



## COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL

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*Conducted for the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute  
Conducted by the VCU Center for Public Policy/Survey and Evaluation  
Research Laboratory (SERL)*

### **Public Opinion in Virginia on Schools and Education** December 2006

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This report presents the full results from the 2006 Commonwealth Education Poll conducted with 807 adults in Virginia, December 4<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006. The poll was conducted for the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute (CEPI) in the VCU School of Education. The survey was conducted by the VCU Center for Public Policy/Survey and Evaluation Research Laboratory (SERL). The report contains the following items:

- I. Overall Evaluation of Schools
- II. School Funding
- III. No Child Left Behind: Federal and State Government Role in Education
- IV. Elections
- V. Five-Year Progress
- VI. School Boards
- VII. Preschool Programs
- VIII. Educational Leadership
- IX. Method of the Commonwealth Education Poll
- X. Questions Asked
- XI. Tables of Results by Subgroups of Virginians

## I. Overall Evaluation of Schools

The results of the 2006 Commonwealth Education Poll show many citizens continue to give high marks to Virginia’s public schools. Forty-eight percent of Virginians polled rate the education provided by the public schools as good, while another 17 percent say it is excellent. Twenty-four percent say it is fair and just five percent say it is poor. Similar to past Commonwealth Education Polls, Virginians rate their own local community public schools more positively than Virginia public schools as a whole. The results for the 2006 Poll are nearly identical to the 2005 results, with 25 percent of respondents reporting the schools in their community provide an excellent education and 45 percent evaluating their local schools as good. Nineteen percent say the education provided by local schools is fair and five percent say it is poor, which represents a one point increase and one point decrease from the 2005 results, respectively. When asked whether schools in their local community have gotten better, worse, or stayed the same over the past five years, 31 percent believe they have gotten better and 13 percent think they have gotten worse. The most common view, held by 39 percent of respondents, is that the schools over the last five years have remained the same.

Opinion about the overall quality of the education provided by the public schools has been fairly stable over the past five years of Commonwealth Education Polls. Schools in the local community tend to be seen positively by more respondents than schools across the state generally. Overall, public schools, statewide and in the local community, are evaluated positively by a majority of Virginians (see table below).

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Thinking about public schools in Virginia as a whole .... Provide an Excellent or Good education	65%	64%	63%	66%	60%	58%
What about the public schools in your community .... Provide an Excellent or Good education	70%	70%	64%	68%	65%	60%

## II. School Funding

Despite the overall positive view of many Virginians about public schools, a large majority of Virginians, 63 percent, believe current funding levels for public schools are not enough to meet their needs. These results mirror the 2005 Poll where 64 percent felt schools did not have the funding they needed, but these numbers reflect a drop from 2004 when the Commonwealth’s budget crisis led to 69 percent feeling the public schools were underfunded.

The percentage of Virginians who feel funding for the schools is enough to meet their needs is 26 percent, the same as 2005 and up from 20 percent in 2004.

A further example of public support for public education funding is that 56 percent of Virginians say they would be willing to pay higher taxes in order to increase school funding, while 39 percent are not willing to do so. This finding is reasonably consistent with the past years of Commonwealth Education Polls. Despite fluctuations in economic conditions over the past few years, about six in ten Virginians have consistently reported a willingness to pay higher taxes in order to increase funding for education since 2001.

While a majority of Virginians report a willingness to pay higher taxes in order to increase school funding, when given the choice between a tax increase or cuts to other programs, by a two-to-one margin they opted for cutting other programs. Sixty percent of respondents chose other program cuts compared to 27 percent who opted for increasing taxes to meet the state's education commitments. The support for tax increases has declined every year since the introduction of the question in the Poll in 2003, from 32 percent to 27 percent in 2006.

Of those willing to pay higher taxes for education, a majority of respondents, 52 percent, considered a sales tax increase as the best option. Support for the other three types of taxes was more evenly distributed, with real estate tax at 16 percent, income tax at 12 percent, and personal property tax at 11 percent. While the numbers have fluctuated over the last six years, the sales tax has consistently received near majority or majority support as the means to raise more money for education in Virginia.

Respondents were asked whether they thought their local school board had the authority to assess taxes. The majority of respondents, 58 percent, did not know or did not respond about whether the local school board had taxing authority. Twenty-seven percent correctly said that school boards don't have taxing authority, while 15 percent reported that they thought school boards did have taxing authority.

Those who responded that school boards had taxing authority were asked whether they believed taxes would increase as a result; 59 percent responded that they believed taxes would increase. Those who responded no or did not know if school boards had taxing authority were asked if they thought school boards should have taxing authority; 72 percent responded they should not, 18 percent thought they should have authority, and 10 percent did not know or did not answer.

Finally, respondents were also asked which level of government spends the least on public schools in Virginia. Thirty-four percent correctly identified the federal government as

spending less than either state or local city and county government on the schools. Nearly a quarter of respondents (24 percent) did not know which level of government provides the least funds for public schools. Twenty-nine percent thought local governments provide the least amount of funding and 14 percent responded that it was the state government.

### III. No Child Left Behind Act: Federal and State Government Role in Education

The No Child Left Behind Act has raised new questions about the appropriate roles for the federal and state governments in education. The Commonwealth Education Poll has asked respondents about their normative views of federal versus state responsibility in three different areas of public education (see table below). The poll found a majority of Virginians see responsibility for the schools as resting more with state than federal government in each of these three areas: setting academic standards, funding, and testing to measure student achievement. Consistently for the past three years, 59 percent of Virginians thought state rather than federal government should have responsibility when it comes to setting academic standards.

Sixty-eight percent of respondents felt the state government should have the responsibility for testing to measure student achievement. While over two-thirds of respondents think states should have primary responsibility for testing, this percent has declined five percent over the last three years, primarily at the expense of respondents volunteering that both the federal and state governments share the responsibility for measuring student achievement, which has climbed from two percent in 2004 to six percent in 2006.

	2006		2005		2004	
	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal
Should state or federal government have responsibility for...?						
Testing to measure student achievement?	68%	21%	69%	23%	73%	20%
Setting academic standards?	59%	28%	59%	32%	59%	32%
Funding?	55%	23%	61%	22%	56%	29%

While a majority of the public sees the state as having more responsibility than the federal government in these areas, the results suggest that citizens are open to federal involvement in at least some aspects of education. Eight of ten Virginians agree with the statement that “the federal government needs to make sure that states are held accountable for school performance” (see table below). At the same time, 88 percent agree that “state governments know more about the needs of students and schools in their state than the federal

government does.” The results for these two items this year are virtually identical to the results from the 2004 and 2005 surveys, and reflect the complexity of the education issue.

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know/ No answer
The federal government needs to make sure that states are held accountable for school performance.	50%	32%	9%	8%	2%
State governments know more about the needs of students and schools in their state than the federal government does.	62%	26%	5%	3%	4%

#### IV. Elections

The Commonwealth Education Poll asked a series of questions about whether the 2006 U.S. Congressional elections would have a positive, negative, or no impact on public education in Virginia. Across all four areas, respondents were roughly split evenly between the elections having a positive impact versus no impact on education. When comparing just those that responded that the elections would have either a positive or a negative impact, then by a wide margin respondents thought that the results of the mid-term elections would have a positive impact on education (see table below). In the area of Student Health and Nutrition, a plurality of respondents, 42 percent, felt the elections would have a positive impact. The second most frequent response regarding Student Health and Nutrition, given by 38 percent of respondents, was no impact, compared to 9 percent who thought the elections would have a negative impact.

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Don't Know/ No Answer
Funding	35%	11%	37%	17%
No Child Left Behind	34%	16%	35%	15%
School Safety	39%	8%	42%	11%
Student Health and Nutrition	42%	9%	38%	11%

School Safety is viewed by 39 percent of respondents as an area that would see a positive impact due to the elections, compared to 8 percent who believed there would be a negative impact and 42 percent who believed there would be no impact. By over a three-to-one margin respondents felt that school funding would be positively impacted rather than negatively impacted, with 37 percent believing there would be no impact. Perhaps not surprisingly, the narrowest margin of positive to negative impact was regarding the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), which is a program associated closely with the current Republican administration. Thirty-four percent felt that the NCLB would be positively impacted by the election outcomes, while 16 percent thought there would be a negative impact.

## V. Five-Year Progress

Respondents were also asked to evaluate public schools in three specific areas compared to five years ago: providing skills useful in obtaining a job; teaching the basics such as reading, writing, and mathematics; and providing skills needed for pursuing a four-year college degree. The results are similar to that for overall performance of the schools. About seven in ten Virginians see the schools as either better than or about the same as they have been in these areas (68 to 73 percent across the three measures). A minority (ranging from 15 to 19 percent) see the schools as deteriorating in these areas compared to five years ago.

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know	No answer
Skills useful in obtaining a job?	30%	19%	38%	12%	1%
Teaching the basics such as reading, writing and mathematics?	38%	17%	35%	10%	1%
Skills needed for pursuing a 4-year college degree?	36%	15%	37%	12%	.4%

## VI. School Boards

This year, the Commonwealth Education Poll asked a series of questions about the impact of the respondent's local school board over the last five years. The results find that many people think local school boards have taken steps over the last five years to improve schools. Fifty-five percent believe school boards have helped to make schools safer over the last five years, with 31 percent saying no and 14 percent responding that they did not know or gave no answer. Forty-three percent believe school boards have improved student achievement, compared to 35 percent responding that they had not. In the final two areas, the efficiency of school operations and the recruitment of highly-qualified school leaders, respondents were nearly evenly split about whether the school board had made improvements over the last five years. The gap between those that felt school boards had improved efficiency (39 percent) and those that felt they had not improved efficiency (34 percent) was just five percent. The gap was narrower with regard to recruiting highly-qualified school leaders, with 40 percent responding yes and 38 percent responding no to progress in recruiting highly-qualified senior leadership.

In the last 5 years, do you believe you school board's actions have...	Yes	No	Don't know/NA
Increased the efficiency of school operations?	39%	34%	27%
Improved student achievement?	43%	35%	22%
Made public schools safer?	55%	31%	14%
Enhanced the recruitment of highly-qualified school leaders?	40%	38%	22%

## VII. Preschool Programs

The Commonwealth Education Poll next asked a series of questions about preschool programs. Sixty-five percent of respondents answered that they believed their school division offered preschool programs. An overwhelming majority—84 percent of those polled—responded that preschool programs improve academic performance, with only 9 percent disagreeing that they improved academic performance.

The responses about who should pay for preschool programs were more varied. The most frequent response given was that the state should pay for preschool programs, which was given by 30 percent of respondents. Twenty-four percent thought parents should pay, 21 percent thought the federal government, and 12 percent said local governments should pay for preschool programs. When asked if they thought the addition or expansion of preschool programs in their district would require funding to expand facilities, 64 percent responded yes, while 14 percent said no, and 22 percent were unsure.

## VIII. Educational Leadership

As discussed in section VI, one of the areas where people are evenly divided is whether local school boards have made gains in recruiting highly-qualified school leaders. The Commonwealth Education Poll asked a few more detailed questions about Virginians' thoughts on how to improve this important area of public education. The first question asked whether people thought licensure should be required for all persons serving as public school principals and school division superintendents; 83 percent responded yes and 11 percent responded no. The 83 percent who responded yes were then asked who should have licensure authority, the state or local authorities; 80 percent answered the state and 17 percent answered local governments. All respondents were then asked if they thought that licensure requirements should be waived or altered for persons with experience as private sector or military leaders, and 33 percent agreed that the requirements should be waived. A majority, 59 percent, did not agree that licensure



requirements should be waived, indicating that waiving licensure requirements is not a mechanism that many see as a viable way to improve the quality of school leadership.

## **IX. Method of the Commonwealth Education Poll**

The Commonwealth Education Poll is a public opinion survey of Virginia residents on education issues. Interviewing for the survey was conducted by telephone at the facilities of the Survey and Evaluation Research Laboratory at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond.

The ten-minute survey was administered to 807 adult Virginians from December 4<sup>th</sup> through December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006. Using a randomly selected sample, a Random Digit Dialing (RDD) method ensured that all households in Virginia had a known chance of being selected to participate in the study. The sample of telephone numbers was prepared by Genesys Sampling Systems and included 10,000 numbers. SERL eventually used a random sub-sample of 5,984 of these telephone numbers to obtain 807 completed interviews. We estimate that 1,190 numbers were purged by Genesys for business or non-working status. Using the Council of American Survey Research Organization's (CASRO) response rate calculations, interviews were obtained with 43 percent of the known or assumed households.

Interviews were conducted using the Computer Assisted Survey Execution System (CASES), a computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system developed by the University of California at Berkeley. Using CASES, interviewers view the questionnaire on an individual computer station and enter the participant's responses directly into the study database. For this survey, the respondent selection procedure consisted of asking for the youngest adult male who lives in the household who was currently at home at the time of the call. If no such adult male was currently at home, the interviewer asked for the oldest adult female currently at home.

The data are weighted to adjust for unequal probabilities of selection due to multiple telephone lines and multiple adults living in the household. In addition, the data are weighted on sex, race, age, and region of residence to reflect the demographic composition of the Virginia adult population. Percentages reported in the text and tables are weighted, while the number of cases shown in the tables for various subgroups is the actual number of respondents.

Questions answered by all respondents are subject to a sampling error of plus or minus approximately 3.5 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. This means that, in 95 out of 100 samples such as the one used in this study, the results obtained would be no more than

3.5 percentage points above or below the figure that would be obtained by interviewing all adult Virginia residents with telephones. Where the answers of subgroups are reported, the sampling error would be higher.

Because of nonresponse (refusals to participate, etc.), standard calculations of sampling error are apt to understate the actual extent to which survey results are at variance with the true population values. Surveys are also subject to errors from sources other than sampling. While every effort is made to identify such errors, they are often difficult or impossible to measure. Readers making use of the results are urged to be mindful of the limitations inherent in survey research.

## X. Questions Asked

### Commonwealth Education Poll, December 4<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 Number of Respondents: 807

#### Overall Evaluation of Schools

1. First, thinking about the public schools in Virginia as a whole, would you say that they provide an excellent, good, fair, or poor education?

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Excellent	17%	14%	11%	15%	10%	11%
Good	48	50	52	51	50	47
Fair	24	24	24	23	26	26
Poor	5	4	5	4	5	4
Don't Know/No Answer	7	8	8	8	9	11

2. What about the public schools in your community-would you say that they provide an excellent, good, fair, or poor education?

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Excellent	25%	25%	21%	22%	18%	18%	15%
Good	45	45	43	46	47	42	44
Fair	19	18	22	20	21	22	22
Poor	5	6	6	5	8	7	6
Don't Know/No Answer	6	7	8	7	6	10	12

3. Over the past five years, have the public schools in your community gotten better, worse, or stayed the same?

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Better	31%	34%	29%	32%	30%	29%	33%
Worse	13	10	14	12	15	16	14
Stayed the same	39	36	39	40	37	35	34
Don't Know/No Answer	17	20	19	17	19	20	20

#### School Funding

4. Overall, do you think the funding for public schools in Virginia is enough to meet their needs, or not enough to meet their needs?

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Enough	26%	26%	20%	27%	23%	21%
Not enough	63	64	69	64	67	70
Don't Know/No Answer	11	9	11	9	9	10

5. Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding could be increased?

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Willing	56%	55%	57%	61%	60%	57%
Not willing	39	36	36	34	34	36
Don't Know/No Answer	5	7	7	5	6	7

6. (Ask if WILLING) What kind of tax increase do you think would be best-- sales tax, income tax, real estate property tax, or personal property tax?

Of Those Willing

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Sales tax	52%	49%	58%	54%	58%	47%
Income tax	12	15	13	14	14	16
Real estate property tax	16	13	15	13	10	16
Personal property tax	11	14	7	10	11	13
Don't Know/No Answer	9	9	7	10	6	9

7. Suppose state funding for education were cut, do you think the schools in your community would be able to continue pretty much as they are now, OR do you think this would bring major changes to the schools in your community?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Would continue as they are now	21%	25%	23%	22%
Would bring major changes	69	67	70	70
Don't Know/No Answer	10	9	7	7

8. The Virginia constitution requires the state to share the costs of public education with local governments. A report to the General Assembly said that the state is not paying as much for education as agreed to in the cost-sharing guidelines. In order for the state to meet the education cost-sharing guidelines, would you prefer that the state increases taxes OR make cuts to other programs?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Increase taxes	27%	28%	30%	32%
Make cuts to other programs	60	57	59	53
Don't Know/No Answer	13	14	11	14

(In the 2005 and 2006 wording of this question, the statement "This leaves local school districts paying more than expected," was deleted. The statement had been included in the wording used in the 2003 and 2004 surveys.

There was a slight difference in question wording in 2003. The sentence "A report to the General Assembly..." was asked in 2003 as "A report by the General Assembly's investigative agency..."

9. To the best of your knowledge, does your local school board have authority to assess taxes for public school operations?

	2006
Yes	15%
No	27
Don't Know/No Answer	58

10. (Asked if answered YES) Do you think local taxes will increase as a result of this taxing authority?

	2006
Yes	59%
No	18
Don't Know/No Answer	22

Note: This question was inadvertently skipped for 69 respondents so they were re-contacted to answer this question; 48 of the 69 were contacted and their answers were recorded.

11. (Asked if answered NO or DON'T KNOW) Do you believe the school board should have taxing authority?

	2006
Yes	18%
No	72
Don't Know/No Answer	10

12. To the best of your knowledge, which of these provides the LEAST funding for public schools in Virginia—the federal government, the state government, or local city and county governments?

	2006	2005
Federal	34%	41%
State	14	17
Local city and county	29	22
Don't Know/No Answer	24	20

### **No Child Left Behind Act**

When it comes to making decisions about education, please tell me whether you think the state government OR the federal government should have responsibility for each of the following. First, ...

*Questions 13 to 15 were asked in random order.*

13. Setting academic standards? (Do you think the state government or the federal government should have responsibility for setting academic standards?)

	2006	2005	2004
State	59%	59%	59%
Federal	28	32	32
Both equally (VOL.)	8	6	5
Neither (VOL.)	2	1	1
Don't Know/No Answer	3	2	3

14. Testing to measure student achievement? (Do you think the state government or the federal government should have responsibility for testing to measure student achievement?)

	2006	2005	2004
State	68%	69%	73%
Federal	21	23	20
Both equally (VOL.)	6	3	2
Neither (VOL.)	3	2	2
Don't Know/No Answer	3	3	3

15. Funding? (Do you think the state government or the federal government should have responsibility for funding?)

	2006	2005	2004
State	55%	61%	56%
Federal	23	22	29
Both equally (VOL.)	19	14	12
Neither (VOL.)	1	1	1
Don't Know/No Answer	3	2	2

Question 16 and 17 were asked in random order.

16. "The federal government needs to make sure that states are held accountable for school performance."  
 (Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement?)

	2006	2005	2004
Strongly agree, Agree, Somewhat Agree	82%	80%	80%
Strongly disagree, Disagree, Somewhat disagree	17	18	18
Don't Know/No Answer	2	3	2

Note: The response categories in 2005 and 2004 used 'Agree' and 'Disagree' rather than 'Somewhat Agree' and 'Somewhat Disagree,' which is why the Agree and Disagree response categories were collapsed for reporting.

17. "State governments know more about the needs of students and schools in their state than the federal government does."  
 (Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement?)

	2006	2005	2004
Strongly agree, Agree, Somewhat Agree	88%	86%	84%
Strongly disagree, Disagree, Somewhat disagree	8	11	12
Don't Know/No Answer	4	4	3

Note: The response categories in 2005 and 2004 used 'Agree' and 'Disagree' rather than 'Somewhat Agree' and 'Somewhat Disagree,' which is why the Agree and Disagree response categories were collapsed for reporting.

**Elections**

18. Do you believe the 2006 mid-term Congressional elections (U.S. Senate; U.S. House of Representatives) will have a Positive Impact, Negative Impact or No Impact on public education in Virginia in the following areas?

a. Funding?

	2006
Positive impact	35%
Negative impact	11
No impact	37
Don't know/No answer	17

b. Implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act?

	2006
Positive impact	34%
Negative impact	16
No impact	35
Don't know/No answer	15

c. School Safety?

	2006
Positive impact	39%
Negative impact	8
No impact	42
Don't know/No answer	11

d. Student Health and nutrition?

	2006
Positive impact	42%
Negative impact	9
No impact	38
Don't know/No answer	11

**Five-Year Progress**

19. In providing skills that will be useful in obtaining a job? (Do you think the public schools in Virginia have gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed the same during the past five years in providing skills that will be useful in obtaining a job?)

	2006	2005	2004
Better	30%	28%	30%
Worse	19	17	16
Stayed the Same	38	38	39
Don't Know/No Answer	13	18	15

20. In teaching the basics such as reading, writing, and mathematics? (Do you think the public schools in Virginia have gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed the same during the past five years in teaching the basics such as reading, writing, and mathematics?)

	2006	2005	2004
Better	38%	39%	35%
Worse	17	14	17
Stayed the Same	35	33	35
Don't Know/No Answer	10	14	14

21. In providing the skills needed for pursuing a four-year college degree? (Do you think the public schools in Virginia have gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed the same during the past five years in providing the skills needed for pursuing a four-year college degree?)

	2006	2005	2004
Better	36%	32%	34%
Worse	15	12	14
Stayed the Same	37	37	36
Don't Know/No Answer	12	19	16

**School Boards**

22. In the last 5 years, do you believe your school board's actions have increased the efficiency of school operations? (Yes, No, Don't Know)

	2006
Yes	39%
No	34
Don't Know/No Answer	27

23. In the last 5 years, do you believe your school board's actions have improved student achievement? (Yes, No, Don't Know)

	2006
Yes	43%
No	35
Don't Know/No Answer	22

24. In the last 5 years, do you believe your school board's actions have made public schools safer? (Yes, No, Don't Know)

	2006
Yes	55%
No	31
Don't Know/No Answer	14

25. In the last 5 years, do you believe your school board's actions have enhanced the recruitment of highly-qualified school leaders? (Yes, No, Don't Know)

	2006
Yes	40%
No	38
Don't Know/No Answer	22

### **Preschool programs**

26. To the best of your knowledge, does your school division offer public school preschool programs?

	2006
Yes	65%
No	16
Don't Know/No Answer	19

27. Do you believe that preschool programs improve student performance?

	2006
Yes	84%
No	9
Don't Know/No Answer	7

28. Who should pay for preschool programs? The federal government, state government, local governments, or private consumers (parents)?

	2006
Federal	21%
State	30
Local	12
Private (parents)	24
Other	8
Don't Know/No Answer	4

29. To the best of your knowledge, would the addition or expansion of preschool programs in your school district require funding to build or expand facilities for additional space?

	2006
Yes	64%
No	14
Don't Know/No Answer	22



## **Educational Leadership**

30. Under Virginia law and regulations, licensure is required for persons serving as public school principals and superintendents. Do you believe licensure should be required for all persons serving as public school principals and school division superintendents?

	2006
Yes	83%
No	11
Don't Know/No Answer	6

31. (Asked if answered YES) Should licensure authority rest with the state or local governments?

	2006
State	80%
Local	17
Don't Know/No Answer	3

32. Do you believe that such licensure requirements should be waived or altered for persons with experience as private sector or military leaders?

	2006
Yes	33%
No	59
Don't Know/No Answer	9

## **XI. Tables of Results by Subgroups of Virginians**

In the following tables, blank cells contain no cases. Cells containing entries of 0% are actually percentages that are between 0% and .5%; they appear as 0% due to rounding.

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q1. First, thinking about the public schools in Virginia as a whole, would you say That they provide an excellent, good, fair, or poor education?						Total
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know	No answer	
Gender	Male	13%	51%	27%	4%	6%	0%	347
	Female	21%	46%	21%	5%	7%	0%	460
Race	White	15%	51%	22%	5%	6%	0%	609
	Non-white	20%	40%	30%	4%	6%		166
Region	Northwest	19%	50%	22%	3%	7%		121
	Northern VA	25%	45%	19%	2%	9%		172
	West	13%	49%	23%	8%	5%	1%	153
	South Central	14%	47%	30%	5%	2%	0%	159
	Tidewater	10%	49%	27%	6%	8%		201
Children in public school?	Yes	21%	51%	23%	4%	1%	0%	249
	No	10%	24%	32%	19%	16%		36
School employee in household?	Yes, respondent	27%	53%	17%	1%	2%		65
	Yes, other	16%	47%	26%	6%	6%		69
	No	16%	48%	24%	5%	7%	0%	671
Family income	Under \$20,000	5%	43%	38%	10%	5%		61
	\$20,000- \$34,999	17%	45%	30%		9%		70
	\$35,000- \$49,999	14%	51%	20%	4%	9%	1%	106
	\$50,000- \$69,999	12%	51%	23%	6%	8%		130
	\$70,000 and above	21%	51%	19%	4%	5%	0%	318
Education	No high school diploma	16%	28%	45%	8%	3%		45
	High school diploma	16%	47%	28%	4%	5%		166
	Some college	9%	51%	27%	6%	7%		206
	College graduate or more	21%	50%	17%	4%	7%	0%	383
Age	18-29	16%	42%	33%	4%	6%		87
	30-44	16%	50%	21%	6%	7%		213
	45-64	19%	50%	22%	4%	5%	0%	321
	65 and older	13%	50%	23%	5%	9%	1%	157
Place where live	Urban	16%	46%	26%	5%	8%		168
	Suburban	18%	52%	20%	4%	6%		296
	Rural	12%	47%	28%	6%	6%	1%	148
	Small town	18%	42%	28%	5%	6%	1%	175
Party identification	Democrat	15%	46%	30%	4%	5%	0%	314
	Republican	19%	51%	19%	4%	7%	0%	315
	Independent	15%	51%	17%	11%	7%		87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q2. What about the public schools in your community-would you say that they provide an excellent, good, fair, or poor education?						Total
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know	No answer	
Gender	Male	26%	44%	21%	4%	6%	0%	347
	Female	25%	47%	17%	7%	5%		460
Race	White	25%	46%	17%	6%	6%	0%	609
	Non-white	26%	41%	24%	3%	6%		166
Region	Northwest	25%	48%	18%	5%	3%		121
	Northern VA	40%	40%	13%	1%	6%		172
	West	13%	52%	20%	7%	8%		153
	South Central	29%	36%	25%	8%	2%	1%	159
	Tidewater	15%	50%	20%	7%	8%		201
Children in public school?	Yes	33%	50%	12%	5%	0%		249
	No	5%	29%	32%	20%	14%		36
School employee in household?	Yes, respondent	35%	48%	14%	2%	2%		65
	Yes, other	17%	48%	24%	6%	6%		69
	No	25%	45%	18%	5%	6%	0%	671
Family income	Under \$20,000	12%	37%	34%	8%	10%		61
	\$20,000- \$34,999	7%	56%	21%	6%	10%		70
	\$35,000- \$49,999	21%	47%	20%	6%	5%	1%	106
	\$50,000- \$69,999	23%	50%	19%	5%	4%		130
	\$70,000 and above	33%	46%	12%	5%	4%		318
Education	No high school diploma	12%	43%	37%	2%	6%		45
	High school diploma	17%	46%	22%	9%	6%		166
	Some college	15%	51%	22%	7%	5%		206
	College graduate or more	36%	42%	12%	3%	6%	0%	383
Age	18-29	19%	42%	28%	4%	6%		87
	30-44	28%	49%	13%	4%	6%	0%	213
	45-64	26%	45%	19%	7%	4%		321
	65 and older	26%	43%	17%	6%	8%		157
Place where live	Urban	24%	47%	17%	7%	5%		168
	Suburban	31%	47%	12%	3%	6%	0%	296
	Rural	16%	45%	25%	8%	6%		148
	Small town	22%	38%	29%	6%	5%		175
Party identification	Democrat	23%	46%	24%	4%	3%		314
	Republican	30%	45%	13%	6%	6%	0%	315
	Independent	21%	47%	15%	6%	10%		87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q3. Over the past five years, have the public schools in your community gotten better, worse, or stayed the same?					Total
		Better	Worse	Stayed the same	Don't know	No answer	
Gender	Male	34%	10%	41%	16%	0%	347
	Female	29%	16%	38%	17%	1%	460
Race	White	28%	12%	42%	17%	1%	609
	Non-white	40%	16%	28%	15%	1%	166
Region	Northwest	33%	12%	36%	18%	1%	121
	Northern VA	28%	9%	41%	21%	1%	172
	West	40%	15%	35%	11%		153
	South Central	33%	16%	33%	16%	1%	159
	Tidewater	26%	13%	46%	15%	0%	201
Children in public school?	Yes	36%	13%	40%	10%	1%	249
	No	12%	6%	43%	39%		36
School employee in household?	Yes, respondent	39%	8%	41%	9%	4%	65
	Yes, other	35%	13%	35%	16%	1%	69
	No	30%	13%	40%	17%	0%	671
Family income	Under \$20,000	21%	17%	45%	17%		61
	\$20,000- \$34,999	38%	17%	36%	10%		70
	\$35,000- \$49,999	37%	16%	30%	14%	3%	106
	\$50,000- \$69,999	32%	10%	43%	16%		130
	\$70,000 and above	29%	12%	42%	16%	1%	318
Education	No high school diploma	39%	21%	36%	4%		45
	High school diploma	30%	16%	40%	14%	1%	166
	Some college	35%	12%	33%	20%		206
	College graduate or more	28%	10%	44%	17%	1%	383
Age	18-29	31%	9%	43%	18%		87
	30-44	34%	13%	33%	19%	1%	213
	45-64	29%	13%	45%	12%	1%	321
	65 and older	32%	15%	37%	16%	0%	157
Place where live	Urban	30%	16%	38%	16%		168
	Suburban	28%	11%	40%	20%	1%	296
	Rural	34%	16%	36%	14%		148
	Small town	36%	12%	40%	11%	1%	175
Party identification	Democrat	32%	14%	38%	15%	1%	314
	Republican	28%	10%	44%	18%	0%	315
	Independent	30%	11%	44%	15%		87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		<b>Q4. Overall, do you think the funding for public schools in Virginia is enough to meet their needs, or not enough to meet their needs?</b>				<b>Total</b>
		<b>Enough</b>	<b>Not enough</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>No answer</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	33%	59%	8%	1%	347
	<b>Female</b>	20%	68%	11%	2%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	29%	60%	10%	1%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	17%	71%	10%	2%	166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	26%	66%	9%		121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	33%	57%	8%	3%	172
	<b>West</b>	27%	65%	7%		153
	<b>South Central</b>	23%	64%	11%	2%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	18%	69%	13%	0%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	25%	66%	8%	1%	249
	<b>No</b>	43%	45%	8%	4%	36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	20%	74%	4%	3%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	29%	66%	5%		69
	<b>No</b>	26%	62%	10%	1%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	21%	68%	11%		61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	21%	76%	3%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	17%	72%	9%	2%	106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	27%	65%	8%		130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	31%	61%	7%	1%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	22%	59%	19%		45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	25%	64%	11%		166
	<b>Some college</b>	22%	70%	8%		206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	29%	61%	8%	2%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	22%	71%	7%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	24%	64%	11%	1%	213
	<b>45-64</b>	27%	65%	7%	1%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	33%	53%	14%	1%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	27%	63%	10%	0%	168
	<b>Suburban</b>	25%	64%	9%	2%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	33%	60%	7%		148
	<b>Small town</b>	21%	67%	10%	2%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	15%	75%	9%	1%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	38%	54%	7%	0%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	31%	60%	7%	1%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		<b>Q5. Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding could be increased?</b>				<b>Total</b>
		<b>Willing</b>	<b>Not willing</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>No answer</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	54%	43%	2%	1%	347
	<b>Female</b>	57%	36%	5%	2%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	56%	40%	3%	2%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	58%	36%	4%	2%	166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	54%	43%	2%	2%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	58%	35%	5%	2%	172
	<b>West</b>	58%	39%	2%	1%	153
	<b>South Central</b>	49%	45%	4%	2%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	58%	37%	4%	1%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	60%	36%	3%	1%	249
	<b>No</b>	32%	68%			36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	51%	42%	3%	4%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	55%	42%	2%		69
	<b>No</b>	56%	39%	4%	1%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	43%	47%	4%	6%	61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	44%	48%	7%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	62%	33%	3%	2%	106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	56%	39%	5%		130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	62%	35%	2%	2%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	33%	60%	4%	4%	45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	46%	47%	6%	1%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	56%	39%	5%		206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	62%	34%	2%	2%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	59%	36%	5%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	64%	32%	3%	1%	213
	<b>45-64</b>	52%	43%	2%	3%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	47%	46%	6%	2%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	48%	47%	4%	1%	168
	<b>Suburban</b>	59%	35%	4%	2%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	55%	42%	2%	0%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	58%	38%	2%	2%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	62%	33%	2%	2%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	51%	44%	3%	1%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	55%	40%	4%	1%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q6. What kind of tax increase do you think would be best – sales tax, income tax, real estate property tax, or personal property tax?						Total
		Sales tax	Income tax	Real estate property tax	Personal property tax	Don't know	No answer	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	51%	13%	14%	13%	7%	1%	347
	<b>Female</b>	52%	12%	17%	10%	9%	1%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	53%	14%	14%	11%	7%	1%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	48%	10%	18%	13%	11%		166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	46%	9%	19%	17%	8%	1%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	47%	20%	10%	19%	4%	1%	172
	<b>West</b>	52%	7%	22%	7%	11%	1%	153
	<b>South Central</b>	55%	12%	16%	10%	7%	1%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	59%	10%	15%	4%	12%		201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	48%	13%	17%	13%	8%	2%	249
	<b>No</b>	50%	4%	28%		18%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	35%	13%	29%	13%	10%		65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	54%	9%	17%	15%	3%	3%	69
	<b>No</b>	53%	13%	14%	11%	9%	1%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	54%	2%	24%	9%	11%		61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	57%	10%	13%	13%	6%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	58%	3%	18%	11%	10%	1%	106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	53%	12%	16%	10%	8%	1%	130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	53%	18%	14%	11%	5%	0%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	51%	6%		6%	34%	2%	45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	51%	6%	11%	20%	11%	1%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	52%	12%	22%	8%	6%	1%	206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	53%	16%	15%	9%	6%	1%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	44%	6%	27%	12%	12%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	47%	16%	16%	14%	7%		213
	<b>45-64</b>	59%	13%	12%	7%	6%	2%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	62%	8%	9%	8%	11%	2%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	52%	13%	11%	13%	11%		168
	<b>Suburban</b>	58%	14%	14%	9%	4%	1%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	50%	13%	25%	5%	5%	2%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	44%	9%	17%	19%	11%	1%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	47%	13%	15%	15%	9%	1%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	59%	11%	16%	8%	5%		315
	<b>Independent</b>	62%	15%	10%	4%	9%		87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		<b>Q7. Suppose state funding for education were cut, do you think the schools in your community would be able to continue pretty much as they are now, OR do you think this would bring major changes to the schools in your community?</b>				<b>Total</b>
		<b>Continue as they are now</b>	<b>Bring major changes</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>No answer</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	25%	65%	8%	2%	347
	<b>Female</b>	17%	73%	9%	1%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	23%	66%	9%	2%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	15%	75%	9%	0%	166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	20%	71%	8%	1%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	21%	65%	12%	2%	172
	<b>West</b>	21%	67%	11%	1%	153
	<b>South Central</b>	23%	71%	5%	1%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	18%	74%	6%	1%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	23%	69%	7%	2%	249
	<b>No</b>	21%	69%	10%	1%	36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	16%	78%	4%	3%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	20%	69%	8%	3%	69
	<b>No</b>	21%	68%	9%	1%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	20%	76%	3%	1%	61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	25%	66%	8%	1%	70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	22%	68%	10%	1%	106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	18%	74%	9%		130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	22%	70%	6%	2%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	30%	61%	9%		45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	19%	71%	9%	1%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	19%	72%	9%	0%	206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	22%	67%	8%	3%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	25%	69%	5%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	19%	74%	7%	1%	213
	<b>45-64</b>	21%	69%	8%	2%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	20%	59%	18%	3%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	22%	69%	8%	1%	168
	<b>Suburban</b>	20%	69%	9%	2%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	18%	73%	8%	1%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	22%	68%	9%	1%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	18%	74%	6%	1%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	25%	66%	9%	1%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	13%	74%	10%	3%	87



**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q8. The Virginia constitution requires the state to share the costs of public education with local governments. A report to the General Assembly said that the state is not paying as much for education as agreed to in the cost-sharing guidelines. In order for . . .				Total
		Increase taxes	Make cuts to other programs	Don't know	No answer	
Gender	Male	26%	64%	6%	4%	347
	Female	29%	55%	12%	4%	460
Race	White	28%	60%	9%	3%	609
	Non-white	29%	55%	11%	4%	166
Region	Northwest	27%	59%	11%	3%	121
	Northern VA	34%	55%	9%	2%	172
	West	25%	63%	8%	3%	153
	South Central	26%	60%	11%	3%	159
	Tidewater	23%	61%	9%	7%	201
Children in public school?	Yes	29%	57%	11%	3%	249
	No	18%	68%	14%		36
School employee in household?	Yes, respondent	46%	45%	5%	4%	65
	Yes, other	20%	74%	4%	2%	69
	No	27%	59%	10%	4%	671
Family income	Under \$20,000	17%	71%	7%	5%	61
	\$20,000- \$34,999	24%	58%	14%	4%	70
	\$35,000- \$49,999	29%	55%	13%	3%	106
	\$50,000- \$69,999	32%	59%	9%	1%	130
	\$70,000 and above	32%	59%	5%	4%	318
Education	No high school diploma	20%	64%	9%	6%	45
	High school diploma	22%	66%	11%	1%	166
	Some college	23%	66%	7%	4%	206
	College graduate or more	33%	53%	10%	4%	383
Age	18-29	29%	59%	10%	2%	87
	30-44	27%	60%	11%	2%	213
	45-64	30%	58%	7%	5%	321
	65 and older	23%	63%	8%	5%	157
Place where live	Urban	25%	66%	5%	4%	168
	Suburban	29%	55%	13%	4%	296
	Rural	24%	64%	8%	4%	148
	Small town	30%	62%	6%	2%	175
Party identification	Democrat	40%	48%	9%	4%	314
	Republican	20%	72%	6%	2%	315
	Independent	21%	55%	13%	11%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q9. To the best of your knowledge, does your local school board have authority to assess taxes for public school operations?				Total
		Yes	No	Don't know	Refused	
Gender	Male	15%	34%	51%	0%	347
	Female	15%	20%	64%	1%	460
Race	White	13%	30%	56%	0%	609
	Non-white	19%	19%	62%	0%	166
Region	Northwest	23%	27%	49%		121
	Northern VA	15%	29%	55%	1%	172
	West	12%	25%	63%		153
	South Central	18%	21%	60%	0%	159
	Tidewater	9%	31%	61%		201
Children in public school?	Yes	20%	25%	54%	1%	249
	No	10%	8%	81%		36
School employee in household?	Yes, respondent	20%	41%	39%		65
	Yes, other	19%	37%	44%		69
	No	14%	25%	61%	0%	671
Family income	Under \$20,000	14%	14%	72%		61
	\$20,000- \$34,999	21%	14%	64%		70
	\$35,000- \$49,999	14%	25%	61%		106
	\$50,000- \$69,999	20%	23%	56%	2%	130
	\$70,000 and above	11%	37%	51%		318
Education	No high school diploma	31%	21%	48%		45
	High school diploma	14%	14%	71%	0%	166
	Some college	15%	22%	63%		206
	College graduate or more	12%	37%	50%	1%	383
Age	18-29	13%	7%	79%		87
	30-44	20%	22%	58%		213
	45-64	11%	37%	51%	1%	321
	65 and older	14%	36%	50%		157
Place where live	Urban	16%	32%	53%		168
	Suburban	11%	26%	62%	1%	296
	Rural	13%	29%	58%	1%	148
	Small town	23%	23%	55%		175
Party identification	Democrat	14%	23%	64%		314
	Republican	15%	32%	52%	1%	315
	Independent	20%	32%	47%	1%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q10. Do you think local taxes will increase as a result of this taxing authority?			Total
		Yes	No	Don't know	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	51%	27%	22%	347
	<b>Female</b>	65%	13%	22%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	59%	23%	18%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	57%	9%	34%	166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	65%	12%	24%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	56%	16%	28%	172
	<b>West</b>	44%	40%	16%	153
	<b>South Central</b>	70%	18%	12%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>			100%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	77%	18%	5%	249
	<b>No</b>	41%	26%	33%	36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	65%	17%	19%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	33%	67%		69
	<b>No</b>	62%	14%	23%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	21%	28%	52%	61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	89%		11%	70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	91%		9%	106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	100%			130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	40%	36%	24%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	88%		12%	45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	76%	6%	18%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	75%		25%	206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	45%	39%	16%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	72%		28%	87
	<b>30-44</b>	61%	31%	8%	213
	<b>45-64</b>	65%	12%	23%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	62%	23%	15%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	90%	10%		168
	<b>Suburban</b>	48%	30%	23%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	80%	20%		148
	<b>Small town</b>	55%	9%	35%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	65%	10%	25%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	73%	20%	7%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	27%	54%	19%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q11. Do you believe the school board should have taxing authority?				Total
		Yes	No	Don't know	Refused	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	16%	78%	5%	0%	347
	<b>Female</b>	20%	66%	13%	0%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	15%	77%	8%	0%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	29%	58%	12%	0%	166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	11%	77%	12%	0%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	18%	75%	7%		172
	<b>West</b>	24%	68%	7%		153
	<b>South Central</b>	16%	66%	17%	1%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	19%	74%	7%	0%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	21%	68%	10%	0%	249
	<b>No</b>	9%	77%	14%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	23%	70%	5%	1%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	24%	64%	12%	1%	69
	<b>No</b>	17%	73%	9%	0%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	17%	68%	13%	1%	61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	20%	67%	13%	1%	70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	24%	66%	9%	1%	106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	23%	71%	6%		130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	15%	77%	8%		318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	20%	66%	13%	1%	45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	27%	61%	12%	0%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	20%	73%	7%		206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	13%	78%	8%	0%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	28%	63%	9%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	21%	68%	11%		213
	<b>45-64</b>	13%	79%	7%	1%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	15%	75%	10%	0%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	10%	82%	8%	0%	168
	<b>Suburban</b>	18%	71%	11%	0%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	17%	79%	3%	1%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	28%	59%	13%		175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	22%	67%	10%	0%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	15%	77%	8%		315
	<b>Independent</b>	17%	79%	4%	0%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q12. To the best of your knowledge, which of these provides the LEAST funding for public schools in Virginia-the federal government, the state government, or local city and county governments?					Total
		Federal government	State government	Local governments	Don't know	No answer	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	38%	15%	30%	17%		347
	<b>Female</b>	29%	13%	27%	31%	1%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	33%	14%	28%	25%	0%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	34%	13%	32%	21%	0%	166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	28%	10%	30%	31%		121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	39%	12%	24%	24%	1%	172
	<b>West</b>	23%	21%	33%	23%		153
	<b>South Central</b>	40%	14%	26%	19%	1%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	34%	11%	30%	25%		201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	31%	14%	32%	23%		249
	<b>No</b>	34%	11%	24%	30%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	35%	12%	35%	15%	2%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	39%	19%	19%	22%		69
	<b>No</b>	33%	13%	29%	25%	0%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	27%	25%	31%	17%	1%	61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	29%	16%	31%	24%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	24%	18%	36%	22%		106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	29%	10%	34%	27%		130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	41%	13%	26%	20%	0%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	31%	10%	41%	19%		45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	20%	21%	30%	28%	0%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	34%	13%	28%	25%		206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	40%	11%	27%	22%	0%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	37%	12%	37%	14%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	29%	15%	32%	24%	1%	213
	<b>45-64</b>	38%	13%	25%	24%		321
	<b>65 and older</b>	34%	16%	20%	29%	1%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	44%	8%	30%	18%		168
	<b>Suburban</b>	36%	13%	25%	26%	0%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	32%	15%	32%	21%		148
	<b>Small town</b>	21%	20%	32%	26%	1%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	35%	15%	31%	19%		314
	<b>Republican</b>	36%	12%	30%	22%	1%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	31%	14%	28%	27%		87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q13. Setting academic standards? (Do you think the state government or the federal government should have responsibility for setting academic standards?)						Total
		State government	Federal government	Both equally (vol)	Neither (vol)	Don't know	No answer	
Gender	Male	63%	29%	5%	1%	1%	0%	347
	Female	56%	27%	11%	3%	3%	1%	460
Race	White	60%	29%	7%	2%	1%	0%	609
	Non-white	56%	26%	11%	3%	4%	0%	166
Region	Northwest	54%	32%	9%	3%	2%	0%	121
	Northern VA	56%	34%	6%	1%	2%	1%	172
	West	58%	24%	15%	1%	3%		153
	South Central	59%	27%	8%	4%	2%	0%	159
	Tidewater	69%	22%	5%	2%	3%		201
Children in public school?	Yes	55%	35%	5%	4%	1%		249
	No	62%	26%	11%		1%		36
School employee in household?	Yes, respondent	70%	20%	4%	3%		4%	65
	Yes, other	72%	19%	8%		2%		69
	No	57%	30%	9%	2%	2%	0%	671
Family income	Under \$20,000	65%	15%	9%	6%	5%	1%	61
	\$20,000- \$34,999	51%	30%	14%	2%	3%		70
	\$35,000- \$49,999	49%	39%	5%	1%	5%		106
	\$50,000- \$69,999	61%	27%	8%	2%	1%	0%	130
	\$70,000 and above	61%	31%	6%	2%		1%	318
Education	No high school diploma	44%	35%	11%	2%	6%	1%	45
	High school diploma	46%	35%	12%	3%	4%	0%	166
	Some college	64%	25%	6%	4%	1%		206
	College graduate or more	65%	26%	7%	1%	2%	0%	383
Age	18-29	55%	38%	4%	3%			87
	30-44	50%	37%	10%	2%	2%		213
	45-64	66%	22%	7%	2%	3%	1%	321
	65 and older	67%	14%	12%	2%	5%	0%	157
Place where live	Urban	69%	22%	5%	1%	2%	0%	168
	Suburban	57%	31%	8%	1%	2%	1%	296
	Rural	61%	30%	7%	1%	1%		148
	Small town	55%	26%	13%	5%	1%		175
Party identification	Democrat	58%	27%	8%	2%	4%	1%	314
	Republican	63%	29%	5%	2%	1%		315
	Independent	58%	33%	7%	0%	2%		87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q14. Testing to measure student achievement? (Do you think the state government or the federal government should have responsibility for setting academic standards?)						Total
		State government	Federal government	Both equally (vol)	Neither (vol)	Don't know	No answer	
Gender	Male	70%	21%	5%	3%	1%	1%	347
	Female	65%	21%	8%	3%	3%	0%	460
Race	White	69%	21%	5%	3%	2%	0%	609
	Non-white	63%	22%	10%	2%	2%	2%	166
Region	Northwest	56%	26%	10%	5%	2%	1%	121
	Northern VA	67%	25%	5%	3%		1%	172
	West	62%	19%	12%	2%	6%		153
	South Central	70%	18%	4%	5%	2%	0%	159
	Tidewater	78%	16%	3%	1%	1%	1%	201
Children in public school?	Yes	65%	25%	5%	3%	0%	1%	249
	No	71%	14%	15%				36
School employee in household?	Yes, respondent	68%	17%	4%	10%	1%	1%	65
	Yes, other	73%	21%	6%				69
	No	67%	21%	7%	2%	2%	1%	671
Family income	Under \$20,000	59%	25%	10%		5%	1%	61
	\$20,000- \$34,999	64%	21%	10%	2%	2%		70
	\$35,000- \$49,999	71%	21%	2%	3%	3%		106
	\$50,000- \$69,999	67%	22%	9%	1%		1%	130
	\$70,000 and above	67%	23%	5%	4%	0%	1%	318
Education	No high school diploma	54%	27%	8%	2%	8%	1%	45
	High school diploma	61%	23%	9%	1%	5%	1%	166
	Some college	72%	21%	5%	2%	0%		206
	College graduate or more	70%	20%	5%	3%	1%	1%	383
Age	18-29	69%	24%	4%	1%	1%		87
	30-44	62%	24%	7%	4%	1%	1%	213
	45-64	68%	21%	6%	3%	1%	0%	321
	65 and older	71%	13%	8%	1%	5%	2%	157
Place where live	Urban	73%	16%	6%	1%	1%	3%	168
	Suburban	67%	23%	5%	4%	0%	0%	296
	Rural	72%	16%	6%	3%	3%	1%	148
	Small town	60%	27%	10%	1%	2%		175
Party identification	Democrat	67%	22%	6%	3%	2%	0%	314
	Republican	70%	20%	5%	3%	1%	1%	315
	Independent	69%	22%	3%	2%	2%	1%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q15. Funding? (Do you think the state government or the federal government should have responsibility for setting academic standards?)						Total
		State government	Federal government	Both equally (vol)	Neither (vol)	Don't know	No answer	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	56%	26%	16%	1%	2%	0%	347
	<b>Female</b>	55%	20%	21%	0%	3%	0%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	62%	18%	18%	1%	2%		609
	<b>Non-white</b>	38%	39%	19%		4%	0%	166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	55%	15%	27%		2%	0%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	57%	20%	20%	1%	3%		172
	<b>West</b>	49%	25%	23%	1%	2%		153
	<b>South Central</b>	56%	23%	17%	1%	3%	0%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	59%	27%	11%		3%		201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	53%	26%	18%	0%	2%		249
	<b>No</b>	42%	29%	28%		1%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	55%	17%	26%			1%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	60%	23%	16%				69
	<b>No</b>	55%	23%	18%	1%	3%	0%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	44%	34%	20%		1%	1%	61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	38%	30%	22%	1%	9%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	49%	33%	12%	1%	5%		106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	58%	20%	22%			0%	130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	63%	20%	16%	1%	0%		318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	26%	51%	10%	1%	11%	1%	45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	44%	28%	26%		2%	0%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	62%	23%	13%	1%	1%		206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	61%	17%	19%	0%	2%		383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	45%	36%	15%		4%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	48%	29%	20%	0%	3%		213
	<b>45-64</b>	62%	17%	19%	1%	2%	0%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	65%	12%	18%	1%	4%	0%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	60%	18%	17%	1%	3%	0%	168
	<b>Suburban</b>	56%	23%	20%	0%	1%	0%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	58%	21%	17%	1%	3%		148
	<b>Small town</b>	48%	32%	18%	1%	1%		175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	48%	31%	19%		2%		314
	<b>Republican</b>	66%	17%	14%	1%	2%		315
	<b>Independent</b>	54%	25%	18%	0%	3%		87



**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q16. The federal government needs to make sure that states are held accountable for school performance. (Do you Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Somewhat Disagree, or Strongly Disagree?)						Total
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No answer	
Gender	Male	48%	31%	9%	10%	1%		347
	Female	51%	32%	9%	5%	3%	0%	460
Race	White	46%	32%	10%	10%	1%	0%	609
	Non-white	59%	28%	7%	3%	4%	0%	166
Region	Northwest	46%	39%	7%	8%	0%		121
	Northern VA	47%	32%	11%	8%	3%		172
	West	52%	37%	4%	6%	1%	0%	153
	South Central	48%	30%	10%	7%	4%		159
	Tidewater	54%	25%	11%	9%	2%	0%	201
Children in public school?	Yes	52%	33%	10%	3%	3%	0%	249
	No	51%	24%	9%	15%	1%		36
School employee in household?	Yes, respondent	51%	27%	13%	6%	2%		65
	Yes, other	51%	36%	6%	7%		1%	69
	No	50%	32%	9%	8%	2%	0%	671
Family income	Under \$20,000	57%	21%	15%	6%		1%	61
	\$20,000- \$34,999	54%	31%	9%	2%	2%	1%	70
	\$35,000- \$49,999	54%	26%	10%	8%	2%	1%	106
	\$50,000- \$69,999	51%	35%	7%	5%	1%		130
	\$70,000 and above	49%	31%	9%	10%	1%		318
Education	No high school diploma	49%	28%	9%	6%	7%		45
	High school diploma	56%	30%	6%	4%	3%	1%	166
	Some college	51%	31%	10%	8%	0%	0%	206
	College graduate or more	46%	33%	10%	9%	2%		383
Age	18-29	50%	33%	13%	2%	2%		87
	30-44	56%	30%	4%	8%	2%		213
	45-64	47%	33%	11%	7%	1%	0%	321
	65 and older	42%	29%	9%	15%	3%	0%	157
Place where live	Urban	42%	33%	10%	13%	3%		168
	Suburban	50%	33%	9%	6%	1%	0%	296
	Rural	53%	29%	8%	9%	1%	1%	148
	Small town	56%	30%	8%	5%	1%		175
Party identification	Democrat	51%	29%	12%	5%	2%	0%	314
	Republican	49%	33%	7%	9%	1%		315
	Independent	48%	31%	8%	12%	2%		87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q17. State governments know more about the needs of students and schools in their state than the federal government does. (Do you Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Somewhat Disagree, or Strongly Disagree?)						Total
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No answer	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	62%	28%	4%	3%	3%	0%	347
	<b>Female</b>	62%	25%	6%	3%	4%	1%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	61%	28%	4%	3%	3%	1%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	67%	19%	7%	1%	5%		166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	64%	25%	5%	4%	2%	1%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	63%	26%	8%		3%	1%	172
	<b>West</b>	57%	27%	5%	6%	5%	1%	153
	<b>South Central</b>	59%	32%	4%	2%	3%	1%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	69%	23%	2%	3%	4%		201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	62%	27%	4%	4%	3%		249
	<b>No</b>	57%	28%	6%	8%	1%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	60%	24%	8%	4%	3%		65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	72%	25%		2%	2%		69
	<b>No</b>	62%	27%	5%	3%	3%	1%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	74%	10%	11%	3%	1%	1%	61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	50%	39%	4%	3%	5%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	64%	25%	2%	3%	5%		106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	59%	33%	5%	1%	2%		130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	62%	26%	6%	3%	1%	1%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	53%	37%	1%	2%	5%	3%	45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	65%	24%	6%	1%	5%		166
	<b>Some college</b>	62%	27%	4%	5%	2%		206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	63%	26%	6%	3%	2%	1%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	63%	28%	3%	1%	5%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	61%	28%	5%	3%	3%		213
	<b>45-64</b>	63%	23%	8%	4%	2%		321
	<b>65 and older</b>	64%	26%	2%	2%	4%	2%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	65%	26%	5%	2%	1%	1%	168
	<b>Suburban</b>	62%	27%	5%	2%	4%		296
	<b>Rural</b>	62%	24%	4%	7%	2%		148
	<b>Small town</b>	62%	27%	6%	0%	4%	1%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	63%	25%	6%	2%	4%		314
	<b>Republican</b>	64%	27%	4%	2%	2%	1%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	65%	19%	6%	7%	1%	2%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q18a. Funding. (Do you believe the 2006 mid-term Congressional elections will have a Positive Impact, Negative Impact or No Impact?)					Total
		Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact	Don't know	No answer	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	34%	11%	44%	10%	1%	347
	<b>Female</b>	36%	10%	31%	21%	2%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	32%	11%	41%	15%	1%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	42%	9%	31%	16%	1%	166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	34%	7%	40%	18%	2%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	36%	10%	38%	15%	1%	172
	<b>West</b>	39%	11%	33%	16%	1%	153
	<b>South Central</b>	36%	13%	34%	15%	2%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	30%	10%	42%	16%	2%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	33%	11%	38%	17%	1%	249
	<b>No</b>	32%	15%	37%	16%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	50%	11%	25%	11%	3%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	34%	13%	38%	15%	1%	69
	<b>No</b>	34%	10%	38%	16%	1%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	32%	14%	38%	13%	3%	61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	51%	12%	23%	14%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	41%	10%	36%	13%		106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	33%	12%	35%	20%	0%	130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	31%	8%	48%	11%	1%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	48%	14%	19%	17%	1%	45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	39%	7%	32%	20%	2%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	38%	13%	33%	14%	1%	206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	29%	10%	46%	15%	1%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	45%	8%	30%	17%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	27%	12%	43%	18%		213
	<b>45-64</b>	40%	13%	36%	10%	2%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	30%	7%	41%	20%	2%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	33%	12%	40%	14%	1%	168
	<b>Suburban</b>	36%	9%	36%	19%	1%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	36%	11%	41%	10%	2%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	33%	14%	37%	15%	1%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	49%	7%	29%	14%	1%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	24%	14%	47%	14%	1%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	27%	8%	43%	18%	4%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		<b>Q18b. Implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act. (Do you believe the 2006 mid-term Congressional elections will have a Positive Impact, Negative Impact or No Impact?)</b>					<b>Total</b>
		<b>Positive impact</b>	<b>Negative impact</b>	<b>No impact</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>No answer</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	29%	18%	41%	11%	1%	347
	<b>Female</b>	38%	14%	30%	16%	2%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	30%	16%	40%	13%	2%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	43%	15%	25%	15%	1%	166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	36%	10%	33%	15%	7%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	32%	19%	34%	15%	1%	172
	<b>West</b>	40%	13%	34%	12%	1%	153
	<b>South Central</b>	29%	17%	37%	17%	1%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	34%	18%	37%	10%	1%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	34%	16%	37%	11%	1%	249
	<b>No</b>	25%	23%	34%	14%	3%	36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	34%	19%	35%	8%	4%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	40%	20%	29%	11%		69
	<b>No</b>	33%	15%	36%	14%	2%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	48%	10%	24%	11%	7%	61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	49%	14%	27%	10%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	36%	18%	32%	13%	1%	106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	33%	12%	36%	18%		130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	27%	18%	44%	9%	1%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	55%	19%	10%	15%	1%	45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	48%	9%	25%	16%	3%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	33%	16%	36%	14%	1%	206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	24%	19%	44%	12%	1%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	37%	20%	26%	16%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	33%	15%	38%	13%	2%	213
	<b>45-64</b>	33%	15%	39%	12%	2%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	33%	16%	35%	14%	1%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	27%	18%	40%	14%	1%	168
	<b>Suburban</b>	34%	17%	35%	13%	1%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	31%	15%	42%	11%	1%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	41%	16%	28%	12%	3%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	42%	16%	28%	13%	1%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	24%	20%	43%	12%	2%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	26%	10%	48%	12%	4%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q18c. School Safety. (Do you believe the 2006 mid-term Congressional elections will have a Positive Impact, Negative Impact or No Impact?)					Total
		Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact	Don't know	No answer	
Gender	Male	33%	10%	48%	9%	0%	347
	Female	44%	6%	37%	11%	1%	460
Race	White	33%	8%	47%	11%	1%	609
	Non-white	56%	8%	29%	7%	1%	166
Region	Northwest	35%	7%	47%	11%	0%	121
	Northern VA	38%	6%	46%	10%		172
	West	48%	8%	35%	9%	1%	153
	South Central	39%	10%	38%	13%	1%	159
	Tidewater	35%	9%	45%	9%	2%	201
Children in public school?	Yes	38%	5%	46%	10%	1%	249
	No	34%	11%	42%	11%	2%	36
School employee in household?	Yes, respondent	38%	5%	50%	6%	1%	65
	Yes, other	41%	8%	43%	8%	1%	69
	No	39%	8%	42%	11%	1%	671
Family income	Under \$20,000	51%	6%	32%	9%	1%	61
	\$20,000- \$34,999	59%	9%	20%	10%	2%	70
	\$35,000- \$49,999	44%	10%	39%	6%		106
	\$50,000- \$69,999	39%	7%	45%	10%		130
	\$70,000 and above	30%	6%	54%	10%	0%	318
Education	No high school diploma	64%	17%	7%	9%	2%	45
	High school diploma	53%	9%	28%	8%	2%	166
	Some college	45%	8%	38%	9%	0%	206
	College graduate or more	25%	6%	57%	12%		383
Age	18-29	54%	10%	28%	8%	1%	87
	30-44	32%	4%	50%	13%	1%	213
	45-64	37%	11%	44%	8%	0%	321
	65 and older	38%	7%	44%	9%	2%	157
Place where live	Urban	37%	7%	45%	11%	1%	168
	Suburban	35%	6%	47%	11%	1%	296
	Rural	42%	13%	40%	4%	1%	148
	Small town	42%	8%	39%	11%	0%	175
Party identification	Democrat	51%	5%	37%	8%	1%	314
	Republican	27%	12%	50%	11%	1%	315
	Independent	31%	8%	50%	11%		87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q18d. Student health and nutrition.(Do you believe the 2006 mid-term Congressional elections will have a Positive Impact, Negative Impact or No Impact?)					Total
		Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact	Don't know	No answer	
Gender	Male	34%	13%	45%	8%	0%	347
	Female	50%	5%	32%	12%	0%	460
Race	White	38%	8%	43%	11%	0%	609
	Non-white	53%	12%	25%	9%	0%	166
Region	Northwest	41%	8%	39%	11%	1%	121
	Northern VA	43%	5%	41%	11%		172
	West	47%	11%	32%	10%		153
	South Central	39%	13%	33%	13%	1%	159
	Tidewater	40%	10%	43%	8%		201
Children in public school?	Yes	43%	9%	39%	9%		249
	No	36%	16%	31%	16%		36
School employee in household?	Yes, respondent	46%	7%	42%	4%	1%	65
	Yes, other	41%	9%	41%	9%		69
	No	42%	9%	37%	11%	0%	671
Family income	Under \$20,000	49%	10%	33%	7%	1%	61
	\$20,000- \$34,999	60%	14%	15%	9%	1%	70
	\$35,000- \$49,999	38%	16%	36%	10%		106
	\$50,000- \$69,999	40%	5%	46%	10%		130
	\$70,000 and above	40%	7%	44%	9%		318
Education	No high school diploma	64%	16%	6%	13%	1%	45
	High school diploma	47%	11%	32%	9%	0%	166
	Some college	43%	12%	33%	11%		206
	College graduate or more	36%	5%	49%	10%	0%	383
Age	18-29	40%	17%	32%	11%		87
	30-44	40%	5%	43%	12%		213
	45-64	43%	9%	40%	8%	0%	321
	65 and older	45%	7%	36%	10%	2%	157
Place where live	Urban	41%	12%	37%	10%		168
	Suburban	40%	8%	41%	11%	0%	296
	Rural	38%	9%	44%	8%	1%	148
	Small town	45%	10%	34%	11%	0%	175
Party identification	Democrat	54%	9%	28%	9%	0%	314
	Republican	30%	11%	50%	10%	0%	315
	Independent	37%	4%	45%	13%	1%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q19. In providing skills that will be useful in obtaining a job? (Do you think the public schools in Virginia have gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed the same during the past five years in providing this skill?)					Total
		Gotten better	Gotten worse	Stayed the same	Don't know	No answer	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	30%	19%	40%	10%	1%	347
	<b>Female</b>	30%	19%	36%	15%	0%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	29%	18%	39%	13%	1%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	33%	23%	34%	10%		166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	30%	15%	38%	16%	1%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	29%	18%	35%	16%	2%	172
	<b>West</b>	37%	18%	36%	9%		153
	<b>South Central</b>	34%	17%	37%	11%		159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	21%	26%	44%	9%	1%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	35%	13%	41%	11%	1%	249
	<b>No</b>	15%	39%	30%	16%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	35%	30%	26%	8%	1%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	38%	11%	35%	14%	2%	69
	<b>No</b>	29%	19%	39%	13%	1%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	28%	19%	48%	5%		61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	35%	29%	30%	6%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	36%	13%	37%	14%	1%	106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	36%	23%	30%	11%		130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	25%	19%	41%	14%	1%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	33%	22%	41%	4%		45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	36%	15%	36%	12%		166
	<b>Some college</b>	37%	21%	31%	11%		206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	22%	19%	43%	14%	2%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	31%	20%	39%	10%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	29%	18%	35%	15%	2%	213
	<b>45-64</b>	29%	23%	40%	8%		321
	<b>65 and older</b>	31%	14%	39%	15%	1%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	29%	21%	37%	14%		168
	<b>Suburban</b>	24%	19%	41%	15%	1%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	38%	26%	28%	7%	2%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	35%	16%	39%	10%		175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	28%	20%	40%	11%	1%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	32%	15%	39%	13%	1%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	28%	33%	31%	7%	1%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q20. In teaching the basics such as reading, writing, and mathematics? (Do you think the public schools in Virginia have gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed the same during the past five years in providing this skill?)					Total
		Gotten better	Gotten worse	Stayed the same	Don't know	No answer	
Gender	Male	38%	17%	36%	8%	1%	347
	Female	38%	16%	35%	11%	0%	460
Race	White	38%	17%	35%	10%	1%	609
	Non-white	42%	17%	33%	9%		166
Region	Northwest	44%	12%	31%	13%		121
	Northern VA	37%	18%	31%	13%	1%	172
	West	47%	15%	31%	7%	1%	153
	South Central	39%	18%	34%	9%		159
	Tidewater	30%	18%	46%	6%	1%	201
Children in public school?	Yes	46%	11%	36%	7%	0%	249
	No	24%	31%	37%	9%		36
School employee in household?	Yes, respondent	55%	13%	27%	4%	1%	65
	Yes, other	47%	16%	24%	11%	1%	69
	No	36%	17%	37%	10%	0%	671
Family income	Under \$20,000	32%	13%	50%	5%		61
	\$20,000- \$34,999	40%	15%	40%	4%	1%	70
	\$35,000- \$49,999	40%	14%	29%	17%	1%	106
	\$50,000- \$69,999	38%	17%	38%	7%		130
	\$70,000 and above	39%	17%	33%	10%	1%	318
Education	No high school diploma	36%	16%	42%	5%	2%	45
	High school diploma	43%	11%	39%	7%		166
	Some college	36%	19%	36%	10%		206
	College graduate or more	38%	18%	32%	11%	1%	383
Age	18-29	35%	15%	41%	10%		87
	30-44	43%	12%	31%	13%	1%	213
	45-64	37%	21%	35%	7%		321
	65 and older	39%	18%	34%	7%	1%	157
Place where live	Urban	35%	17%	37%	10%		168
	Suburban	34%	16%	37%	12%	1%	296
	Rural	40%	20%	35%	5%	1%	148
	Small town	47%	14%	30%	8%	1%	175
Party identification	Democrat	39%	18%	34%	9%	0%	314
	Republican	37%	15%	37%	10%	1%	315
	Independent	39%	15%	39%	6%	1%	87



**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q21. In providing the skills needed for pursuing a four-year college degree? (Do you think the public schools in Virginia have gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed the same during the past five years in providing this skill?)					Total
		Gotten better	Gotten worse	Stayed the same	Don't know	No answer	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	37%	13%	41%	10%	0%	347
	<b>Female</b>	35%	17%	33%	14%	0%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	36%	13%	38%	12%	1%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	36%	20%	34%	11%		166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	39%	10%	35%	16%		121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	37%	11%	36%	16%	0%	172
	<b>West</b>	46%	10%	32%	12%	0%	153
	<b>South Central</b>	37%	19%	35%	8%	1%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	25%	23%	43%	8%	1%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	37%	11%	41%	11%		249
	<b>No</b>	17%	38%	29%	16%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	49%	10%	33%	7%	1%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	40%	14%	39%	8%		69
	<b>No</b>	34%	15%	37%	13%	0%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	36%	12%	43%	8%		61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	39%	18%	35%	7%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	40%	12%	34%	13%	1%	106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	35%	18%	37%	10%		130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	36%	13%	38%	13%	0%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	40%	11%	37%	12%		45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	36%	9%	44%	10%	0%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	39%	21%	31%	9%	0%	206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	33%	15%	38%	15%	0%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	38%	14%	36%	12%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	36%	11%	36%	16%	1%	213
	<b>45-64</b>	30%	20%	41%	9%		321
	<b>65 and older</b>	42%	15%	32%	10%	1%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	36%	18%	35%	11%		168
	<b>Suburban</b>	31%	14%	41%	14%	0%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	39%	20%	34%	6%	1%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	44%	10%	34%	12%	0%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	34%	17%	38%	10%	0%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	39%	13%	37%	11%	1%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	36%	14%	39%	11%		87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q22. In the last 5 years, do you believe your school board's actions have increased the efficiency of school operations? (Yes, No, Don't Know)				Total
		Yes	No	Don't know	Refused	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	38%	35%	26%	1%	347
	<b>Female</b>	39%	33%	27%	1%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	38%	36%	26%	1%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	40%	32%	27%		166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	51%	27%	22%		121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	32%	35%	33%	1%	172
	<b>West</b>	43%	35%	22%	0%	153
	<b>South Central</b>	39%	31%	28%	2%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	36%	40%	23%	1%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	46%	31%	22%	1%	249
	<b>No</b>	26%	29%	45%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	44%	43%	12%	2%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	37%	39%	22%	2%	69
	<b>No</b>	38%	33%	28%	1%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	45%	33%	21%	1%	61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	45%	31%	24%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	31%	37%	30%	1%	106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	38%	37%	24%	0%	130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	38%	35%	26%	1%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	58%	22%	21%		45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	34%	34%	31%	1%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	44%	31%	24%	0%	206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	34%	39%	26%	1%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	38%	32%	30%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	42%	26%	31%	1%	213
	<b>45-64</b>	34%	42%	22%	1%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	42%	33%	23%	1%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	32%	39%	28%	1%	168
	<b>Suburban</b>	34%	33%	32%	1%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	42%	31%	24%	2%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	48%	35%	17%	0%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	39%	35%	25%	1%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	40%	33%	26%	1%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	32%	47%	21%		87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		<b>Q23. In the last 5 years, do you believe your school board's actions have improved student achievement?</b>				<b>Total</b>
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>Refused</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	43%	36%	19%	2%	347
	<b>Female</b>	43%	34%	22%	0%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	41%	37%	21%	1%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	48%	30%	20%	1%	166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	47%	30%	22%	1%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	42%	32%	25%	1%	172
	<b>West</b>	49%	32%	19%	1%	153
	<b>South Central</b>	47%	32%	21%	0%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	36%	45%	17%	2%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	48%	33%	18%	1%	249
	<b>No</b>	23%	50%	27%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	50%	39%	9%	1%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	44%	32%	24%		69
	<b>No</b>	42%	35%	22%	1%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	48%	26%	26%		61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	46%	33%	21%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	40%	35%	25%	1%	106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	51%	32%	15%	1%	130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	42%	38%	19%	2%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	48%	24%	29%		45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	46%	35%	19%	0%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	45%	35%	20%		206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	40%	37%	21%	2%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	45%	33%	22%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	45%	28%	25%	3%	213
	<b>45-64</b>	40%	44%	15%		321
	<b>65 and older</b>	46%	32%	21%	1%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	39%	38%	23%	0%	168
	<b>Suburban</b>	40%	34%	25%	2%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	47%	39%	12%	3%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	50%	33%	17%		175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	48%	33%	19%	1%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	42%	38%	20%	1%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	35%	38%	23%	4%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q24. In the last 5 years, do you believe your school board's actions have made public schools safer?				Total
		Yes	No	Don't know	Refused	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	56%	33%	11%	1%	347
	<b>Female</b>	54%	30%	16%	1%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	54%	32%	13%	1%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	59%	28%	13%		166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	59%	26%	13%	2%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	51%	25%	23%	1%	172
	<b>West</b>	62%	28%	10%		153
	<b>South Central</b>	50%	42%	8%	0%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	55%	36%	9%	1%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	60%	29%	12%		249
	<b>No</b>	53%	28%	19%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	63%	23%	12%	1%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	49%	38%	13%		69
	<b>No</b>	55%	31%	13%	1%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	69%	23%	8%		61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	58%	36%	5%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	52%	31%	16%	1%	106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	59%	27%	14%	0%	130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	52%	32%	15%	1%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	61%	34%	5%		45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	56%	33%	10%	0%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	60%	30%	10%		206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	50%	31%	18%	1%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	55%	30%	14%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	58%	25%	16%	1%	213
	<b>45-64</b>	51%	38%	11%		321
	<b>65 and older</b>	57%	30%	12%	2%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	50%	38%	12%	0%	168
	<b>Suburban</b>	54%	30%	15%	1%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	56%	32%	10%	2%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	61%	25%	14%		175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	55%	32%	12%	1%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	56%	31%	13%	0%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	51%	34%	14%	1%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q25. In the last 5 years, do you believe your school board's actions have enhanced the recruitment of highly qualified school leaders?				Total
		Yes	No	Don't know	Refused	
Gender	Male	39%	41%	19%	0%	347
	Female	41%	35%	24%	0%	460
Race	White	37%	40%	22%	1%	609
	Non-white	48%	32%	20%		166
Region	Northwest	45%	31%	24%	1%	121
	Northern VA	34%	35%	31%	1%	172
	West	37%	46%	17%	0%	153
	South Central	47%	37%	16%		159
	Tidewater	40%	41%	18%	1%	201
Children in public school?	Yes	45%	34%	21%		249
	No	25%	56%	19%		36
School employee in household?	Yes, respondent	54%	30%	15%	1%	65
	Yes, other	39%	36%	25%		69
	No	39%	39%	22%	0%	671
Family income	Under \$20,000	46%	33%	19%	1%	61
	\$20,000- \$34,999	46%	36%	18%		70
	\$35,000- \$49,999	41%	33%	26%		106
	\$50,000- \$69,999	36%	46%	18%		130
	\$70,000 and above	40%	38%	21%	1%	318
Education	No high school diploma	59%	31%	10%		45
	High school diploma	40%	38%	22%		166
	Some college	43%	39%	18%		206
	College graduate or more	35%	39%	25%	1%	383
Age	18-29	39%	41%	19%		87
	30-44	38%	38%	23%	1%	213
	45-64	38%	39%	23%	1%	321
	65 and older	48%	34%	18%		157
Place where live	Urban	37%	41%	22%		168
	Suburban	39%	35%	25%	1%	296
	Rural	42%	40%	16%	1%	148
	Small town	40%	42%	18%		175
Party identification	Democrat	42%	37%	21%	0%	314
	Republican	40%	39%	20%	1%	315
	Independent	37%	46%	17%		87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q26. To the best of your knowledge, does your school division offer public school preschool programs?			Total
		Yes	No	Don't know	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	63%	14%	24%	347
	<b>Female</b>	67%	17%	15%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	64%	18%	18%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	67%	11%	22%	166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	63%	22%	15%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	56%	20%	23%	172
	<b>West</b>	86%	5%	9%	153
	<b>South Central</b>	60%	13%	27%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	66%	14%	20%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	63%	22%	15%	249
	<b>No</b>	69%	10%	20%	36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	74%	12%	14%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	71%	10%	19%	69
	<b>No</b>	64%	16%	20%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	75%	6%	19%	61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	64%	23%	13%	70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	67%	11%	22%	106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	69%	14%	17%	130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	62%	20%	19%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	61%	13%	26%	45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	68%	14%	18%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	74%	11%	15%	206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	60%	20%	21%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	64%	15%	21%	87
	<b>30-44</b>	61%	20%	20%	213
	<b>45-64</b>	68%	16%	16%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	70%	7%	23%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	63%	16%	21%	168
	<b>Suburban</b>	57%	19%	24%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	75%	10%	14%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	74%	13%	13%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	70%	16%	14%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	60%	18%	23%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	61%	12%	28%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q27. Do you believe that preschool programs improve student performance?				Total
		Yes	No	Don't know	Refused	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	82%	10%	7%	0%	347
	<b>Female</b>	85%	8%	6%	0%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	84%	10%	6%	0%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	84%	8%	8%	0%	166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	88%	6%	5%	0%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	83%	6%	10%	0%	172
	<b>West</b>	84%	9%	6%		153
	<b>South Central</b>	80%	15%	4%	1%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	83%	10%	6%	0%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	88%	8%	4%		249
	<b>No</b>	61%	31%	8%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	83%	6%	8%	2%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	86%	8%	5%	1%	69
	<b>No</b>	84%	10%	7%	0%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	84%	10%	4%	1%	61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	94%	2%	4%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	79%	14%	7%		106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	86%	9%	5%	1%	130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	86%	8%	5%	0%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	85%	5%	10%	1%	45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	81%	11%	7%	0%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	85%	9%	7%		206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	84%	9%	6%	1%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	76%	16%	8%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	86%	8%	5%		213
	<b>45-64</b>	86%	5%	8%	1%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	81%	12%	5%	1%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	82%	12%	7%		168
	<b>Suburban</b>	85%	8%	7%	1%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	84%	9%	6%	0%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	83%	10%	6%		175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	86%	7%	6%	0%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	82%	13%	5%	0%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	83%	8%	9%	1%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		Q28. Who should pay for preschool programs? The federal government, state government, local governments, or private consumers (parents)?							Total
		Federal government	State government	Local government	Private consumers (parents)	Other (vol)	Don't know	No answer	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	19%	28%	14%	26%	8%	3%	1%	347
	<b>Female</b>	22%	32%	10%	22%	9%	4%	0%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	14%	32%	11%	30%	9%	3%	1%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	38%	25%	14%	11%	7%	4%		166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	21%	28%	7%	29%	10%	4%		121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	21%	27%	13%	25%	9%	4%	0%	172
	<b>West</b>	25%	33%	11%	15%	11%	6%		153
	<b>South Central</b>	21%	26%	13%	28%	9%	2%	1%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	17%	35%	15%	24%	5%	3%	2%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	23%	27%	14%	25%	8%	3%	2%	249
	<b>No</b>	10%	19%	5%	50%	15%	1%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	30%	30%	10%	16%	13%			65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	24%	26%	4%	28%	13%	3%	2%	69
	<b>No</b>	19%	30%	13%	25%	8%	4%	1%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	26%	25%	16%	17%	10%	5%	1%	61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	20%	39%	12%	18%	5%	5%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	26%	28%	15%	18%	7%	5%		106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	31%	27%	10%	24%	7%	1%		130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	15%	31%	13%	30%	10%	1%	1%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	24%	31%	12%	18%	7%	8%		45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	28%	31%	13%	15%	7%	5%	0%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	26%	30%	10%	25%	7%	1%	1%	206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	14%	29%	14%	29%	10%	3%	1%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	22%	22%	16%	33%	2%	4%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	23%	29%	12%	24%	9%	3%	1%	213
	<b>45-64</b>	20%	30%	12%	25%	11%	2%	1%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	17%	38%	11%	16%	9%	8%	0%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	22%	32%	9%	25%	7%	4%	1%	168
	<b>Suburban</b>	20%	28%	13%	28%	9%	2%	1%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	17%	32%	10%	28%	9%	5%	1%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	25%	30%	17%	16%	8%	3%	1%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	28%	32%	11%	14%	11%	3%	1%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	11%	27%	15%	38%	6%	2%	1%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	27%	21%	15%	25%	7%	6%		87



**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		<b>Q29. To the best of your knowledge, would the addition or expansion of preschool programs in your school district require funding to build or expand facilities for additional space?</b>				<b>Total</b>
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>Refused</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	63%	14%	22%	1%	347
	<b>Female</b>	65%	14%	21%	0%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	63%	16%	20%	0%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	67%	6%	26%	1%	166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	67%	15%	17%	1%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	63%	12%	25%		172
	<b>West</b>	60%	18%	22%	1%	153
	<b>South Central</b>	65%	12%	22%	1%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	67%	12%	21%		201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	72%	13%	14%	0%	249
	<b>No</b>	44%	28%	28%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	74%	18%	7%	1%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	62%	16%	22%		69
	<b>No</b>	63%	13%	23%	0%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	48%	15%	36%	1%	61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	65%	19%	14%	1%	70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	60%	16%	25%		106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	69%	13%	18%		130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	69%	13%	18%		318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	58%	16%	26%	1%	45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	57%	11%	30%	1%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	67%	14%	19%		206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	67%	14%	18%	0%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	66%	13%	21%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	72%	8%	20%		213
	<b>45-64</b>	68%	15%	16%	1%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	44%	24%	31%	1%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	58%	17%	26%		168
	<b>Suburban</b>	69%	10%	20%	0%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	63%	21%	15%	1%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	64%	12%	24%	1%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	64%	14%	22%	0%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	65%	17%	18%	0%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	69%	11%	20%	1%	87

**2006 COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL**

		<b>Q30. Under Virginia law and regulations, licensure is required for persons serving as public school principals and superintendents. Do you believe licensure should be required for all persons serving as public school principals and school division superintendent</b>				<b>Total</b>
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>Refused</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	80%	15%	5%	0%	347
	<b>Female</b>	85%	8%	7%		460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	83%	11%	6%	0%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	81%	12%	7%		166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	80%	13%	5%	1%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	84%	11%	6%		172
	<b>West</b>	86%	8%	6%		153
	<b>South Central</b>	83%	10%	7%		159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	79%	14%	7%		201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	88%	8%	4%	0%	249
	<b>No</b>	75%	15%	10%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	86%	10%	3%	2%	65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	85%	11%	4%		69
	<b>No</b>	82%	11%	7%		671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	85%	7%	8%		61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	80%	12%	8%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	76%	16%	8%		106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	84%	13%	3%		130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	86%	10%	4%		318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	79%	10%	11%		45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	84%	9%	7%		166
	<b>Some college</b>	79%	12%	8%	1%	206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	85%	12%	4%		383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	83%	9%	8%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	85%	12%	4%		213
	<b>45-64</b>	84%	10%	5%	0%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	77%	13%	11%		157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	79%	14%	7%		168
	<b>Suburban</b>	85%	10%	5%		296
	<b>Rural</b>	82%	7%	10%	1%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	82%	15%	3%		175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	82%	11%	7%		314
	<b>Republican</b>	84%	10%	6%	0%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	80%	14%	6%		87

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		Q31. Should licensure authority rest with the state or local governments?				Total
		State governments	Local governments	Don't know	Refused	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	80%	17%	2%	1%	347
	<b>Female</b>	79%	18%	3%	1%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	83%	15%	2%	1%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	71%	24%	5%	1%	166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	78%	18%	4%		121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	80%	18%	2%		172
	<b>West</b>	78%	18%	1%	2%	153
	<b>South Central</b>	80%	14%	5%	1%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	83%	16%	1%	1%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	80%	18%	2%	0%	249
	<b>No</b>	71%	18%	11%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	87%	12%	1%		65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	85%	15%			69
	<b>No</b>	79%	18%	3%	1%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	72%	25%	3%		61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	81%	19%			70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	77%	21%	2%		106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	82%	17%	1%		130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	84%	13%	1%	1%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	54%	37%	8%		45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	79%	19%	2%		166
	<b>Some college</b>	77%	19%	3%		206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	85%	13%	2%	1%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	67%	30%	3%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	83%	14%	3%		213
	<b>45-64</b>	85%	13%	1%	1%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	77%	17%	3%	3%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	77%	20%	3%	1%	168
	<b>Suburban</b>	84%	14%	1%	0%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	82%	14%	3%	1%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	73%	24%	2%	1%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	82%	14%	4%	1%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	79%	19%	1%	1%	315
	<b>Independent</b>	70%	28%	1%		87

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		<b>Q32. Do you believe that such licensure requirements should be waived or altered for persons with experience as private sector or military leaders?</b>				
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	39%	56%	5%	1%	347
	<b>Female</b>	27%	61%	11%	1%	460
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	31%	61%	7%	1%	609
	<b>Non-white</b>	39%	49%	12%	0%	166
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	31%	61%	7%	1%	121
	<b>Northern VA</b>	34%	58%	7%	1%	172
	<b>West</b>	31%	56%	12%	1%	153
	<b>South Central</b>	34%	57%	7%	2%	159
	<b>Tidewater</b>	30%	63%	6%	0%	201
<b>Children in public school?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	36%	59%	5%	1%	249
	<b>No</b>	33%	56%	11%		36
<b>School employee in household?</b>	<b>Yes, respondent</b>	27%	65%	8%		65
	<b>Yes, other</b>	37%	51%	12%		69
	<b>No</b>	33%	59%	7%	1%	671
<b>Family income</b>	<b>Under \$20,000</b>	40%	48%	12%		61
	<b>\$20,000- \$34,999</b>	35%	56%	8%		70
	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	25%	61%	11%	3%	106
	<b>\$50,000- \$69,999</b>	33%	60%	7%	0%	130
	<b>\$70,000 and above</b>	33%	62%	5%	0%	318
<b>Education</b>	<b>No high school diploma</b>	55%	32%	13%		45
	<b>High school diploma</b>	17%	68%	13%	1%	166
	<b>Some college</b>	34%	60%	6%	1%	206
	<b>College graduate or more</b>	35%	59%	6%	1%	383
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-29</b>	32%	65%	3%		87
	<b>30-44</b>	33%	61%	5%	1%	213
	<b>45-64</b>	31%	62%	7%	0%	321
	<b>65 and older</b>	35%	40%	21%	4%	157
<b>Place where live</b>	<b>Urban</b>	36%	56%	6%	1%	168
	<b>Suburban</b>	30%	61%	8%	0%	296
	<b>Rural</b>	36%	57%	5%	2%	148
	<b>Small town</b>	32%	58%	9%	1%	175
<b>Party identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	35%	55%	9%	2%	314
	<b>Republican</b>	33%	60%	7%		315
	<b>Independent</b>	24%	68%	6%	2%	87