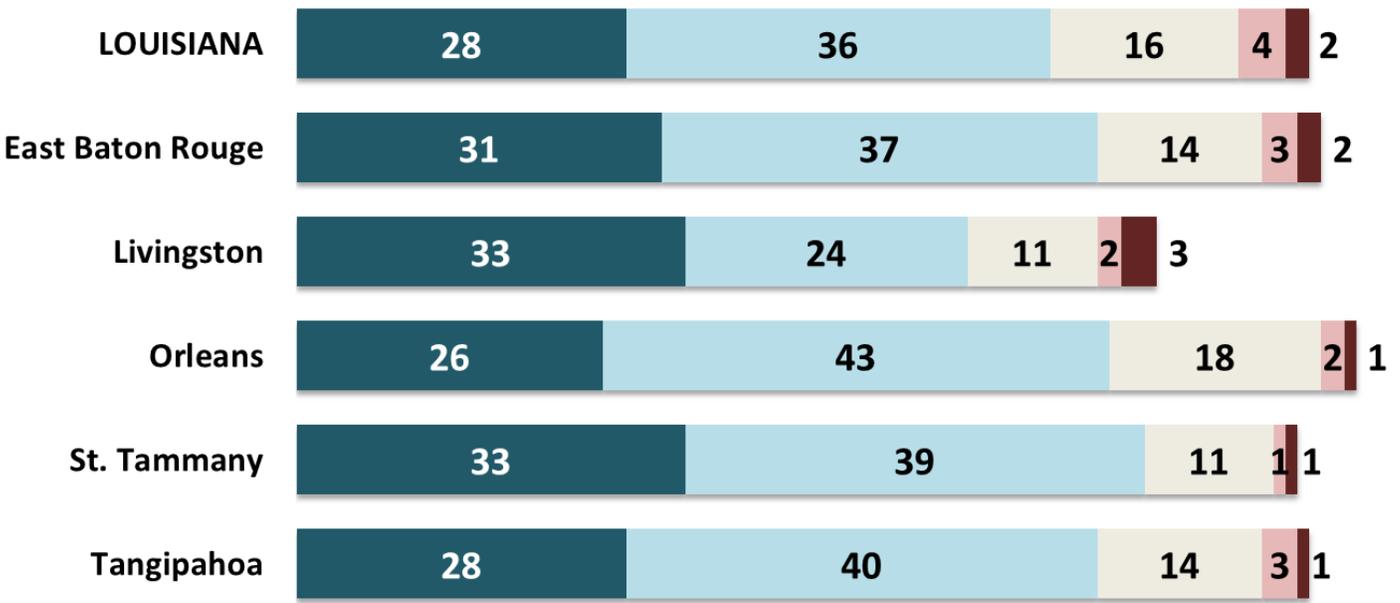


FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey*, Q6b.

Q6c. In thinking about the schools in your area, what grade would you give...



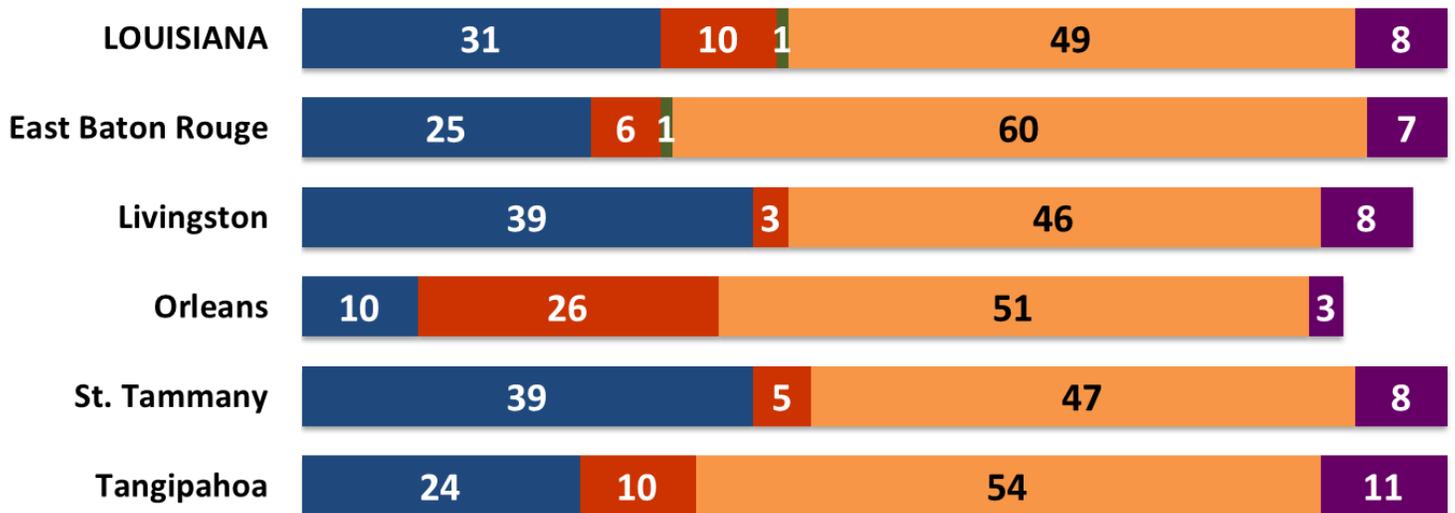
PRIVATE or PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS



FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey, Q6c.

Q7. If it were your decision and you could select any type of school, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?

- Regular Public School
- Charter School
- Virtual School
- Private School
- Homeschool



FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey, Q7.*

Q7. If it were your decision and you could select any type of school, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?

	Charter School	Homeschool	Private School	Regular Public School	N=
	%	%	%	%	
ALL VOTERS	10	8	49	31	802
COMMUNITY					
Urban	17	5	50	27	156
Suburban	9	5	56	27	191
Small Town	10	7	43	37	242
Rural	5	12	50	29	206
PARTY ID					
Democrat	12	6	44	37	298
Republican	7	7	57	26	234
Independent	9	8	53	25	192
AGE GROUP					
18 – 29	9	9	48	33	151
30 – 49	13	5	52	29	266
50 & Over	8	9	48	31	382
HOUSEHOLD INCOME					
Under \$25,000	10	10	40	36	159
\$25,000 - \$49,999	16	10	41	30	161
\$50,000 - \$74,999	5	5	50	38	133
\$75,000 - \$124,999	10	7	60	20	148
\$125,000 & Over	9	3	55	32	74
RACE/ETHNICITY					
Black	15	6	42	37	236
Hispanic	17	6	73	4	30
White	7	8	51	29	512

NOTE: Please consider that each subgroup has a unique margin of error based on its registered voter population size in the state and the sample size (N) obtained in this survey. Reference to Whites refers to the non-Hispanic component of the self-identified white population. Reference to Hispanics includes self-identification as “Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin or descent.” We exclude demographic subgroups that constitute less than 2% of the statewide sample.

SOURCE: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey*, Q7.

Q8. What is the most important characteristic or attribute that would cause you to choose a [INSERT SCHOOL TYPE FROM PREVIOUS QUESTION] for your child? Please use one word, or a very short phrase.

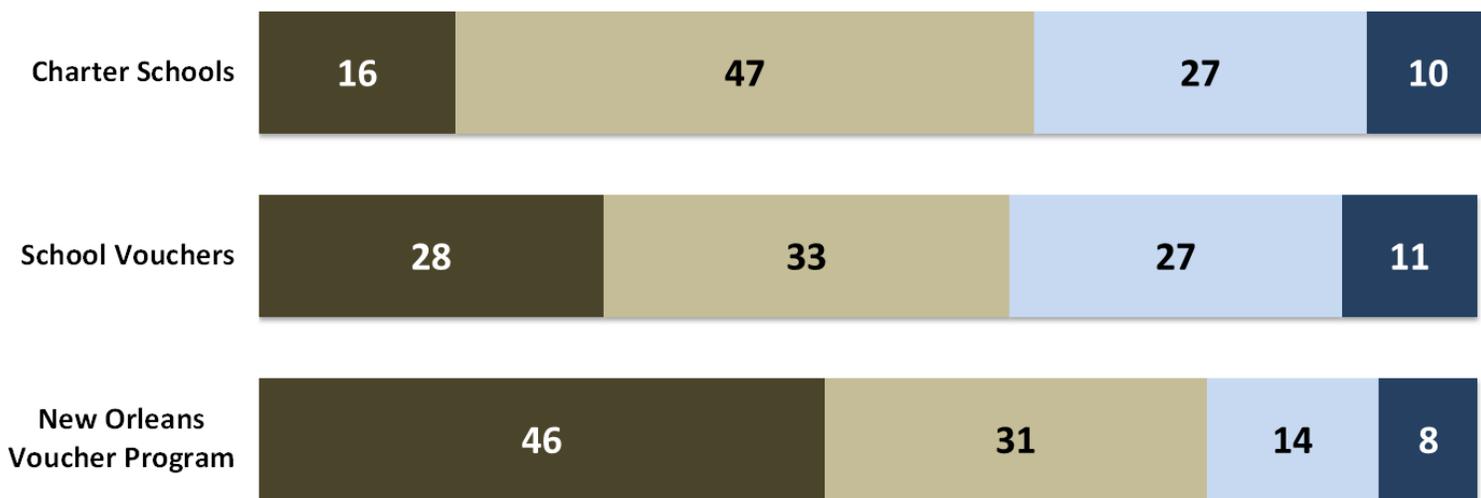
Top 20 | Specific impressions offered by respondents in the statewide sample. Numbers represent counts (n), not percentages.

BETTER EDUCATION / QUALITY	125
INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION / ONE-ON-ONE	110
BETTER TEACHERS / TEACHERS / TEACHING	79
DISCIPLINE / STRUCTURE	60
CLASS SIZE / STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO	54
ALMA MATER / SOCIAL NETWORK	46
PRIVATE SCHOOL: POSITIVE MENTIONS	42
PUBLIC SCHOOL: POSITIVE MENTIONS	38
CURRICULUM / ACADEMICS	35
SOCIALIZATION / PEERS / OTHER KIDS	34
PUBLIC SCHOOL: NEGATIVE MENTIONS	31
SAFETY / LESS DRUGS, VIOLENCE, BULLYING	28
RELIGION / RELIGIOUS REASONS	26
COST / TUITION / AFFORDABILITY	24
ENVIRONMENT / CULTURE / COMMUNITY	21
SCHOOL RESOURCES / FUNDING	21
STANDARDS / MORE CHALLENGING	19
MORALS / VALUES / ETHICS	17
OUTCOMES / RESULTS / GRADUATION RATE	16
PARENTS / PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	15

SOURCE: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey*, Q8.

Q9 Q11 Q13.
How familiar are you with [Charter Schools /
School Vouchers / New Orleans Vouchers] in
K-12 Education?

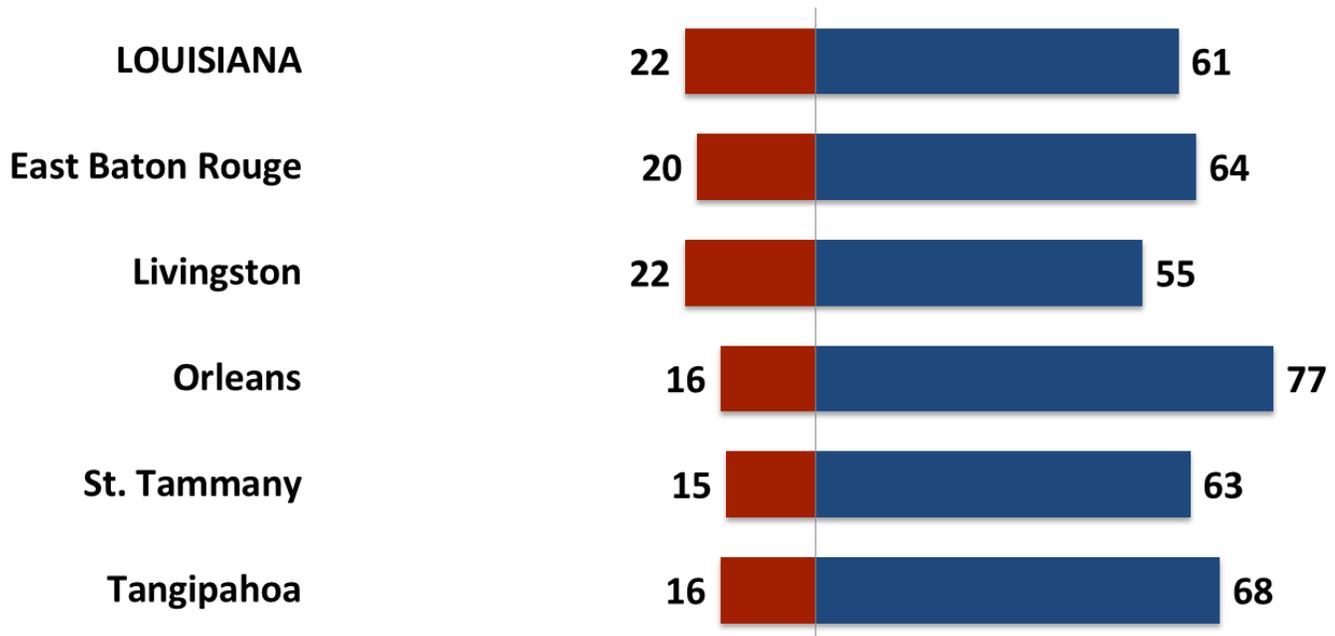
- Never Heard Of / Don't Know
- Not That Familiar
- Somewhat Familiar
- Very Familiar



FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey*, Q9, Q11, Q13.

Q10. Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, do you favor or oppose charter schools?

■ Oppose ■ Favor



FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey*, Q10.

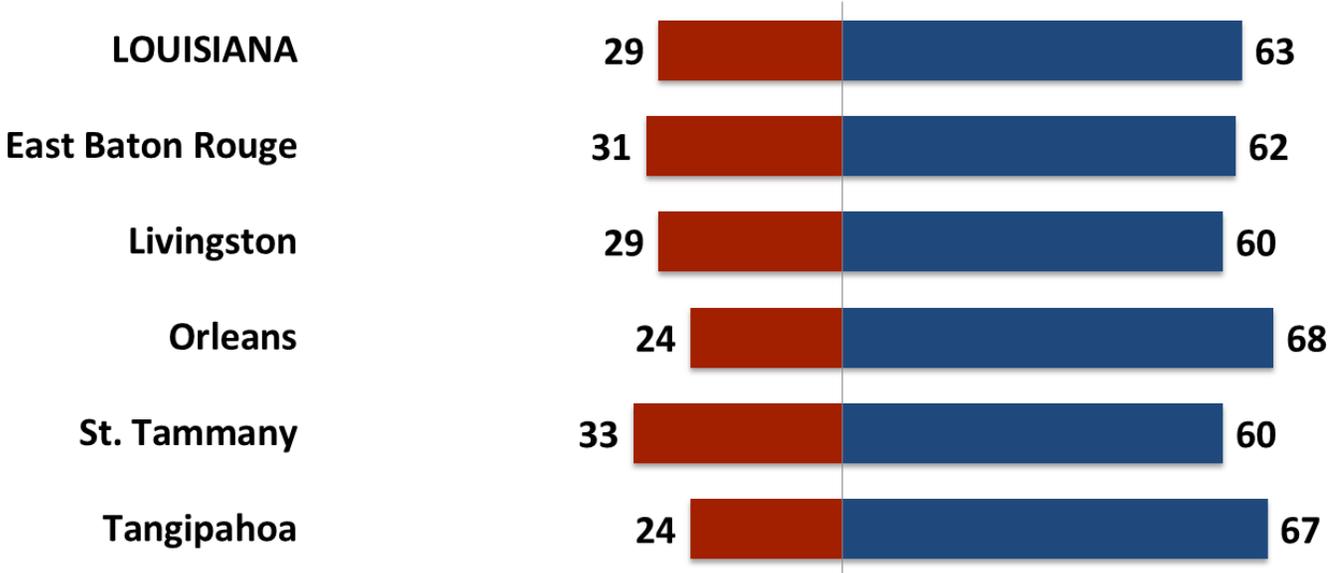
Q10. Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, do you favor or oppose charter schools?

	Favor %	Oppose %	Net	Intensity	N=
ALL VOTERS	61	22	+ 39	+ 19	802
COMMUNITY					
Urban	64	24	+ 40	+ 27	156
Suburban	70	17	+ 53	+ 20	191
Small Town	55	24	+ 31	+ 14	242
Rural	61	21	+ 40	+ 17	206
PARTY ID					
Democrat	61	24	+ 37	+ 21	298
Republican	66	20	+ 46	+ 18	234
Independent	63	15	+ 48	+ 23	192
AGE GROUP					
18 – 29	63	20	+ 43	+ 7	151
30 – 49	69	17	+ 52	+ 30	266
50 & Over	56	26	+ 30	+ 16	382
HOUSEHOLD INCOME					
Under \$25,000	59	20	+ 39	+ 20	159
\$25,000 - \$49,999	66	21	+ 45	+ 23	161
\$50,000 - \$74,999	67	20	+ 47	+ 12	133
\$75,000 - \$124,999	61	21	+ 40	+ 18	148
\$125,000 & Over	68	19	+ 49	+ 30	74
RACE/ETHNICITY					
Black	59	24	+ 35	+ 16	236
Hispanic	63	22	+ 41	+ 42	30
White	63	21	+ 42	+ 19	512

NOTE: Please consider that each subgroup has a unique margin of error based on its registered voter population size in the state and the sample size (N) obtained in this survey. Reference to Whites refers to the non-Hispanic component of the self-identified white population. Reference to Hispanics includes self-identification as "Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin or descent." Based on Gallup's "Positive Intensity Score", Intensity is measured by subtracting the percentage of "strongly oppose" responses from the percentage of "strongly favor" responses. The difference indicates how passionate the support or opposition is for a given policy or proposal. We exclude demographic subgroups that constitute less than 2% of the statewide sample.

SOURCE: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey*, Q10.

Q12. A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a “school voucher” to pay partial or full tuition for their child’s school. In general, do you favor or oppose a school voucher system?



FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey, Q12.*

Q12. A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a “school voucher” to pay partial or full tuition for their child’s school. In general, do you favor or oppose a school voucher system?

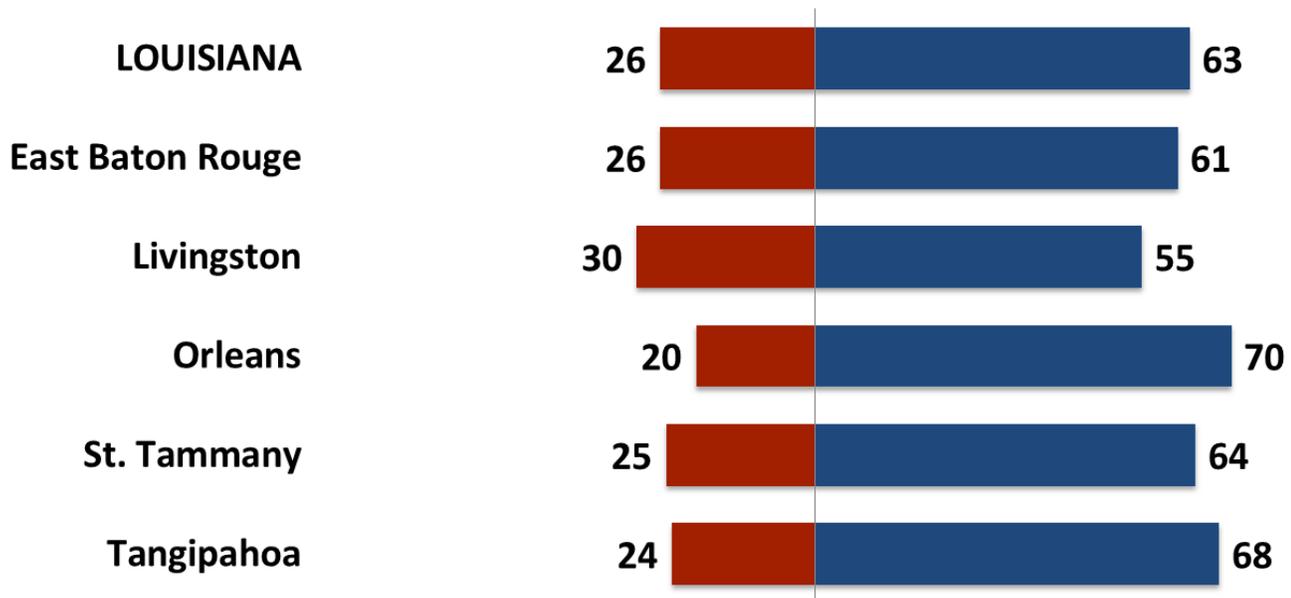
	Favor %	Oppose %	Net	Intensity	N=
ALL VOTERS	63	29	+ 34	+ 21	802
COMMUNITY					
Urban	66	29	+ 37	+ 24	156
Suburban	63	27	+ 36	+ 20	191
Small Town	58	31	+ 27	+ 20	242
Rural	64	28	+ 36	+ 22	206
PARTY ID					
Democrat	65	26	+ 39	+ 26	298
Republican	59	33	+ 26	+ 15	234
Independent	63	28	+ 35	+ 23	192
AGE GROUP					
18 – 29	71	22	+ 49	+ 32	151
30 – 49	64	27	+ 37	+ 30	266
50 & Over	59	33	+ 26	+ 11	382
HOUSEHOLD INCOME					
Under \$25,000	75	18	+ 57	+ 44	159
\$25,000 - \$49,999	73	21	+ 52	+ 37	161
\$50,000 - \$74,999	59	32	+ 27	+ 11	133
\$75,000 - \$124,999	53	40	+ 13	+ 9	148
\$125,000 & Over	53	41	+ 12	+ 11	74
RACE/ETHNICITY					
Black	71	20	+ 51	+ 34	236
Hispanic	83	11	+ 72	+ 65	30
White	57	34	+ 23	+ 12	512

NOTE: Please consider that each subgroup has a unique margin of error based on its registered voter population size in the state and the sample size (N) obtained in this survey. Reference to Whites refers to the non-Hispanic component of the self-identified white population. Reference to Hispanics includes self-identification as “Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin or descent.” Based on Gallup’s “Positive Intensity Score”, Intensity is measured by subtracting the percentage of “strongly oppose” responses from the percentage of “strongly favor” responses. The difference indicates how passionate the support or opposition is for a given policy or proposal. We exclude demographic subgroups that constitute less than 2% of the statewide sample.

SOURCE: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey*, Q12.

Q14. Enacted in 2008, the Student Scholarships Program currently provides state-funded vouchers to approximately 2,000 low-income Orleans Parish students who attended a failing public school the previous year so they can attend the private school of their choosing. In general, do you favor or oppose this kind of program?

■ Oppose ■ Favor



FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey*, Q13.

Q14. Enacted in 2008, the Student Scholarships Program currently provides state-funded vouchers to approximately 2,000 low-income Orleans Parish students who attended a failing public school the previous year so they can attend the private school of their choosing. In general, do you favor or oppose this kind of program?

	Favor %	Oppose %	Net	Intensity	N=
ALL VOTERS	63	26	+ 37	+ 20	802
COMMUNITY					
Urban	68	23	+ 45	+ 26	156
Suburban	66	23	+ 43	+ 20	191
Small Town	60	29	+ 31	+ 20	242
Rural	62	25	+ 37	+ 18	206
PARTY ID					
Democrat	71	20	+ 51	+ 30	298
Republican	54	32	+ 22	+ 14	234
Independent	68	22	+ 46	+ 22	192
AGE GROUP					
18 – 29	71	20	+ 51	+ 30	151
30 – 49	67	24	+ 43	+ 23	266
50 & Over	58	29	+ 29	+ 14	382
HOUSEHOLD INCOME					
Under \$25,000	75	15	+ 60	+ 39	159
\$25,000 - \$49,999	72	18	+ 54	+ 28	161
\$50,000 - \$74,999	64	28	+ 36	+ 23	133
\$75,000 - \$124,999	55	36	+ 19	+ 7	148
\$125,000 & Over	59	31	+ 28	+ 5	74
RACE/ETHNICITY					
Black	71	20	+ 51	+ 36	236
Hispanic	90	9	+ 81	+ 64	30
White	58	30	+ 28	+ 10	512

NOTE: Please consider that each subgroup has a unique margin of error based on its registered voter population size in the state and the sample size (N) obtained in this survey. Reference to Whites refers to the non-Hispanic component of the self-identified white population. Reference to Hispanics includes self-identification as "Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin or descent." Based on Gallup's "Positive Intensity Score", Intensity is measured by subtracting the percentage of "strongly oppose" responses from the percentage of "strongly favor" responses. The difference indicates how passionate the support or opposition is for a given policy or proposal. We exclude demographic subgroups that constitute less than 2% of the statewide sample.

SOURCE: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey*, Q14.

Q15. What is the most important reason for your response regarding the Student Scholarships Program? Please use a few words, or a very short phrase.

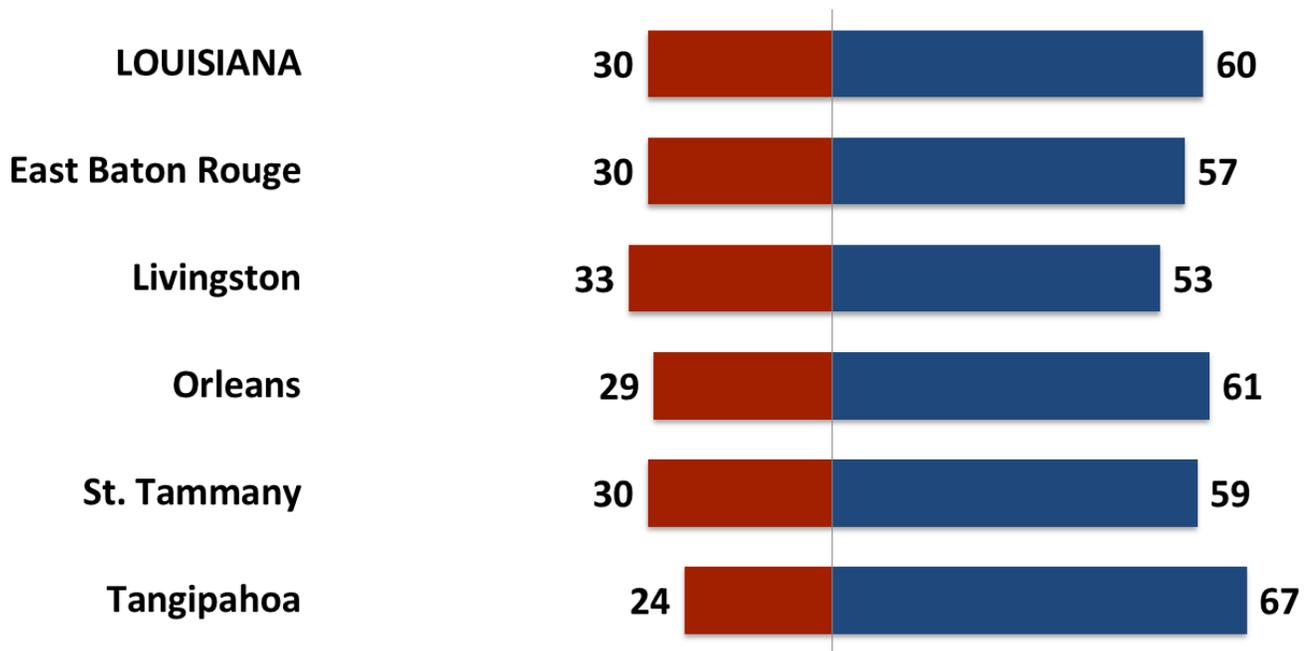
Top 20 | Specific impressions offered by respondents in the statewide sample. Numbers represent counts (n), not percentages.

BETTER EDUCATION / QUALITY	139
CHOICE / FLEXIBILITY / FREEDOM	68
HELPS LESS FORTUNATE	61
OPPORTUNITIES	50
HELPS CHILDREN	44
UNFAIR	42
GOOD IDEA	34
HURTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	17
BAD IDEA	10
PRIVATE SCHOOL: NEGATIVE MENTIONS	10
COST / TUITION / AFFORDABILITY	9
FAIR / EQUALITY	9
FIX CURRENT PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM	9
FUNDS / RESOURCES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ONLY	9
PUBLIC SCHOOL: NEGATIVE MENTIONS	9
BAD USE OF TAX MONEY	8
PARENTS / PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	7
GOVERNMENT: NEGATIVE MENTIONS	6
PRIVATE SCHOOL: POSITIVE MENTIONS	5
PUBLIC SCHOOL: POSITIVE MENTIONS	5
SCHOLARSHIPS: POSITIVE MENTIONS	5

SOURCE: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey*, Q15.

Q16. A proposal has been made that would extend voucher eligibility to any low-income or middle-income student whose school gets a C, D, or F grade based on the state's accountability system. In general, do you favor or oppose this kind of proposal?

■ Oppose ■ Favor



FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey, Q16.*

Q16. A proposal has been made that would extend voucher eligibility to any low-income or middle-income student whose school gets a C, D, or F grade based on the state's accountability system. In general, do you favor or oppose this kind of proposal?

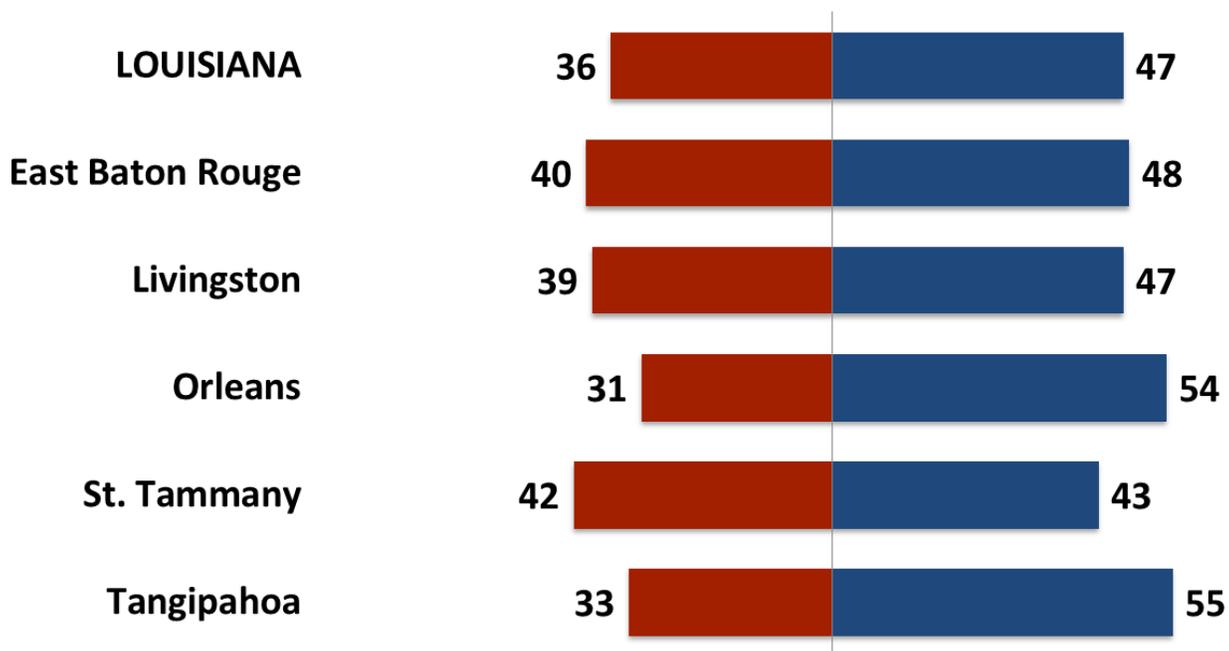
	Favor %	Oppose %	Net	Intensity	N=
ALL VOTERS	60	30	+ 30	+ 13	802
COMMUNITY					
Urban	63	26	+ 37	+ 24	156
Suburban	56	34	+ 22	+ 1	191
Small Town	58	29	+ 29	+ 17	242
Rural	63	29	+ 34	+ 12	206
PARTY ID					
Democrat	66	23	+ 43	+ 23	298
Republican	54	35	+ 19	+ 5	234
Independent	57	35	+ 22	+ 9	192
AGE GROUP					
18 – 29	64	27	+ 37	+ 22	151
30 – 49	64	28	+ 36	+ 15	266
50 & Over	55	32	+ 23	+ 8	382
HOUSEHOLD INCOME					
Under \$25,000	73	17	+ 56	+ 34	159
\$25,000 - \$49,999	71	19	+52	+ 32	161
\$50,000 - \$74,999	53	34	+ 21	+ 1	133
\$75,000 - \$124,999	48	43	+ 5	- 3	148
\$125,000 & Over	49	44	+ 5	- 6	74
RACE/ETHNICITY					
Black	67	21	+ 46	+ 27	236
Hispanic	64	29	+ 35	+ 18	30
White	56	33	+ 23	+ 6	512

NOTE: Please consider that each subgroup has a unique margin of error based on its registered voter population size in the state and the sample size (N) obtained in this survey. Reference to Whites refers to the non-Hispanic component of the self-identified white population. Reference to Hispanics includes self-identification as "Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin or descent." Based on Gallup's "Positive Intensity Score," Intensity is measured by subtracting the percentage of "strongly oppose" responses from the percentage of "strongly favor" responses. The difference indicates how passionate the support or opposition is for a given policy or proposal. We exclude demographic subgroups that constitute less than 2% of the statewide sample.

SOURCE: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey*, Q16.

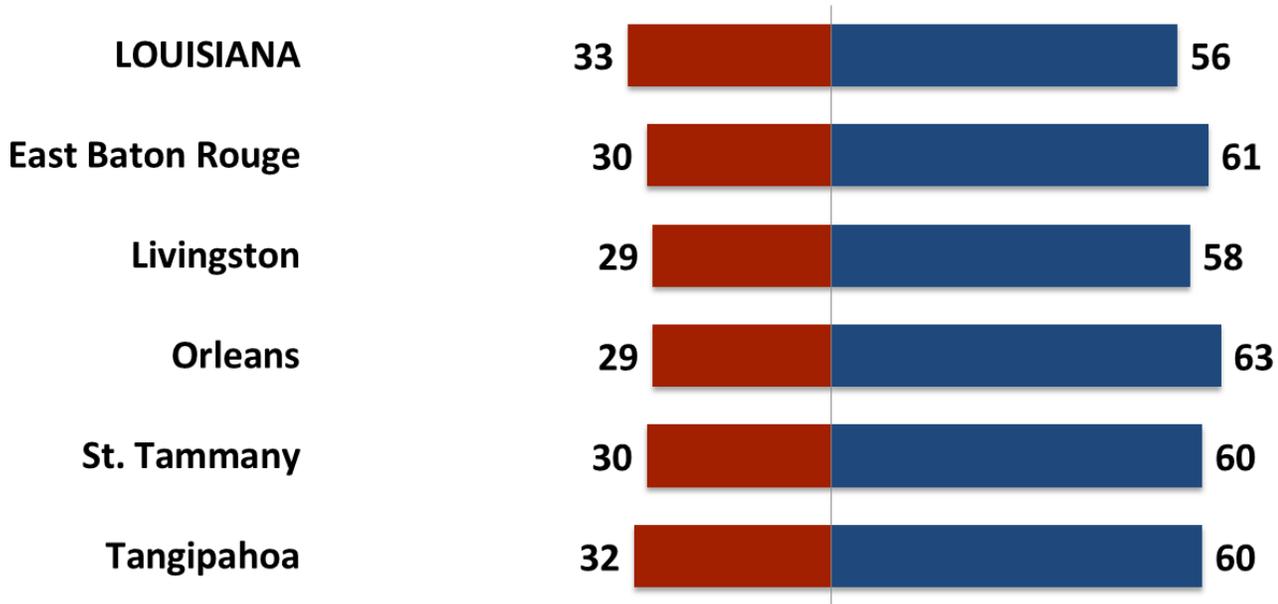
Q17. Tenure is the status granted to a teacher after some period of time, giving a teacher certain rights, and requiring detailed rules and procedures for his/her dismissal, lay off, or firing. Based on what you have heard or read, how much do you favor or oppose allowing tenure for public school teachers?

■ Oppose ■ Favor



FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey, Q17.*

Q18. A proposal has been made to change the guidelines for teacher tenure, seniority status, and salaries. This plan would eliminate tenure for teachers who don't meet certain qualifications on the state's teacher evaluation system. The proposal also ends annual pay raises based on years in the classroom, and it bans the use of seniority in all personnel decisions. In general, do you favor or oppose this kind of proposal?



FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE, *Louisiana K-12 & School Choice Survey, Q18.*

Methods Summary

The “K-12 & School Choice Survey” **project**, commissioned by the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice and conducted by Braun Research Incorporated (BRI), interviewed a statistically representative sample of registered voters in the state of Louisiana. Methodology included probability sampling and random-digit dial. A total of **2,218** telephone interviews were completed in English from February 14 to 27, 2012, by means of both landline and cell phone. There was a hiatus between February 19 through February 22 to account for prohibited Sunday dialing, Mardi Gras, and Ash Wednesday.

The statewide sample includes **802** registered voters in Louisiana. BRI oversampled to reach another **1,634** total interviews in the following parishes to complete, combined with the statewide sample, approximately 325 interviews in each: East Baton Rouge (**326**), Livingston (**325**), Orleans (**325**), St. Tammany (**333**), Tangipahoa (**325**). Based on U.S. Census data, statistical results were weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the statewide sample is ± 3.5 percentage points. The margins of sampling error for the parish samples are approximately ± 5.4 percentage points.

BRI’s live callers conducted all phone interviews. For this entire project, a total of **19,091** calls were made in Louisiana: **5,489** statewide landline; **2,455** statewide cell; **7,613** parish landline, **3,534** parish cell. Of these calls **4,604** [1,676 statewide landline, 361 statewide cell, 2,066 parish landline, 501 parish cell] were unusable phone numbers (disconnected, fax, busy, non-residential, or non-answers, etc.); **9,260** [2,091 statewide landline, 1,647 statewide cell, 3,157 parish landline, 2,365 parish cell] were usable numbers but eligibility unknown (including refusals and voicemail); **360** [170 statewide cell, 190 parish cell] cell phone numbers were usable but not eligible for this survey; **98** [19 statewide landline, 21 statewide cell, 26 parish landline, 32 parish cell] people did not complete the survey.

The average response rate of the statewide landline interviews was **19.7%**. The average response rate of the statewide cell phone interviews was **18.9%**. The average response rate of the parish landline interviews was **20.6%**. The average response rate of the county cell phone interviews was **19.8%**.

Details on **each sample's call dispositions, landline and cell phone response rates, and weighting** are discussed in following sections.

Sample Design

A combination of landline and cellular random-digit dial (RDD) samples was used to represent registered voters in Louisiana who have access to either a landline or cellular telephone. Both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International, LLC (SSI) according to BRI specifications.

SSI starts with a database of all listed telephone numbers, updated on a four- to six-week rolling basis, 25 percent of the listings at a time. All active blocks—contiguous groups of 100 phone numbers for which more than one residential number is listed—are added to this database. Blocks and exchanges that include only listed business numbers are excluded.

Numbers for the landline sample were drawn with equal probabilities from active blocks (area code + exchange + two-digit block number) that contained three or more residential directory listings. The cellular sample was not list-assisted, but was drawn through a systematic sampling from dedicated wireless 100-blocks and shared service 100-blocks with no directory-listed landline numbers.

Contact Procedures

Interviews were conducted from February 14-18, 2012, and February 23-27, 2012. As many as eight attempts were made to contact every sampled telephone number. The sample was released for interviewing in replicates, which are representative subsamples of the larger sample. Using replicates to control the release of sample ensures that complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample. Calls were staggered over

times of day and days of the week to maximize the chance of making contact with potential respondents. Each phone number received at least one daytime call.

We have noticed over the last several years response rates have been declining for consumer polls. Generally, running surveys over a longer period of time will boost these response rates. Lower response rates do not lead to lower reliability of the data. For example, polls with a sample size of 1,200 respondents conducted over a two-day period with response rates of 3% or 4% have been acceptable for public release.

The survey's margin of error is the largest 95% Confidence Interval for any estimated proportion based on the total sample – the one around 50%. The overall margin of error for this survey is ± 3.5 percent. This means that in 95 of every 100 samples drawn using the same methodology, estimated proportions based on the entire sample will be no more than 3.5 percentage points away from their true values in the population.

It is critical to note that the MSE is higher when considering the number of respondents for a given demographic subgroup. For example, the MSE for a subgroup of 150 respondents is ± 8.0 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, question wording, ordering, and other practical difficulties when conducting surveys may introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion research.

Call Dispositions and Response Rates

Full statewide call dispositions and response rates for sampled landline and cell phone numbers are located on the next page.

Louisiana Statewide Call Dispositions

<u>SUMMARY</u>			<u>DETAIL</u>		
Landline	Cell Phone		Landline	Cell Phone	
5,489	2,455	Total	1,428	357	Disconnected
5,489	2,455	Released	89	0	Fax
0	0	Unreleased	159	4	Government/Business
3,813	2,094	Usable	-	0	Non Cell Phone
1,676	361	Unusable	0	-	Non Landline
2,851	1,274	Qualified	1,676	361	Unusable
62.8%	85.2%	Est. Usability	877	14	No Answer
78.9%	60.7%	Est. Eligibility	109	1	Busy
19.7%	18.9%	Est. Response	581	15	Usability Unknown
			562	241	Complete
			19	21	Break-Off
			581	262	Usable/Eligible
			768	397	Refused
			18	11	Language Barrier
			748	705	Voice Mail
			458	446	Call Back-Retired
			97	88	Strong Refusal
			2	0	Privacy Manager
			2,091	1,647	Usable/Eligible Unknown
			-	122	Under 18
			155	48	Not Registered in State
			155	170	Usable/Ineligible
			19.7%	18.9%	Response Rate

Weighting Procedures and Analysis

Weighting is generally used in survey analysis to compensate for sample designs and patterns of non-response that might bias results. In this study, the sample demographics were balanced to population parameters. The sample was balanced to reflect the targeted population representation by Age, Gender, and Race. The weighted and unweighted results are available on request.

All weighting measures are based on 2010 Census Bureau statistics for the state of Louisiana. Weighting targets are imposed for Age, Gender, Race/Ethnicity for parishes and overall for the state; also, we imposed weighting targets on region for the state.

Special note: We calculated age distributions from date-of-birth information on file from the **state's respective registered voter database, as supplied by Aristotle International.**

About the Author

Paul DiPerna (paul@edchoice.org) is Research Director for the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice in Indianapolis. DiPerna joined the Foundation in September 2006, and his research includes surveys and polling on K-12 education issues. He also manages and edits all other research projects commissioned by the Foundation. DiPerna previously served as assistant director for the Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution, working there for more than six years. He was a research analyst for the first five issues of the Brown Center Report on American Education (2000-2004), and managed the activities of the National Working Commission on Choice in K-12 Education (2001-2005). DiPerna has presented research at the American Sociological Association annual meeting, and he has written or co-authored articles for Education Week, The Huffington Post, Washington Examiner, First Monday, and Education Next. In 2008, he authored a textbook chapter in the Handbook of Research on Web Log Analysis.

A native of Pittsburgh, DiPerna attended the University of Dayton as an undergraduate and received an M.A. in political science from the University of Illinois.

Acknowledgements

Paul DiPerna would like to thank a number of people who provided invaluable time, comments, and assistance throughout the course of this survey project. This would not have been possible without the opportunities provided by Robert Enlow, Leslie Hiner, and Carey Folco. Our release partners at the Pelican Institute for Public Policy gave us invaluable insights and context at the local/state level. Kevin Kane and Jacob Luneau provided critical input and feedback at various stages of this project. We would also like to thank the team at Braun Research who assisted in project development, and for their excellent work in conducting the interviews and collecting the data. I appreciate the time and commitments from Paul Braun, Cynthia Miller, Richard Kuchinsky, and Julie Mowka. Jeff Reed, our lead editor (among his other responsibilities), offered useful edits and suggestions. We are very grateful to the citizens of Louisiana, who generously agreed to participate in our survey interviews.

About the Survey Organization

Braun Research, Inc. (BRI)

The Braun Research network of companies, founded in 1995, combined employ 40 full-time and more than 500 part-time employees engaged in data collection via telephone, and internet for various survey research firms, government and advertising agencies, local community organizations, local and national business groups, foundations, universities and academic entities, as well as religious organizations. In 17 years, Braun Research has conducted more than 8,300 research projects by telephone, internet, and mail worldwide.

Nationally-known research firms have hired Braun Research, including the Gallup Organization, the Pew Research Center, the Eagleton Poll, Mathematica Policy Research, and The Washington Post. Braun Research has worked for the New Jersey Department of Health and Human Services, as well as other government agencies including the United States Departments of the Treasury and Defense, and the Center for Disease Control.

Braun Research is a well-respected firm employing techniques and standards approved by various survey research academic organizations and other affiliations including those with whom Braun is an active member, including AAPOR (American Association for Public Opinion Research), MRA/CMOR (Market Research Association/Council on Marketing and Opinion Research), and CASRO (Council on American Survey Research Organizations).

Braun's services on behalf of other research firms are up to standards required by various professional associations where Braun enjoys membership, and in some cases, participates actively. Paul Braun is a member of the MRA/CMOR committees on response rate improvement and in launching a seal of quality for the industry. Paul Braun is recognized as a leader in the field by colleagues who asked him to serve on these committees. He has served as President of the New Jersey Chapter of AAPOR.

About the Survey Sponsor

The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and **nonpartisan organization, solely dedicated to advancing Milton and Rose Friedman’s** vision of school choice for all children. First established as the Milton and Rose D. Friedman Foundation in 1996, the Foundation continues to promote school choice as the most effective and equitable way to improve the quality of K-12 education in America. The Foundation is dedicated to research, education, and outreach on the vital issues and implications related to choice and competition in K-12 education.

Commitment to Methods & Transparency

The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice is committed to research that adheres to high scientific standards, and matters of methodology and transparency are taken seriously at all levels of our organization. We are dedicated to providing high-quality information in a transparent and efficient manner.

All individuals have opinions, and many organizations (like our own) have specific missions or philosophical orientations. Scientific methods, if used correctly and followed closely in well-designed studies, should neutralize these opinions and orientations. Research rules and methods minimize bias. We believe rigorous **procedural rules of science prevent a researcher’s motives**, and an organization’s particular orientation, from pre-determining results. If research adheres to proper scientific and methodological standards, its findings can be relied upon no matter who has conducted it. If rules and methods are neither specified nor followed, then the biases of the researcher or an organization may become relevant, because a lack of rigor opens the door for those biases to affect the results.

Our authors take responsibility for research design, analysis, charts, and any unintentional errors or misrepresentations. They welcome any and all questions related to methods and findings.

About the Survey Release Partner

Pelican Institute for Public Policy

The Pelican Institute is a nonpartisan research and educational organization – a think tank – **and the leading voice for free markets in Louisiana. The Institute’s mission is to** conduct scholarly research and analysis that advances sound policies based on free enterprise, individual liberty, and constitutionally limited government.

The Pelican Institute fulfills its mission by:

- providing Louisianans with the information they need to hold government accountable and preserve their liberties;

- promoting liberty-oriented policy solutions to Louisiana lawmakers and their staffs;

- facilitating public dialogue that includes the free-market perspective with seminars, lectures, and debates;

- engaging with media and presenting free-market principles through commentaries, reports, and interviews.

The Pelican Institute is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization governed by an independent Board of Directors. The Institute relies on voluntary support from individuals, private foundations, and businesses. It does not accept government funding and does not conduct contract research.

Louisiana K-12 Survey Questionnaire & Topline Results

Interview Dates:	February 14-18; 23-27, 2012
Sample Frame:	Registered Voters
Sample Sizes:	LOUISIANA=802; East Baton Rouge=326; Livingston=325; Orleans=325; St. Tammany=333; Tangipahoa=325
Split Sample Sizes:	“Split A”=401; “Split B”=401
Margin of Error:	± 3.5 percentage points for the statewide sample; ± 5.4 percentage points (approx.) for each parish sample ± 4.1 percentage points for each split sample

Displayed numbers in tables are percentages, unless otherwise noted.

Due to rounding, percentage totals for a given question may be slightly greater or less than 100%.

“For this brief interview, if you are completely unsure about your answer or have no feelings for an answer, you can say ‘I Don’t Know’.” [ENTER AS “DK”]

1. How much attention do you pay to issues involving K-12 education?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	A Lot	Some	Very Little	None	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	50	28	15	6	< 1
East Baton Rouge	45	31	16	8	< 1
Livingston	49	31	16	4	< 1
Orleans	50	30	13	7	< 1
St. Tammany	46	31	16	7	0
Tangipahoa	52	27	15	6	0

2. Do you feel things in Louisiana’s K-12 education system are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have generally gotten off on the wrong track?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Right Direction	Wrong Track	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	34	50	16
East Baton Rouge	20	64	16
Livingston	40	48	13
Orleans	48	38	14
St. Tammany	50	35	16
Tangipahoa	33	50	16

3. How would you rate Louisiana’s public school system?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	7	27	37	26	3
East Baton Rouge	3	15	37	43	1
Livingston	7	31	37	23	2
Orleans	5	25	39	27	4
St. Tammany	8	35	42	14	2
Tangipahoa	2	26	39	29	4

4. How much do you think is currently spent on each student in Louisiana's public schools? Your estimate (to the nearest thousand dollars) will represent the combined expenditures of local, state, and federal governments.

[OPEN-END. BASED ON RESPONSE, SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS "DK"]

	Less than \$4,000	\$4,001 – \$8,000	\$8,001 – \$12,000	\$12,001 – \$16,000	Over \$16,000	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	29	28	11	3	4	26
East Baton Rouge	34	26	11	2	3	24
Livingston	26	30	11	4	5	25
Orleans	31	28	18	5	1	16
St. Tammany	22	34	14	4	1	25
Tangipahoa	35	29	6	4	3	24

5. *(Split A)* Do you believe that public school funding in Louisiana is at a level that is:

[ROTATE “TOO HIGH” AND “TOO LOW”]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Too High	About Right	Too Low	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	7	28	57	9
East Baton Rouge	9	19	60	11
Livingston	8	34	48	10
Orleans	5	29	59	6
St. Tammany	7	26	58	8
Tangipahoa	13	17	56	13

5. **(Split B)*** According to the most recent information available, in Louisiana \$7,992 is being spent each year per student attending public schools. Do you believe that public school funding in Louisiana is at a level that is:

[ROTATE “TOO HIGH” AND “TOO LOW”]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Too High	About Right	Too Low	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	14	31	45	10
East Baton Rouge	11	30	48	12
Livingston	19	33	39	8
Orleans	9	29	54	9
St. Tammany	15	46	33	6
Tangipahoa	12	35	44	9

* The author made an error when constructing this question. The actual 2008-2009 per-student spending figure for Louisiana is \$10,625.

6. In thinking about the schools in your area, what grade would you give...

[GRADE OPTIONS: A, B, C, D, or F]

[RANDOMIZE “REGULAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS”, “CHARTER SCHOOLS”, “PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS”]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

(a) Regular Public Schools

	A	B	C	D	F	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	10	24	33	22	8	4
East Baton Rouge	7	18	30	27	15	4
Livingston	19	34	30	9	5	4
Orleans	4	17	35	25	14	5
St. Tammany	22	42	23	8	3	3
Tangipahoa	4	27	33	22	10	4

6. In thinking about the schools in your area, what grade would you give...

(b) Charter Schools

	A	B	C	D	F	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	10	24	21	4	3	39
East Baton Rouge	10	22	21	7	3	38
Livingston	4	21	13	4	3	55
Orleans	16	37	23	8	4	12
St. Tammany	7	24	8	< 1	2	59
Tangipahoa	8	25	21	5	2	39

6. In thinking about the schools in your area, what grade would you give...

(c) Private or Parochial Schools

	A	B	C	D	F	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	28	36	16	4	2	15
East Baton Rouge	31	37	14	3	2	13
Livingston	33	24	11	2	3	28
Orleans	26	43	18	2	1	11
St. Tammany	33	39	11	1	1	15
Tangipahoa	28	40	14	3	< 1	14

7. If it were your decision and you could select any type of school, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?

[RANDOMIZE RESPONSES TO AVOID BIAS]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Charter School	Homeschool	Private School	Regular Public School	Virtual School	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	10	8	49	31	< 1	3
East Baton Rouge	6	7	60	25	< 1	2
Livingston	3	8	46	39	< 1	3
Orleans	26	3	51	10	0	10
St. Tammany	5	8	47	39	0	< 1
Tangipahoa	10	11	54	24	< 1	2

8. What is the most important characteristic or attribute that would cause you to choose a **[INSERT SCHOOL TYPE FROM PREVIOUS QUESTION]** for your child? Please use one word, or a very short phrase.

[OPEN-END. IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

Top 20 | Specific impressions offered by respondents in the statewide sample. Numbers represent counts (n), not percentages.

LOUISIANA	
BETTER EDUCATION / QUALITY	125
INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION / ONE-ON-ONE	110
BETTER TEACHERS / TEACHERS / TEACHING	79
DISCIPLINE / STRUCTURE	60
CLASS SIZE / STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO	54
ALMA MATER / SOCIAL NETWORK	46
PRIVATE SCHOOL: POSITIVE MENTIONS	42
PUBLIC SCHOOL: POSITIVE MENTIONS	38
CURRICULUM / ACADEMICS	35
SOCIALIZATION / PEERS / OTHER KIDS	34
PUBLIC SCHOOL: NEGATIVE MENTIONS	31
SAFETY / LESS DRUGS, VIOLENCE, BULLYING	28
RELIGION / RELIGIOUS REASONS	26
COST / TUITION / AFFORDABILITY	24
ENVIRONMENT / CULTURE / COMMUNITY	21
SCHOOL RESOURCES / FUNDING	21
STANDARDS / MORE CHALLENGING	19
MORALS / VALUES / ETHICS	17
OUTCOMES / RESULTS / GRADUATION RATE	16
PARENTS / PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	15
OTHER RESPONSES	85
DK / NO RESPONSE / REFUSED	39

“For the remainder of this interview, if you are completely unsure about your answer or have no feelings for an answer, feel free to say “I Don’t Know”.” [ENTER AS “DK”]

9. How familiar are you with “charter schools” in K-12 education?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not That Familiar	I Have Never Heard of “Charter Schools”	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	10	27	47	12	4
East Baton Rouge	12	29	47	8	4
Livingston	4	21	55	17	4
Orleans	26	42	25	4	4
St. Tammany	5	28	57	8	2
Tangipahoa	6	34	41	14	5

10. Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, do you favor or oppose charter schools?
[PROBE:] Would you say strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	28	33	12	9	17
East Baton Rouge	30	34	10	10	17
Livingston	18	37	11	11	23
Orleans	43	34	10	7	7
St. Tammany	27	35	9	6	23
Tangipahoa	30	39	10	6	16

11. How familiar are you with “school vouchers” in K-12 education?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not That Familiar	I Have Never Heard of “School Vouchers”	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	11	27	33	25	3
East Baton Rouge	14	34	28	23	1
Livingston	10	29	36	20	5
Orleans	12	34	31	21	2
St. Tammany	11	29	38	21	2
Tangipahoa	11	27	34	27	2

12. A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools.

If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a “school voucher” to pay partial or full tuition for their child’s school. In general, do you favor or oppose a school voucher system? **[PROBE:]** Would you say strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	39	24	11	18	9
East Baton Rouge	34	29	10	21	7
Livingston	35	25	11	18	11
Orleans	35	32	10	15	8
St. Tammany	37	23	10	22	8
Tangipahoa	47	20	11	14	8

13. How familiar are you with the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program which is also known as the New Orleans Voucher (or Scholarship) Program?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not That Familiar	I Have Never Heard of This Program	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	8	14	31	43	3
East Baton Rouge	7	20	28	44	1
Livingston	4	16	32	44	3
Orleans	6	22	32	36	5
St. Tammany	6	18	34	41	2
Tangipahoa	6	20	30	42	2

14. Enacted in 2008, the Student Scholarships Program currently provides state-funded vouchers to approximately 2,000 low-income Orleans Parish students who attended a failing public school the previous year so they can attend the private school of their choosing. In general, do you favor or oppose this kind of program?
[PROBE:] Would you say strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	34	29	12	14	11
East Baton Rouge	29	32	11	15	13
Livingston	28	27	9	21	15
Orleans	37	33	10	10	10
St. Tammany	31	33	10	15	12
Tangipahoa	41	27	10	14	8

15. What is the most important reason for your response regarding the Student Scholarship Program? Please use one word, or a very short phrase.

[OPEN-END. IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

Top 20 | Specific impressions offered by respondents in the statewide sample. Numbers represent counts (n), not percentages.

LOUISIANA	
BETTER EDUCATION / QUALITY	139
CHOICE / FLEXIBILITY / FREEDOM	68
HELPS LESS FORTUNATE	61
OPPORTUNITIES	50
HELPS CHILDREN	44
UNFAIR	42
GOOD IDEA	34
HURTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	17
BAD IDEA	10
PRIVATE SCHOOL: NEGATIVE MENTIONS	10
COST / TUITION / AFFORDABILITY	9
FAIR / EQUALITY	9
FIX CURRENT PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM	9
FUNDS / RESOURCES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ONLY	9
PUBLIC SCHOOL: NEGATIVE MENTIONS	9
BAD USE OF TAX MONEY	8
PARENTS / PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	7
GOVERNMENT: NEGATIVE MENTIONS	6
PRIVATE SCHOOL: POSITIVE MENTIONS	5
PUBLIC SCHOOL: POSITIVE MENTIONS	5
SCHOLARSHIPS: POSITIVE MENTIONS	5
NOT FAMILIAR / NEED MORE INFORMATION	38
OTHER RESPONSES	123
DK / NO RESPONSE / REFUSED	125

16. A proposal has been made that would extend voucher eligibility to any low-income or middle-income student whose school gets a C, D or F grade based on the state’s accountability system. In general, do you favor or oppose this kind of proposal? **[PROBE:]** Would you say strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	29	30	14	16	11
East Baton Rouge	27	30	13	17	13
Livingston	30	24	11	22	14
Orleans	33	28	17	12	9
St. Tammany	27	32	14	16	12
Tangipahoa	38	30	10	14	9

17. Tenure is the status granted to a teacher after some period of time, giving a teacher certain rights, and requiring detailed rules and procedures for his/her dismissal, lay off, or firing. Based on what you have heard or read, how much do you favor or oppose allowing tenure for public school teachers? **[PROBE:]** Would you say strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	23	24	12	24	17
East Baton Rouge	22	26	15	26	12
Livingston	22	25	14	25	14
Orleans	24	30	16	16	14
St. Tammany	16	28	13	29	15
Tangipahoa	27	28	11	22	12

18. A proposal has been made to change the guidelines for teacher tenure, seniority status, and salaries. This plan would eliminate tenure for teachers who don't meet certain qualifications on the state's teacher evaluation system. The proposal also ends annual pay raises based on years in the classroom, and it bans the use of seniority in all personnel decisions. In general, do you favor or oppose this kind of proposal? **[PROBE:]** Would you say strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS "DK"]

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	36	21	15	18	11
East Baton Rouge	35	26	15	16	9
Livingston	36	22	11	18	13
Orleans	31	32	12	17	8
St. Tammany	35	25	16	14	10
Tangipahoa	40	20	12	20	8

“Now the following questions should be pretty quick, and for statistical purposes only. ...”

19. Are you currently the parent or guardian of a child who lives with you, and who is in any grade from Pre-School through High School?

[IF NEEDED: IF CHILD IS GOING INTO PRESCHOOL IN THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR, ENTER "YES"]

[IF NEEDED: IF CHILD JUST GRADUATED IN 2011, ENTER "NO"]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS "DK"]

	Yes	No	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	37	62	< 1
East Baton Rouge	37	63	0
Livingston	46	54	0
Orleans	38	62	0
St. Tammany	38	62	0
Tangipahoa	38	62	< 1

20. Generally speaking, do you usually consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

[Code for Democrat, Republican, Independent, Libertarian, Other, or “DK”]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other	Libertarian (VOL.)	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	37	29	24	1	< 1	8
East Baton Rouge	39	31	20	< 1	0	10
Livingston	20	43	26	< 1	< 1	9
Orleans	55	18	17	< 1	< 1	9
St. Tammany	20	40	30	2	< 1	7
Tangipahoa	33	30	23	1	< 1	12

21. **(Split A)** How would you describe your views on most political matters? Generally, do you think of yourself as liberal, moderate, or conservative? **[Rotate Liberal and Conservative]**

[Code only for Liberal, Moderate, Conservative, or “DK”]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Other	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	14	30	44	2	10
East Baton Rouge	19	34	36	1	10
Livingston	7	25	59	2	8
Orleans	18	39	35	< 1	8
St. Tammany	13	37	43	2	5
Tangipahoa	11	35	43	2	10

21. **(Split B)** How would you describe your views on most political matters? Generally, do you think of yourself as progressive, moderate, or conservative? **[Rotate Progressive and Conservative]**

[Code only for Progressive, Moderate, Conservative, or “DK”]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Progressive	Moderate	Conservative	Other	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	13	36	43	2	6
East Baton Rouge	21	38	35	0	7
Livingston	8	39	41	1	11
Orleans	26	43	26	< 1	6
St. Tammany	12	32	46	2	8
Tangipahoa	14	37	43	1	5

22. How would you best describe where you live?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS "DK"]

	Urban	Suburban	Small Town	Rural	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	20	24	30	26	< 1
East Baton Rouge	33	36	14	14	2
Livingston	6	19	31	42	2
Orleans	57	30	8	3	2
St. Tammany	10	39	26	23	< 1
Tangipahoa	5	12	49	33	< 1

23. Which of the following age categories do you fall in?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	18 – 29	30 –39	40 – 49	50 – 64	65 & Over	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	19	15	18	30	18	< 1
East Baton Rouge	25	17	17	25	15	< 1
Livingston	17	21	22	26	14	< 1
Orleans	25	16	18	26	14	< 1
St. Tammany	15	16	20	30	18	< 1
Tangipahoa	24	15	18	27	16	< 1

24. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin or descent, or not?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS "DK"]

	Hispanic	Not Hispanic	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	4	94	2
East Baton Rouge	5	94	1
Livingston	3	94	4
Orleans	3	91	6
St. Tammany	4	95	1
Tangipahoa	4	95	1

25. Which of the following describes your race?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS "DK"]

	American Indian, Native American	Asian, Pacific Islander, Asian American	Black, African American	Mixed Race	White	Other	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	< 1	1	29	< 1	67	2	< 1
East Baton Rouge	0	2	41	< 1	56	1	0
Livingston	< 1	< 1	5	< 1	93	2	0
Orleans	0	2	58	< 1	38	2	0
St. Tammany	< 1	< 1	9	< 1	89	1	0
Tangipahoa	< 1	0	25	< 1	74	< 1	0

26. What is your religion, if any? [DO NOT READ CATEGORIES]

[IF GIVEN SPECIFIC PROTESTANT DENOMINATION, SIMPLY CODE PROTESTANT]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS "DK"]

	Catholic	Jewish	Mormon	Muslim	Protestant	Other	None	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	31	< 1	< 1	< 1	58	< 1	7	3
East Baton Rouge	20	< 1	< 1	< 1	65	< 1	8	4
Livingston	18	0	< 1	< 1	67	0	11	3
Orleans	26	< 1	0	1	58	1	9	3
St. Tammany	42	1	0	< 1	45	< 1	8	3
Tangipahoa	24	2	1	0	64	< 1	6	3

27. What is the last grade or class that you completed in school? **[DO NOT READ CATEGORIES]**

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

None (Grades 1-8)

High School Incomplete (Grades 9-11)

High school Graduate (Grade 12 or GED Certificate)

Technical, Trade, or Vocational School (AFTER High School)

Some College (Associate’s Degree, No 4-Yr Degree)

College Graduate (Bachelor’s Degree., or Other 4-Yr Degree)

Post-Graduate Training or Professional Schooling After College (Toward a Master's Degree, Ph.D.; Law, Medical School)

	Grades 1 to 8	Grades 9 to 11	HS Graduate	Technical/ Vocational	Some College	College Graduate	Post- Graduate	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	1	7	7	5	23	24	10	< 1
East Baton Rouge	< 1	4	4	5	23	25	16	< 1
Livingston	2	9	9	6	23	19	6	1
Orleans	< 1	5	5	2	23	25	16	1
St. Tammany	1	3	3	4	24	27	18	< 1
Tangipahoa	< 1	10	10	9	22	18	12	< 1

28. Would you tell me into which of the following categories your total family income falls?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	Under \$25,000	\$25,000 – \$49,999	\$50,000 – \$74,999	\$75,000 – \$124,999	\$125,000 – \$200,000	Over \$200,000	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	20	20	17	19	5	4	16
East Baton Rouge	14	20	17	22	7	3	17
Livingston	16	25	16	18	7	< 1	18
Orleans	22	21	21	15	4	3	14
St. Tammany	8	18	21	16	10	5	22
Tangipahoa	27	26	14	15	3	2	14

29. [CODE GENDER OF RESPONDENT; DO NOT ASK, UNLESS GENDER IS IN QUESTION]

	Male	Female
LOUISIANA	48	53
East Baton Rouge	50	51
Livingston	51	49
Orleans	49	51
St. Tammany	49	51
Tangipahoa	47	53

[PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING TEXT AVAILABLE TO INTERVIEWERS ANYTIME A RESPONDENT ASKS ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE SURVEY SPONSOR/FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION]

The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization that studies attitudes toward K-12 education issues facing the states and the country. The Foundation has no connection to the government, political parties, or any campaigns. Reports about its surveys are made available free of charge on their website [EdChoice dot ORG](http://EdChoice.org).