



## COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL

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*Conducted for the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute and  
sponsored in part by the Regional Educational Laboratory at AEL.  
Conducted by the VCU Center for Public Policy.*

### **Public Opinion in Virginia on Schools and Education** April 2004

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This report presents the full results from the 2004 Commonwealth Education Poll conducted with 803 adults in Virginia, March 3-10, 2004. The poll was conducted for the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute in the VCU School of Education. It was also sponsored in part by the Regional Educational Laboratory at AEL. The survey was conducted by the VCU Center for Public Policy. The following topics are addressed:

- I. Overall Evaluation of Schools
- II. School Funding
- III. No Child Left Behind Act: Federal and State Government Role in Education
- IV. SOL's and SOL tests
- V. Evaluation of Schools in Specific Areas
- VI. Method of the Commonwealth Education Poll
- VII. Questions Asked
- VIII. Tables of Results by Subgroups of Virginians

## **I. Overall Evaluation of Schools**

A majority of Virginians rate the education provided by the public schools as good while another 11 percent say it is excellent. Twenty-four percent say it is fair and just 5 percent say it is poor. Ratings were a bit more positive when evaluating the education provided in local community public schools. Twenty-one percent say schools in their community provide an excellent education and 43 percent say it is good. Twenty-two percent say it is fair and six percent say it is poor. When asked whether schools in the local community have gotten better, worse, or stayed the same over the past five years, just 14 percent think they've gotten worse. Nearly four in ten (39 percent) say schools have stayed the same and nearly three in ten (29 percent) say they've gotten better.

Opinion about the overall quality of education provided by the schools has been fairly stable over the past five years of Commonwealth Education Polls. Schools in the local community tend to be seen a bit more positively than schools across the state. Public schools, state-wide and in the local community, are evaluated positively by a majority of Virginians and nearly seven in ten (68 percent) think schools have either remained the same or improved over the past five years.

## **II. School Funding**

Budgetary pressures on state government have been particularly prominent in 2004. Public opinion related to funding for schools has been remarkably stable, however. A clear majority of Virginians (at 69 percent) believe that current funding for the schools is not enough to meet their needs while a fifth think funding is enough. Further, seven in ten believe that a funding cut to education would bring major changes to their local community schools, while 23 percent think schools could continue pretty much as they are now.

Respondents were asked which services in education could be cut without hurting the quality of education. No particular service dominated public thinking as something that could be cut without hurting the quality of education. Almost half (48 percent) said they didn't know what could be cut or gave no answer to the question. Nearly two in ten (19 percent) said that nothing could be cut without hurting the quality of education (19 percent). The remaining third gave a response. Of those providing a response, the most

frequent response related to extra-curricular activities such as sports and the fine arts, elective courses, or programs offered for special populations of children.

If state funding for education were cut, which services in education do you think could be reduced without hurting the quality of education?		Percent
Don't know		41%
No answer		7%
Nothing/Not anything		19%
Sports/Athletics		10%
Other extra-curricular/after school activities		5%
Music/Art		1%
Gym/Phys. Ed.		1%
Electives		1%
Administration/Administrative services		5%
Teachers assistants/Teachers		1%
Meals (school lunch/breakfast)		2%
Transportation		1%
SOL tests		1%
Computers/Computer classes		1%
Special programs/Gifted/AP/Alternative schools		1%
Special education		1%
Building and facilities		1%
Other		2%
Total		100%

As further evidence of public support for funding in education, nearly six in ten Virginians (57 percent) say they would be willing to pay higher taxes in order to increase school funding while 36 percent are not willing to do so. This finding is 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.

As expected, willingness to pay higher taxes is related to beliefs about current funding adequacy. Those who think current funds are not enough are much more willing to pay higher taxes than those who think current funds are enough.

		Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding could be increased?				Number of cases
		Willing	Not willing	Don't know	No answer	
	School funding is not enough	69%	25%	3%	3%	550
	School funding is enough	28%	66%	2%	3%	156
All respondents		57%	36%	4%	3%	803

Those who were willing to pay higher taxes were also asked which of four kinds of tax increases would be preferred. A majority of this group prefers a sales tax increase over income, personal property, or real estate tax increases. Of those willing to pay higher taxes for a school funding increase, 58 percent would prefer a sales tax increase, 13 percent would prefer to increase income taxes, 15 percent would prefer to increase property taxes, and 7 percent would prefer to increase personal property taxes.

These findings are consistent with past Commonwealth Education Poll reports. The sales tax has been the preferred mechanism for increasing taxes by a clear majority or plurality of respondents over the past four years.

A reported willingness to pay higher taxes in order to increase school funding is not the same thing as preferring a tax increase over other options. When asked to choose between a state tax increase or program cuts, in the context of how the state could meet its education cost-sharing guidelines with localities, a majority (59 percent) chose budget cuts while three in ten chose tax increases. These results are consistent with findings from last year's Commonwealth Education Poll. Tax increases are typically hard to swallow from a citizen's perspective. While a clear majority of the public expresses support for education funding needs, public reaction to ways to increase that funding are more divided.

Respondents who preferred program cuts over tax increases were asked which programs they think should be cut. Better than six in ten (64 percent) could not name a specific program or area or gave no answer. Among those who named a specific program

or area to cut, the more common responses were related to welfare and social service programs (11 percent). Some mentioned transportation programs (4 percent). Others wanted the elected officials to take a pay cut or cut back on perks (5 percent).

OF THOSE WHO PREFER MAKING CUTS TO OTHER PROGRAMS	Percent
Don't know	55%
No answer	9%
Welfare programs	7%
Social services/Social services programs	4%
Transportation/Highway projects (VDOT)	4%
Decrease Legislator pay/perks	5%
Cut administrative/employee positions	1%
Pork barrel projects/Out-dated/Unnecessary programs	3%
Parks & Recreation	1%
Other specific programs	5%
None/Not anything	0%
Other responses	6%
Number of cases	468

The survey included two items that measure citizen awareness of funding for education. First, respondents were asked whether Virginia spends more, less, or about the same amount on education compared to other states. About three in ten (28 percent) correctly placed Virginia as spending less than other states. Respondents were also asked which level of government spends the least on public schools in Virginia. About four in ten (41 percent) correctly identified the federal government as spending less than either state or local city and county government on the schools.

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

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is bringing a series of changes into educational practice and evaluation around the country. Public reaction to whether the NCLB will help, hurt, or make no difference in school performance shows that a plurality are optimistic (46 percent), almost a quarter (23 percent) think it will make no difference

and 24 percent think it will hurt school performance. These results are similar to findings from one year ago. The changes brought by the law are still fairly new and in some cases the implications of the act are still uncertain. Over six in ten Virginians (61 percent) consider themselves not too or not at all informed about the act. About three in ten Virginians (31 percent) consider themselves informed about the act and another 8 percent consider themselves very informed.

Those more informed about the No Child Left Behind Act were a bit more pessimistic about it's likely impact on school performance. Among the more informed, 38 percent think the federal government's involvement in the schools will hurt, 40 percent think it will help, and 20 percent think it will make no difference in school performance. Among those less informed about the act, just 16 percent think it will hurt, half think it will help, and 26 percent think it will make no difference in school performance.

	No Child Left Behind Act ...federal government's involvement in the schools will help, hurt, or make no difference in school performance?					Number of cases
	Help	Hurt	Make no difference	Don't know	No answer	
Informed or very informed about NCLBA	40%	38%	20%	2%	1%	310
Not too or not at all informed about NCLBA	50%	16%	26%	7%	2%	490
All respondents	46%	24%	23%	5%	2%	803

Federal government has heretofore played a fairly minor role in education policy and practice. The NCLB raises new questions about the role of federal and state government in education. The Commonwealth Education Poll asked respondents about their normative views of federal vs. state responsibility in four different areas of education. The poll found that a majority of Virginians see responsibility for the schools as resting more with state than federal government in each of these four areas: setting academic standards, funding, testing to measure student achievement, and judging school performance. About three-quarters of Virginians thought that state rather than federal government should have responsibility when it comes to judging school performance (76 percent) and testing to measure student achievement (73 percent). Over half of Virginians

thought that state rather than federal government should have responsibility when it comes to setting academic standards and funding (59 and 56 percent, respectively).

Should state or federal government have responsibility for...	State	Federal	Both equal (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Don't know/ No answer
Judging school performance?	76%	18%	3%	1%	2%
Testing to measure student achievement?	73%	20%	2%	2%	3%
Setting academic standards?	59%	32%	5%	1%	3%
Funding?	56%	29%	12%	1%	2%

While a majority of the public see 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 the schools. Eight of ten Virginians agrees with the statement that “the federal government needs to make sure that states are held accountable for school performance.” At the same time, 85 percent agree that “state governments know more about the needs of students and schools in their state than the federal government does.”

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know/ No answer
Federal government needs to make sure that states are held accountable for school performance.	23%	57%	14%	4%	2%
State governments know more about the needs of students and schools in their state than the federal government does.	29%	55%	10%	2%	3%

#### IV. SOL’s and SOL tests

This June marks the first year in which students will be required to pass certain Standards of Learning (SOL) tests in order to graduate from high school with a standard diploma. A majority of Virginians think this is an appropriate requirement for graduation (59%) while 37 percent think it is not appropriate.

...Do you think it is appropriate or not appropriate that students pass SOL tests in order to graduate from high school?	
Appropriate	59%
Not appropriate	37
Don't Know/No Answer	4



One of the chief aims of the SOL testing program was to improve accountability of the schools. Three-quarters of Virginians think the SOL tests are reaching this goal. Fifty-seven percent agrees and another 18 percent strongly agrees that “the SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement.” These results are consistent with findings from past years on the Commonwealth Education Poll where better than seven in ten agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

At the same time, there is some ambivalence toward the SOL tests. A majority (53 percent) agree or strongly agree that “the SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students” while 43 percent disagree or strongly disagree. The proportion indicating agreement to this question is comparable to findings from 2002; a somewhat smaller portion tends to agree with this statement in 2004 compared to two years ago. Fifty-three percent agreed in 2004; this compares to 61 percent who agreed in 2002.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No answer	Number of cases
"The SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement."	18%	57%	17%	3%	4%	1%	803
"The SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students."	22%	31%	35%	8%	3%	1%	803

A tendency to agree or disagree with these two statements is related to opinions about the SOL graduate requirements. Those who think the SOL graduation requirement is appropriate are more likely to agree that SOL tests hold schools accountable, just 10 percent disagree. While a majority of those who think the SOL graduation requirement is inappropriate agree that SOL tests hold schools accountable, almost four in ten of this group (39 percent) disagree.

		"The SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement."					Number of cases	
		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know		No answer
SOL test graduation requirement is appropriate		22%	64%	9%	1%	3%	0%	480
...Not appropriate		13%	45%	31%	8%	2%	1%	292

A similar pattern is present when it comes to whether SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students. Among those who think the graduate requirement is appropriate, 32 percent agree and 65 percent disagree that SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students. In contrast, among those who think the SOL graduation requirement is inappropriate 88 percent agree and just 11 percent disagree that SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students. These results show a strong association between opinion about the SOL graduation requirement and agreement that SOL tests put too much pressure on students.

		"The SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students."					Number of cases	
		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know		No answer
SOL test graduation requirement is appropriate		8%	24%	52%	13%	3%	1%	480
...Not appropriate		46%	42%	11%		1%		292

## V. Evaluation of Schools in Specific Areas

State schools were also evaluated 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 (69 to 70 percent across the three measures). A minority (ranging from 14 to 17 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%	16%	39%	13%	2%
Teaching the basics such as reading, writing and mathematics?	35%	17%	35%	12%	2%
Skills needed for pursuing a 4-year college degree?	34%	14%	36%	14%	2%

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

The Commonwealth Education Poll is a public opinion survey of Virginia residents on education issues. The survey is conducted by telephone with a randomly-selected sample of adult Virginians.

Interviewing was conducted by telephone from the facilities of the Survey and Evaluation Research Laboratory at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. The interviewing is conducted by a staff of professionally trained, paid interviewers using computer-assisted telephone interviewing software.

The sample of telephone numbers was prepared by Genesys Sampling Systems of Ft. Washington, Pennsylvania, and was designed so that all residential telephones, including new and unlisted numbers, had a known chance of inclusion. The cooperation rate for the survey was 42% percent. Using the Council of American Survey Research Organization (CASRO) response rate calculations, interviews were obtained with respondents in 36% percent of the known or assumed residential households in the sample.

The data were weighted to adjust for unequal probabilities of selection due to multiple telephone lines and multiple adults living in the household. In addition, the data were 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 the full sample of adults are subject to a sampling error of plus or minus approximately 4 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. This means that in 95 out of 100 samples like the one used here, the results obtained should be no more than 4 percentage points above or below the figure that would be obtained by interviewing all adult Virginians 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.

## VII. Questions Asked

Commonwealth Education Poll, March 3-10, 2004  
 Number of Respondents: 803

### 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?

	2004	2003	2002	2001
Excellent	11%	15%	10%	11%
Good	52	51	50	47
Fair	24	23	26	26
Poor	5	4	5	4
Don't Know/No Answer	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?

	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Excellent	21%	22%	18%	18%	15%
Good	43	46	47	42	44
Fair	22	20	21	22	22
Poor	6	5	8	7	6
Don't Know/No Answer	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?

	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Better	29%	32%	30%	29%	33%
Worse	14	12	15	16	14
Stayed the same	39	40	37	35	34
Don't Know/No Answer	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?

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

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

	2004	2003	2002	2001
Willing	57%	61%	60%	57%
Not willing	36	34	34	36
Don't Know/No Answer	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

	2004	2003	2002	2001
Sales tax	58%	54%	58%	47%
Income tax	13	14	14	16
Real estate property tax	15	13	10	16
Personal property tax	7	10	11	13
Don't Know/No Answer	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?

	2004	2003
Would continue as they are now	23%	22%
Would bring major changes	70	70
Don't Know/No Answer	7	7

8. If state funding for education were cut, which services in education do you think could be reduced without hurting the quality of education?

Open-ended responses were coded into the categories below. First mentions only.

	Percent
Don't know	41%
No answer	7%
Nothing/Not anything	19%
Sports/Athletics	10%
Other extra-curricular/after school activities	5%
Music/Art	1%
Gym/Phys. Ed.	1%
Electives	1%
Administration/Administrative services	5%
Teachers assistants/Teachers	1%
Meals (school lunch/breakfast)	2%
Transportation	1%
SOL tests	1%
Computers/Computer classes	1%
Special programs/Gifted/AP/Alternative schools	1%
Special education	1%

Building and facilities	1%
Other	2%
Total	100%

9. 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. This leaves local school districts paying more than expected. In order for the state to meet the education cost-sharing guidelines, would you prefer that the state increase taxes OR make cuts to other programs?

	2004	2003
Increase taxes	30%	32%
Make cuts to other programs	59	53
Don't Know/No Answer	11	14

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..."

10. (IF MAKE CUTS TO OTHER PROGRAMS) Which other programs do you think should be cut?

Open-ended responses were coded into the categories below. First mentions only.

OF THOSE WHO PREFER MAKING CUTS TO OTHER PROGRAMS	Percent
Don't know	55%
No answer	9%
Welfare programs	7%
Social services/Social services programs	4%
Transportation/Highway projects (VDOT)	4%
Decrease Legislator pay/perks	5%
Cut administrative/employee positions	1%
Pork barrel projects/Out-dated/Unnecessary programs	3%
Parks & Recreation	1%
Other specific programs	5%
None/Not anything	0%
Other responses	6%
Number of cases	468

11. From what you know, how much does the state of Virginia spend on education compared to other states around the nation—would you say Virginia spends more than, less than, or about the same as other states on education?

Spends more than other states	17%
Spends less than other states	28
Spends the same as other states	30
Don't Know/No Answer	26

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?

Federal	41%
State	17
Local city and county	22
Don't Know/No Answer	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 16 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?)

State	59%
Federal	32
Both equally (VOL.)	5
Neither (VOL.)	1
Don't Know/No Answer	3

14. Judging school performance? (Do you think the state government or the federal government should have responsibility for judging school performance?)

State	76%
Federal	18
Both equally (VOL.)	3
Neither (VOL.)	1
Don't Know/No Answer	2

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

State	73%
Federal	20
Both equally (VOL.)	2
Neither (VOL.)	2
Don't Know/No Answer	3

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

State	56%
Federal	29
Both equally (VOL.)	12
Neither (VOL.)	1
Don't Know/No Answer	2

17. In the past, state and local governments oversaw most decisions related to the schools. The federal government in Washington has recently passed a law called the No Child Left Behind Act that increases the federal government's role in decisions about the schools. Do you think the federal government's involvement in the schools will help, hurt, or make no difference in school performance?

	2004	2003
Help	46%	42%
Hurt	24	22
No difference	23	29
Don't Know/No Answer	7	7

18. How much information do you have about the No Child Left Behind Act—would you say that you are very informed, informed, not too informed, or not at all informed?

Very informed	8%
Informed	31
Not too informed	42
Not at all informed	19
Don't Know/No Answer	0

Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.

Question 19 and 20 were asked in random order.

19. "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?)

Strongly agree	23%
Somewhat agree	57
Somewhat disagree	14
Strongly disagree	4
Don't Know/No Answer	2

20. "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?)

Strongly agree	29%
Somewhat agree	55
Somewhat disagree	10
Strongly disagree	2



Don't Know/No Answer	3
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SOLs and SOL tests

Now on another topic.

21. This year for the first time, students will not be able to graduate with a standard high school diploma unless they pass required SOL tests. Do you think it is appropriate or not appropriate that students pass SOL tests in order to graduate from high school?

Appropriate	59%
Not appropriate	37
Don't Know/No Answer	4

Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.

Question 22 and 23 were asked in random order.

22. "The SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement."  
(Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement?)

	2004	2003	2002
Strongly agree	18%	26%	29%
Somewhat agree	57	41	45
Somewhat disagree	17	15	11
Strongly disagree	3	11	6
Don't Know/No Answer	5	7	9

23. "The SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students."  
(Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement?)

	2004	2002
Strongly agree	22%	36%
Somewhat agree	31	25
Somewhat disagree	35	20
Strongly disagree	8	12
Don't Know/No Answer	4	7

Next, I'm going to ask whether you feel the public schools in Virginia have gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed the same during the past five years in each of the following three areas. First, ...

Question 24 to 26 were asked in random order.

24. 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?)

Better	30%
Worse	16
Stayed the Same	39
Don't Know/No Answer	15

25. 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?)

Better	35%
Worse	17
Stayed the Same	35
Don't Know/No Answer	14

26. 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?)

Better	34%
Worse	14
Stayed the Same	36
Don't Know/No Answer	16

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

		Q1 Thinking about the public schools in Virginia as a whole, would you say that they provide a(n):						Number of cases
		Excellent education	Good education	Fair education	Poor education	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total		11%	52%	24%	5%	7%	1%	803
Sex	Male	11%	55%	22%	6%	6%	0%	342
	Female	12%	49%	26%	3%	9%	1%	461
Race	White	12%	52%	23%	4%	8%	0%	615
	Black	9%	51%	29%	5%	5%	1%	112
Region	Northwest	14%	45%	25%	9%	7%	1%	118
	Northern VA	18%	53%	12%	3%	12%	2%	189
	West	10%	49%	29%	5%	6%	1%	151
	South Central	5%	60%	27%	5%	3%		159
	Tidewater	8%	51%	31%	4%	7%	0%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	11%	62%	21%	3%	1%	1%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	15%	55%	24%	4%	0%	1%	106
Family Income	Under 35,000	10%	44%	35%	3%	8%	1%	174
	35-50,000	9%	46%	27%	8%	9%	0%	122
	50-69,000	8%	54%	22%	10%	5%	0%	123
	70,000 and above	16%	56%	17%	3%	7%	1%	264
Education	H.S. or less	9%	49%	29%	6%	7%	1%	240
	Some college	7%	54%	29%	4%	5%	0%	206
	College grad and up	15%	53%	17%	5%	9%	1%	351
Age	18-29	8%	57%	24%	4%	7%	1%	114
	30-44	11%	56%	22%	4%	6%	1%	246
	45-64	15%	47%	23%	5%	8%	1%	309
	65 and older	10%	46%	28%	6%	9%	1%	110
Place where live	Urban	11%	52%	24%	5%	8%		156
	Suburban	14%	56%	19%	2%	8%	2%	283
	Rural/Small Town	9%	49%	28%	7%	6%	0%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	11%	53%	29%	1%	5%	1%	230
	Republican	12%	54%	19%	6%	8%	1%	220
	Independent	12%	53%	21%	6%	7%	0%	257

		Q2 What about the public schools in your community-would you say that they provide a(n):					No Answer	Number of cases
		Excellent education	Good education	Fair education	Poor education	Don't Know		
Total		21%	43%	22%	6%	7%	1%	803
Sex	Male	20%	44%	23%	7%	5%	1%	342
	Female	22%	42%	21%	5%	9%	1%	461
Race	White	25%	42%	21%	5%	7%	1%	615
	Black	11%	43%	32%	9%	5%		112
Region	Northwest	20%	40%	28%	10%	3%		118
	Northern VA	34%	38%	10%	3%	14%	0%	189
	West	14%	44%	30%	6%	6%		151
	South Central	15%	53%	21%	6%	5%	0%	159
	Tidewater	18%	42%	27%	7%	5%	1%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	27%	44%	24%	4%	1%	0%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	28%	40%	27%	5%			106
Family Income	Under 35,000	15%	42%	33%	5%	5%	1%	174
	35-50,000	19%	39%	25%	10%	7%	0%	122
	50-69,000	14%	41%	30%	9%	5%		123
	70,000 and above	30%	45%	13%	4%	7%	1%	264
Education	H.S. or less	18%	45%	25%	8%	4%	0%	240
	Some college	14%	45%	26%	7%	7%	0%	206
	College grad and up	28%	40%	17%	4%	10%	1%	351
Age	18-29	17%	52%	16%	7%	7%	1%	114
	30-44	20%	44%	24%	4%	8%	1%	246
	45-64	26%	36%	24%	7%	7%	1%	309
	65 and older	20%	45%	20%	8%	7%		110
Place where live	Urban	19%	41%	28%	3%	8%	1%	156
	Suburban	29%	46%	13%	3%	9%	0%	283
	Rural/Small Town	16%	42%	27%	10%	5%	0%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	21%	47%	24%	3%	4%	1%	230
	Republican	25%	42%	18%	7%	6%	1%	220
	Independent	23%	40%	24%	6%	8%		257

		Q3 Over the past five years, have the public schools in your community gotten:					Number of cases
		Better	Worse	Stayed the Same	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total		29%	14%	39%	17%	2%	803
Sex	Male	32%	13%	41%	12%	1%	342
	Female	25%	16%	36%	21%	3%	461
Race	White	28%	15%	37%	17%	2%	615
	Black	31%	11%	46%	10%	2%	112
Region	Northwest	29%	13%	46%	10%	1%	118
	Northern VA	26%	13%	28%	29%	3%	189
	West	33%	19%	36%	10%	2%	151
	South Central	27%	14%	42%	16%	2%	159
	Tidewater	29%	12%	45%	12%	1%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	34%	15%	40%	8%	3%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	38%	20%	38%	4%		106
Family Income	Under 35,000	31%	13%	41%	13%	1%	174
	35-50,000	25%	17%	38%	18%	1%	122
	50-69,000	29%	14%	46%	10%	1%	123
	70,000 and above	30%	13%	34%	20%	3%	264
Education	H.S. or less	31%	13%	45%	9%	1%	240
	Some college	30%	15%	35%	19%	1%	206
	College grad and up	25%	14%	37%	21%	3%	351
Age	18-29	32%	17%	35%	13%	3%	114
	30-44	30%	12%	38%	18%	3%	246
	45-64	27%	16%	38%	18%	1%	309
	65 and older	27%	14%	44%	15%	1%	110
Place where live	Urban	27%	11%	44%	16%	2%	156
	Suburban	30%	17%	30%	19%	4%	283
	Rural/Small Town	29%	14%	43%	14%	0%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	33%	13%	37%	14%	2%	230
	Republican	34%	9%	39%	16%	2%	220
	Independent	25%	18%	43%	14%	1%	257

		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?				Number of cases
		Enough	Not enough	Don't know	No answer	
Total		20%	69%	10%	1%	803
Sex	Male	28%	62%	9%	2%	342
	Female	12%	76%	11%	1%	461
Race	White	21%	67%	11%	1%	615
	Black	12%	83%	3%	2%	112
Region	Northwest	29%	55%	13%	3%	118
	Northern VA	24%	63%	12%	1%	189
	West	13%	75%	12%	1%	151
	South Central	22%	71%	5%	2%	159
	Tidewater	14%	77%	8%	1%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	15%	77%	7%	0%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	13%	82%	4%	0%	106
Family Income	Under 35,000	15%	74%	8%	3%	174
	35-50,000	20%	68%	12%		122
	50-69,000	20%	70%	8%	1%	123
	70,000 and above	19%	72%	8%	0%	264
Education	H.S. or less	18%	68%	12%	1%	240
	Some college	16%	75%	7%	1%	206
	College grad and up	23%	66%	9%	1%	351
Age	18-29	22%	68%	6%	3%	114
	30-44	15%	76%	9%	0%	246
	45-64	18%	71%	10%	1%	309
	65 and older	29%	53%	16%	2%	110
Place where live	Urban	18%	69%	14%	0%	156
	Suburban	20%	71%	8%	1%	283
	Rural/Small Town	21%	69%	9%	2%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	9%	83%	5%	2%	230
	Republican	30%	56%	13%	2%	220
	Independent	23%	67%	10%	1%	257

		Q5 Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding could be increased?				Number of cases
		Willing	Not willing	Don't know	No answer	
Total		57%	36%	4%	3%	803
Sex	Male	55%	37%	4%	3%	342
	Female	58%	35%	4%	3%	461
Race	White	56%	37%	4%	3%	615
	Black	61%	34%	2%	3%	112
Region	Northwest	48%	49%	2%	1%	118
	Northern VA	58%	35%	4%	2%	189
	West	62%	32%	3%	3%	151
	South Central	64%	29%	3%	3%	159
	Tidewater	50%	39%	5%	6%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	59%	32%	4%	5%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	62%	35%	1%	2%	106
Family Income	Under 35,000	55%	38%	3%	4%	174
	35-50,000	56%	39%	4%	1%	122
	50-69,000	56%	37%	4%	3%	123
	70,000 and above	64%	31%	3%	3%	264
Education	H.S. or less	51%	41%	3%	4%	240
	Some college	58%	33%	5%	5%	206
	College grad and up	61%	34%	4%	2%	351
Age	18-29	61%	29%	6%	4%	114
	30-44	60%	35%	2%	3%	246
	45-64	55%	38%	5%	2%	309
	65 and older	50%	41%	5%	3%	110
Place where live	Urban	50%	42%	5%	3%	156
	Suburban	63%	29%	4%	3%	283
	Rural/Small Town	56%	38%	2%	4%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	74%	20%	3%	3%	230
	Republican	46%	47%	4%	3%	220
	Independent	51%	42%	3%	4%	257

		Q6 IF WILLING: What kind of tax increase do you think would be best?						Number of cases
		Sales tax	Income tax	Real estate property tax	Personal property tax	Don't know	No answer	
Total		58%	13%	15%	7%	5%	2%	456
Sex	Male	62%	12%	13%	7%	4%	2%	192
	Female	55%	13%	16%	7%	7%	1%	264
Race	White	57%	13%	16%	6%	5%	2%	352
	Black	59%	14%	9%	13%	5%		65
Region	Northwest	53%	20%	16%	4%	5%	1%	57
	Northern VA	61%	14%	15%	1%	7%	1%	116
	West	53%	15%	11%	8%	8%	5%	91
	South Central	58%	11%	16%	12%	3%	1%	98
	Tidewater	61%	7%	16%	10%	4%	1%	94
Children in Public School	Yes	61%	14%	13%	5%	5%	1%	147
School Employee in Household	Yes	59%	13%	17%	4%	5%	1%	68
Family Income	Under 35,000	44%	15%	16%	14%	7%	3%	94
	35-50,000	64%	12%	10%	9%	4%	1%	68
	50-69,000	60%	6%	29%	2%	2%		72
	70,000 and above	62%	16%	10%	6%	4%	2%	170
Education	H.S. or less	53%	16%	8%	15%	7%	1%	124
	Some college	66%	11%	17%	2%	3%	2%	113
	College grad and up	57%	12%	18%	5%	6%	2%	217
Age	18-29	45%	21%	19%	7%	7%	1%	70
	30-44	60%	15%	14%	5%	4%	2%	151
	45-64	64%	7%	15%	6%	7%	0%	174
	65 and older	58%	8%	9%	14%	4%	7%	54
Place where live	Urban	61%	10%	14%	9%	2%	4%	80
	Suburban	58%	11%	18%	5%	6%	2%	182
	Rural/Small Town	57%	16%	11%	8%	6%	1%	188
Party Identification	Democrat	58%	15%	14%	9%	6%		166
	Republican	60%	11%	16%	5%	3%	5%	108
	Independent	57%	15%	13%	8%	5%	2%	136



		Q7 Suppose state funding for education were cut, do you think the schools in your community would continue pretty much as they are now, or ...would this bring major changes...?				Number of cases
		Continue as they are now	Bring major changes	Don't know	No answer	
Total		23%	70%	6%	1%	803
Sex	Male	29%	64%	5%	1%	342
	Female	17%	76%	7%	1%	461
Race	White	24%	67%	7%	2%	615
	Black	14%	84%	2%	0%	112
Region	Northwest	28%	65%	7%	0%	118
	Northern VA	25%	64%	9%	2%	189
	West	25%	70%	5%	1%	151
	South Central	20%	72%	7%	1%	159
	Tidewater	17%	79%	3%	2%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	17%	80%	3%	1%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	18%	77%	4%	0%	106
Family Income	Under 35,000	23%	72%	4%	1%	174
	35-50,000	20%	74%	5%	1%	122
	50-69,000	23%	69%	8%	1%	123
	70,000 and above	20%	74%	5%	1%	264
Education	H.S. or less	26%	67%	5%	1%	240
	Some college	19%	75%	6%	1%	206
	College grad and up	22%	70%	7%	1%	351
Age	18-29	27%	66%	7%		114
	30-44	16%	79%	4%	1%	246
	45-64	18%	73%	6%	2%	309
	65 and older	39%	51%	9%	1%	110
Place where live	Urban	25%	66%	6%	2%	156
	Suburban	25%	68%	7%	1%	283
	Rural/Small Town	19%	76%	4%	1%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	12%	82%	6%	0%	230
	Republican	32%	58%	7%	2%	220
	Independent	24%	71%	4%	1%	257

		Q9 ...In order for the state to meet the education cost-sharing guidelines, would you prefer that the state:				Number of cases
		Increase taxes	Make cuts to other programs	Don't know	No answer	
Total		30%	59%	7%	4%	803
Sex	Male	31%	60%	4%	5%	342
	Female	29%	59%	9%	3%	461
Race	White	29%	60%	7%	4%	615
	Black	35%	57%	5%	3%	112
Region	Northwest	24%	65%	8%	4%	118
	Northern VA	29%	58%	10%	4%	189
	West	34%	54%	5%	7%	151
	South Central	33%	56%	8%	4%	159
	Tidewater	29%	64%	5%	3%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	31%	61%	5%	3%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	36%	60%	1%	4%	106
Family Income	Under 35,000	32%	52%	10%	6%	174
	35-50,000	25%	68%	6%	1%	122
	50-69,000	32%	60%	4%	4%	123
	70,000 and above	32%	58%	7%	3%	264
Education	H.S. or less	28%	63%	6%	3%	240
	Some college	30%	57%	7%	5%	206
	College grad and up	31%	58%	7%	4%	351
Age	18-29	29%	60%	9%	2%	114
	30-44	32%	60%	5%	3%	246
	45-64	30%	60%	5%	4%	309
	65 and older	27%	53%	11%	9%	110
Place where live	Urban	29%	66%	3%	1%	156
	Suburban	34%	56%	5%	5%	283
	Rural/Small Town	27%	59%	10%	4%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	40%	50%	8%	2%	230
	Republican	22%	67%	5%	5%	220
	Independent	28%	62%	7%	3%	257

		Q11 How much does the state of Virginia spend on education compared to other states around the nation?					Number of cases
		Spends more than other states	Spends less than other states	Spends the same as other states	Don't know	No answer	
Total		17%	28%	30%	25%	1%	803
Sex	Male	19%	28%	32%	20%	0%	342
	Female	14%	28%	27%	30%	1%	461
Race	White	15%	26%	32%	26%	1%	615
	Black	13%	38%	25%	23%	1%	112
Region	Northwest	9%	27%	35%	28%	1%	118
	Northern VA	41%	9%	24%	25%	1%	189
	West	7%	40%	28%	24%		151
	South Central	10%	32%	40%	16%	0%	159
	Tidewater	6%	37%	26%	31%	1%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	19%	27%	26%	27%	0%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	4%	44%	33%	19%		106
Family Income	Under 35,000	11%	29%	29%	28%	3%	174
	35-50,000	9%	42%	24%	25%		122
	50-69,000	8%	34%	28%	29%		123
	70,000 and above	24%	21%	34%	21%		264
Education	H.S. or less	11%	32%	32%	25%	1%	240
	Some college	12%	28%	28%	31%	1%	206
	College grad and up	24%	26%	29%	21%	0%	351
Age	18-29	25%	24%	29%	22%	1%	114
	30-44	19%	26%	30%	25%		246
	45-64	14%	34%	28%	24%	0%	309
	65 and older	5%	26%	34%	32%	2%	110
Place where live	Urban	15%	31%	29%	25%		156
	Suburban	25%	20%	31%	23%	1%	283
	Rural/Small Town	11%	33%	29%	27%	0%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	16%	35%	25%	24%	1%	230
	Republican	20%	19%	34%	26%		220
	Independent	16%	30%	28%	26%	1%	257

		Q12 Which of these provides the least funding for public schools in Virginia:					Number of cases
		Federal government	State government	Local city and county governments	Don't know	No answer	
Total		41%	17%	22%	19%	1%	803
Sex							
	Male	40%	18%	25%	16%	1%	342
	Female	41%	16%	20%	22%	1%	461
Race							
	White	42%	18%	20%	20%	1%	615
	Black	37%	19%	28%	15%	0%	112
Region							
	Northwest	42%	14%	21%	22%	1%	118
	Northern VA	53%	14%	16%	16%		189
	West	30%	23%	24%	22%	1%	151
	South Central	39%	18%	28%	15%	0%	159
	Tidewater	37%	17%	23%	21%	2%	186
Children in Public School							
	Yes	43%	23%	21%	12%	1%	249
School Employee in Household							
	Yes	46%	19%	21%	12%	2%	106
Family Income							
	Under 35,000	36%	20%	23%	20%	1%	174
	35-50,000	39%	16%	23%	22%		122
	50-69,000	44%	14%	27%	13%	2%	123
	70,000 and above	49%	19%	19%	13%	1%	264
Education							
	H.S. or less	29%	20%	32%	18%	1%	240
	Some college	42%	16%	19%	23%	1%	206
	College grad and up	49%	16%	17%	17%	1%	351
Age							
	18-29	39%	17%	25%	18%	1%	114
	30-44	48%	20%	21%	10%	1%	246
	45-64	40%	16%	23%	21%	1%	309
	65 and older	28%	17%	20%	35%		110
Place where live							
	Urban	45%	14%	20%	20%	1%	156
	Suburban	48%	20%	17%	15%	1%	283
	Rural/Small Town	33%	17%	28%	21%	1%	344
Party Identification							
	Democrat	42%	19%	21%	17%	0%	230
	Republican	45%	20%	21%	14%	1%	220
	Independent	39%	16%	25%	20%	1%	257

		Q13 Do you think the state government or the federal government should have responsibility for setting academic standards?						Number of cases
		State government	Federal government	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Don't know	No answer	
Total		59%	32%	5%	1%	3%	0%	803
Sex	Male	59%	36%	3%	0%	2%		342
	Female	60%	29%	6%	2%	3%	0%	461
Race	White	61%	30%	4%	1%	3%	0%	615
	Black	56%	34%	5%	2%	3%	0%	112
Region	Northwest	56%	32%	5%	5%	3%		118
	Northern VA	60%	35%	3%	1%	1%		189
	West	59%	31%	5%	0%	4%	0%	151
	South Central	65%	29%	3%		3%	0%	159
	Tidewater	55%	33%	7%	1%	4%		186
Children in Public School	Yes	54%	39%	4%	1%	2%	0%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	66%	21%	4%	4%	4%	0%	106
Family Income	Under 35,000	58%	29%	6%	0%	7%	0%	174
	35-50,000	63%	26%	4%	4%	2%		122
	50-69,000	56%	38%	4%		2%		123
	70,000 and above	61%	33%	5%	1%	1%		264
Education	H.S. or less	61%	27%	6%	1%	5%	0%	240
	Some college	52%	42%	3%	1%	3%		206
	College grad and up	63%	30%	5%	2%	1%		351
Age	18-29	58%	34%	7%	1%	1%		114
	30-44	52%	41%	4%	1%	1%	0%	246
	45-64	64%	26%	5%	0%	4%	0%	309
	65 and older	69%	22%	2%	2%	5%		110
Place where live	Urban	54%	41%	3%	0%	1%		156
	Suburban	60%	34%	4%	1%	1%		283
	Rural/Small Town	62%	27%	6%	2%	3%	0%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	63%	30%	4%	1%	3%		230
	Republican	61%	34%	4%	1%			220
	Independent	56%	34%	5%	1%	3%	0%	257

		Q14 Do you think the state government or the federal government should have responsibility for judging school performance?						Number of cases
		State government	Federal government	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Don't know	No answer	
Total		76%	18%	3%	1%	2%	0%	803
Sex	Male	74%	20%	4%	0%	1%	0%	342
	Female	77%	16%	3%	1%	2%	0%	461
Race	White	78%	17%	3%	0%	2%	0%	615
	Black	74%	19%	4%	2%	1%	0%	112
Region	Northwest	73%	21%	2%	2%	2%		118
	Northern VA	79%	17%	4%	0%	1%		189
	West	76%	19%	3%	0%	2%		151
	South Central	77%	16%	4%	1%	2%	0%	159
	Tidewater	73%	19%	4%	1%	2%	1%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	74%	19%	3%	1%	1%	1%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	72%	15%	4%	6%	3%	0%	106
Family Income	Under 35,000	71%	17%	4%	1%	6%	1%	174
	35-50,000	77%	16%	2%	3%	2%		122
	50-69,000	73%	24%	3%		1%		123
	70,000 and above	80%	15%	4%	1%		0%	264
Education	H.S. or less	73%	19%	3%	1%	4%	0%	240
	Some college	76%	21%	2%	1%	1%	1%	206
	College grad and up	78%	16%	4%	1%	0%	0%	351
Age	18-29	74%	19%	5%	1%	1%		114
	30-44	75%	21%	2%	1%	1%	0%	246
	45-64	76%	19%	3%	0%	2%	0%	309
	65 and older	80%	10%	5%	0%	5%	1%	110
Place where live	Urban	76%	19%	2%	1%	2%		156
	Suburban	78%	17%	3%	1%	0%	0%	283
	Rural/Small Town	76%	18%	4%	1%	2%	0%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	80%	14%	3%	1%	1%		230
	Republican	82%	15%	3%		1%	0%	220
	Independent	68%	24%	5%	1%	2%	0%	257

		Q15 Do you think the state government or the federal government should have responsibility for testing to measure student achievement?						Number of cases
		State government	Federal government	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Don't know	No answer	
Total		73%	20%	2%	2%	2%	1%	803
Sex	Male	73%	21%	2%	1%	3%	1%	342
	Female	73%	19%	2%	3%	1%	1%	461
Race	White	74%	19%	2%	2%	2%	1%	615
	Black	74%	17%	1%	2%	2%	3%	112
Region	Northwest	68%	22%	2%	6%	2%		118
	Northern VA	75%	19%	1%	1%	2%	2%	189
	West	69%	21%	3%	2%	2%	2%	151
	South Central	70%	21%	3%	2%	3%	0%	159
	Tidewater	78%	17%	1%	2%	1%	0%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	70%	23%	3%	3%	0%	1%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	69%	18%	4%	7%	2%		106
Family Income	Under 35,000	68%	20%	3%	1%	4%	3%	174
	35-50,000	73%	21%		5%	0%		122
	50-69,000	71%	24%	2%	1%	2%		123
	70,000 and above	77%	17%	3%	2%	1%	1%	264
Education	H.S. or less	73%	18%	3%	1%	4%	2%	240
	Some college	70%	25%	1%	4%	1%	1%	206
	College grad and up	76%	18%	2%	3%	1%	0%	351
Age	18-29	67%	26%	3%	2%	1%		114
	30-44	72%	22%	2%	3%	1%	1%	246
	45-64	76%	18%	2%	2%	2%	1%	309
	65 and older	78%	10%	1%	2%	6%	3%	110
Place where live	Urban	75%	21%	0%	2%		2%	156
	Suburban	76%	19%	2%	2%	1%	1%	283
	Rural/Small Town	71%	20%	3%	3%	2%	0%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	76%	16%	2%	3%	1%	2%	230
	Republican	77%	18%	1%	2%	1%	1%	220
	Independent	68%	24%	2%	2%	3%	1%	257

		Q16 Do you think the state government or the federal government should have responsibility for funding?						Number of cases
		State government	Federal government	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Don't know	No answer	
Total		56%	29%	12%	1%	1%	1%	803
Sex	Male	63%	26%	10%	1%	1%	0%	342
	Female	50%	32%	14%	0%	2%	1%	461
Race	White	62%	22%	13%	0%	2%	1%	615
	Black	37%	53%	7%	1%	1%	1%	112
Region	Northwest	56%	26%	14%	2%	1%		118
	Northern VA	65%	22%	11%		0%	1%	189
	West	54%	29%	14%		3%	0%	151
	South Central	58%	30%	10%		1%	1%	159
	Tidewater	46%	38%	12%	1%	2%	1%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	53%	33%	12%	0%	1%	1%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	46%	35%	10%	3%	3%	2%	106
Family Income	Under 35,000	47%	33%	14%		3%	2%	174
	35-50,000	52%	28%	17%	3%	0%		122
	50-69,000	47%	40%	13%		1%		123
	70,000 and above	64%	26%	9%	0%	0%	0%	264
Education	H.S. or less	50%	33%	13%	1%	3%	0%	240
	Some college	52%	33%	13%		1%	1%	206
	College grad and up	64%	24%	11%	1%	0%	1%	351
Age	18-29	44%	44%	11%	1%			114
	30-44	51%	36%	11%	1%	1%	1%	246
	45-64	65%	20%	12%	0%	3%	1%	309
	65 and older	68%	13%	15%	0%	2%	1%	110
Place where live	Urban	53%	34%	11%			2%	156
	Suburban	64%	23%	11%	1%	1%	1%	283
	Rural/Small Town	52%	32%	13%	1%	2%	0%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	51%	34%	13%	1%	0%	1%	230
	Republican	68%	20%	10%	0%	0%	1%	220
	Independent	52%	32%	13%	1%	1%	1%	257



		Q17 ...Do you think the federal government's involvement in the schools will help, hurt, or make no difference in school performance?					Number of cases
		Help	Hurt	Make no difference	Don't know	No answer	
Total		46%	24%	23%	5%	2%	803
Sex	Male	45%	24%	27%	2%	2%	342
	Female	47%	25%	20%	7%	2%	461
Race	White	43%	26%	24%	5%	1%	615
	Black	58%	15%	22%	3%	1%	112
Region	Northwest	43%	25%	22%	7%	2%	118
	Northern VA	38%	28%	27%	6%	1%	189
	West	47%	24%	22%	4%	2%	151
	South Central	46%	27%	23%	2%	2%	159
	Tidewater	56%	18%	22%	4%	1%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	51%	23%	21%	3%	2%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	39%	39%	19%	2%	1%	106
Family Income	Under 35,000	52%	18%	21%	7%	3%	174
	35-50,000	48%	24%	25%	3%	1%	122
	50-69,000	41%	23%	32%	3%	1%	123
	70,000 and above	43%	31%	22%	4%	1%	264
Education	H.S. or less	55%	16%	23%	5%	2%	240
	Some college	50%	22%	21%	6%	1%	206
	College grad and up	37%	32%	26%	4%	2%	351
Age	18-29	62%	12%	22%	3%	1%	114
	30-44	50%	20%	24%	4%	2%	246
	45-64	39%	33%	22%	4%	3%	309
	65 and older	30%	31%	27%	10%	2%	110
Place where live	Urban	46%	25%	23%	4%	2%	156
	Suburban	40%	29%	25%	5%	1%	283
	Rural/Small Town	51%	21%	21%	5%	2%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	44%	25%	25%	5%	1%	230
	Republican	51%	22%	22%	5%	1%	220
	Independent	45%	26%	26%	1%	3%	257

		Q18 How much information do you have about the No Child Left Behind Act?					Number of cases	
		Very informed	Informed	Not too informed	Not at all informed	Don't know		No answer
Total		8%	31%	42%	19%	0%	0%	803
Sex	Male	6%	32%	44%	17%	1%	0%	342
	Female	9%	30%	40%	21%			461
Race	White	6%	33%	43%	18%		0%	615
	Black	11%	31%	37%	20%	1%		112
Region	Northwest	5%	40%	38%	17%			118
	Northern VA	8%	34%	44%	14%			189
	West	10%	22%	37%	30%		1%	151
	South Central	7%	32%	38%	23%			159
	Tidewater	8%	30%	48%	14%	1%		186
Children in Public School	Yes	12%	34%	38%	16%	0%		249
School Employee in Household	Yes	33%	33%	23%	8%	1%	1%	106
Family Income	Under 35,000	4%	18%	46%	29%	2%	1%	174
	35-50,000	8%	35%	40%	17%			122
	50-69,000	9%	30%	42%	19%			123
	70,000 and above	10%	37%	38%	15%			264
Education	H.S. or less	3%	24%	45%	27%	1%	1%	240
	Some college	5%	27%	47%	20%	0%		206
	College grad and up	13%	39%	35%	12%			351
Age	18-29	5%	29%	42%	24%			114
	30-44	12%	32%	38%	17%			246
	45-64	7%	32%	41%	19%	1%		309
	65 and older	3%	30%	50%	16%		1%	110
Place where live	Urban	7%	32%	43%	17%	1%		156
	Suburban	8%	38%	43%	11%			283
	Rural/Small Town	8%	26%	40%	26%			344
Party Identification	Democrat	9%	31%	41%	18%	1%		230
	Republican	5%	33%	47%	15%			220
	Independent	10%	31%	38%	21%			257

		Q19 "The federal government needs to make sure that states are held accountable for school performance."						Number of cases
		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No answer	
Total		23%	57%	14%	4%	2%	0%	803
Sex	Male	22%	54%	17%	5%	1%	0%	342
	Female	23%	60%	11%	3%	2%	0%	461
Race	White	21%	57%	15%	4%	2%	0%	615
	Black	30%	58%	10%	2%	1%		112
Region	Northwest	15%	52%	22%	8%	2%	1%	118
	Northern VA	20%	60%	17%	2%	1%	1%	189
	West	21%	63%	12%	3%	1%		151
	South Central	23%	55%	14%	5%	4%		159
	Tidewater	31%	54%	9%	5%	1%		186
Children in Public School	Yes	28%	57%	11%	4%	0%		249
School Employee in Household	Yes	19%	59%	17%	5%	0%		106
Family Income	Under 35,000	23%	63%	10%	2%	1%	1%	174
	35-50,000	31%	50%	12%	6%	1%		122
	50-69,000	24%	59%	13%	3%		1%	123
	70,000 and above	21%	55%	18%	5%	1%		264
Education	H.S. or less	24%	61%	9%	4%	2%		240
	Some college	26%	58%	12%	3%	1%	1%	206
	College grad and up	20%	53%	20%	5%	1%	0%	351
Age	18-29	26%	64%	6%	3%	1%	1%	114
	30-44	28%	57%	12%	3%	1%		246
	45-64	17%	58%	20%	4%	1%		309
	65 and older	16%	49%	20%	8%	5%	1%	110
Place where live	Urban	24%	56%	14%	6%			156
	Suburban	22%	55%	16%	5%	2%	1%	283
	Rural/Small Town	23%	60%	12%	3%	2%	0%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	21%	61%	13%	3%	2%		230
	Republican	19%	58%	16%	6%	1%	1%	220
	Independent	26%	55%	14%	5%	1%		257

		Q20 "State governments know more about the needs of students and schools in their state than the federal government does."						Number of cases
		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No answer	
Total		29%	55%	10%	2%	2%	1%	803
Sex	Male	29%	53%	12%	3%	3%	1%	342
	Female	30%	58%	9%	2%	2%	0%	461
Race	White	30%	55%	11%	2%	2%	1%	615
	Black	28%	57%	11%	2%	2%	0%	112
Region	Northwest	28%	52%	13%	3%	2%	3%	118
	Northern VA	32%	57%	8%	2%	1%		189
	West	21%	59%	14%	2%	4%		151
	South Central	28%	60%	4%	4%	4%	2%	159
	Tidewater	34%	50%	14%	2%	1%		186
Children in Public School	Yes	30%	55%	12%	2%	1%	1%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	36%	52%	6%	3%	2%		106
Family Income	Under 35,000	22%	57%	15%	3%	2%	1%	174
	35-50,000	26%	59%	11%	1%	3%		122
	50-69,000	26%	59%	14%	1%		0%	123
	70,000 and above	38%	49%	8%	3%	1%	1%	264
Education	H.S. or less	20%	58%	13%	3%	5%	1%	240
	Some college	27%	61%	10%	1%	0%	1%	206
	College grad and up	38%	50%	9%	2%	1%	0%	351
Age	18-29	19%	60%	13%	3%	4%	1%	114
	30-44	33%	52%	11%	2%	0%	1%	246
	45-64	36%	50%	11%	1%	2%	1%	309
	65 and older	21%	67%	5%	3%	4%		110
Place where live	Urban	29%	52%	9%	6%	3%	1%	156
	Suburban	34%	55%	8%	2%	1%	0%	283
	Rural/Small Town	26%	58%	12%	1%	1%	1%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	26%	63%	7%	2%	2%	0%	230
	Republican	31%	51%	14%	1%	2%	0%	220
	Independent	29%	53%	10%	4%	3%	1%	257

		Q21 ...Do you think it is appropriate or not appropriate that students pass SOL tests in order to graduate from high school?				Number of cases
		Appropriate	Not appropriate	Don't know	No answer	
Total		59%	37%	3%	1%	803
Sex	Male	67%	30%	1%	1%	342
	Female	52%	43%	4%	1%	461
Race	White	60%	36%	3%	1%	615
	Black	55%	42%	3%	0%	112
Region	Northwest	62%	34%	2%	2%	118
	Northern VA	65%	32%	2%	1%	189
	West	52%	41%	5%	2%	151
	South Central	63%	34%	3%	0%	159
	Tidewater	54%	43%	3%		186
Children in Public School	Yes	50%	48%	2%	0%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	50%	49%	0%	1%	106
Family Income	Under 35,000	55%	39%	4%	2%	174
	35-50,000	55%	42%	3%		122
	50-69,000	56%	40%	3%	2%	123
	70,000 and above	63%	34%	2%	1%	264
Education	H.S. or less	55%	41%	3%	1%	240
	Some college	55%	40%	5%	1%	206
	College grad and up	66%	32%	1%	1%	351
Age	18-29	51%	43%	5%	1%	114
	30-44	57%	42%	1%	1%	246
	45-64	64%	33%	2%	1%	309
	65 and older	65%	27%	6%	2%	110
Place where live	Urban	63%	33%	3%	1%	156
	Suburban	61%	36%	2%	1%	283
	Rural/Small Town	56%	39%	3%	1%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	55%	40%	4%	1%	230
	Republican	67%	30%	2%	1%	220
	Independent	57%	41%	1%	1%	257

		Q22 "The SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement."						Number of cases
		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No answer	
Total		18%	57%	17%	3%	4%	1%	803
Sex	Male	17%	61%	16%	3%	3%	1%	342
	Female	19%	53%	19%	4%	4%	1%	461
Race	White	16%	58%	17%	4%	4%	1%	615
	Black	22%	54%	17%	3%	3%	0%	112
Region	Northwest	17%	52%	22%	2%	5%	2%	118
	Northern VA	15%	57%	20%	4%	3%	1%	189
	West	14%	66%	13%	3%	2%	1%	151
	South Central	20%	56%	17%	3%	4%	1%	159
	Tidewater	22%	53%	16%	4%	4%	0%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	22%	57%	14%	5%	1%	0%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	32%	46%	14%	2%	4%	2%	106
Family Income	Under 35,000	14%	59%	16%	4%	5%	3%	174
	35-50,000	25%	54%	16%	3%	2%		122
	50-69,000	22%	57%	15%	1%	4%	1%	123
	70,000 and above	16%	58%	20%	4%	1%	0%	264
Education	H.S. or less	12%	64%	17%	2%	3%	1%	240
	Some college	20%	56%	14%	5%	4%	1%	206
	College grad and up	21%	52%	20%	4%	3%	1%	351
Age	18-29	17%	52%	22%	4%	5%	1%	114
	30-44	22%	56%	16%	4%	1%	1%	246
	45-64	14%	63%	17%	3%	2%	0%	309
	65 and older	18%	54%	14%	3%	9%	2%	110
Place where live	Urban	21%	56%	14%	4%	3%	1%	156
	Suburban	19%	55%	19%	3%	3%	0%	283
	Rural/Small Town	16%	59%	19%	3%	3%	1%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	16%	59%	17%	3%	5%	1%	230
	Republican	22%	54%	19%	4%	1%		220
	Independent	16%	60%	17%	4%	2%	1%	257

		Q23 "The SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students."					Number of cases	
		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know		No answer
Total		22%	31%	35%	8%	3%	1%	803
Sex	Male	15%	31%	44%	8%	1%	1%	342
	Female	29%	31%	27%	8%	4%	1%	461
Race	White	22%	29%	37%	8%	3%	1%	615
	Black	27%	36%	29%	7%	2%		112
Region	Northwest	20%	31%	41%	3%	3%	2%	118
	Northern VA	15%	31%	37%	11%	4%	1%	189
	West	25%	34%	31%	5%	4%		151
	South Central	20%	34%	37%	6%	2%	1%	159
	Tidewater	30%	27%	32%	10%	1%	0%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	35%	29%	30%	5%	1%		249
School Employee in Household	Yes	33%	28%	29%	7%	2%	1%	106
Family Income	Under 35,000	20%	35%	35%	4%	4%	1%	174
	35-50,000	28%	32%	32%	6%	3%		122
	50-69,000	27%	29%	33%	8%	2%	1%	123
	70,000 and above	19%	29%	40%	10%	1%	1%	264
Education	H.S. or less	25%	37%	30%	4%	3%		240
	Some college	25%	31%	33%	7%	2%	1%	206
	College grad and up	18%	26%	40%	11%	3%	2%	351
Age	18-29	27%	33%	32%	6%	1%	1%	114
	30-44	28%	31%	28%	10%	2%	1%	246
	45-64	17%	31%	43%	7%	2%	1%	309
	65 and older	13%	30%	39%	9%	8%	1%	110
Place where live	Urban	23%	24%	40%	7%	3%	1%	156
	Suburban	21%	31%	34%	11%	2%	1%	283
	Rural/Small Town	22%	33%	35%	6%	3%	1%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	24%	40%	26%	4%	5%	1%	230
	Republican	22%	21%	46%	8%	3%	0%	220
	Independent	21%	33%	35%	10%	1%	1%	257

		Q24 Virginia public schools in last 5 years: better, worse or the same - in providing skills that will be useful in obtaining a job?					Number of cases
		Gotten better	Gotten worse	Stayed the same	Don't know	No answer	
Total		30%	16%	39%	13%	2%	803
Sex	Male	32%	17%	40%	9%	2%	342
	Female	27%	16%	38%	17%	1%	461
Race	White	29%	17%	38%	15%	2%	615
	Black	34%	15%	41%	8%	1%	112
Region	Northwest	29%	16%	39%	16%	1%	118
	Northern VA	32%	9%	34%	22%	4%	189
	West	32%	21%	39%	6%	1%	151
	South Central	33%	19%	37%	9%	3%	159
	Tidewater	23%	19%	46%	12%	0%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	35%	14%	40%	9%	2%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	36%	19%	45%	1%		106
Family Income	Under 35,000	29%	16%	41%	11%	4%	174
	35-50,000	28%	20%	39%	12%	1%	122
	50-69,000	25%	19%	43%	12%	2%	123
	70,000 and above	32%	16%	33%	17%	2%	264
Education	H.S. or less	34%	18%	40%	7%	1%	240
	Some college	28%	17%	42%	12%	1%	206
	College grad and up	27%	15%	36%	18%	4%	351
Age	18-29	34%	16%	38%	9%	3%	114
	30-44	28%	13%	42%	16%	1%	246
	45-64	26%	22%	36%	15%	1%	309
	65 and older	36%	15%	37%	10%	2%	110
Place where live	Urban	23%	17%	43%	15%	1%	156
	Suburban	29%	15%	35%	16%	4%	283
	Rural/Small Town	32%	17%	40%	10%	1%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	28%	16%	42%	12%	2%	230
	Republican	32%	15%	35%	17%	1%	220
	Independent	31%	16%	41%	10%	2%	257



		Q25 Virginia public schools in last 5 years: better, worse or the same - in teaching the basics such as reading, writing, and mathematics?					Number of cases
		Gotten better	Gotten worse	Stayed the same	Don't know	No answer	
Total		35%	17%	35%	12%	2%	803
Sex	Male	35%	18%	37%	8%	2%	342
	Female	35%	16%	32%	15%	2%	461
Race	White	34%	16%	34%	13%	2%	615
	Black	42%	15%	33%	9%	1%	112
Region	Northwest	34%	20%	32%	14%		118
	Northern VA	31%	11%	33%	22%	3%	189
	West	42%	15%	33%	7%	2%	151
	South Central	39%	19%	32%	7%	2%	159
	Tidewater	31%	21%	40%	7%	0%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	45%	16%	32%	7%	0%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	46%	21%	33%			106
Family Income	Under 35,000	37%	13%	37%	10%	3%	174
	35-50,000	34%	25%	31%	10%		122
	50-69,000	28%	21%	37%	12%	2%	123
	70,000 and above	37%	11%	34%	15%	2%	264
Education	H.S. or less	41%	19%	34%	6%	1%	240
	Some college	32%	21%	36%	11%	0%	206
	College grad and up	33%	13%	35%	17%	3%	351
Age	18-29	40%	12%	33%	12%	2%	114
	30-44	39%	13%	37%	11%	1%	246
	45-64	33%	21%	30%	14%	2%	309
	65 and older	27%	22%	40%	10%	2%	110
Place where live	Urban	34%	18%	33%	14%	1%	156
	Suburban	32%	15%	35%	15%	3%	283
	Rural/Small Town	38%	18%	35%	8%	1%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	40%	12%	35%	12%	1%	230
	Republican	38%	15%	35%	11%	1%	220
	Independent	30%	19%	38%	11%	2%	257

		Q26 Virginia public schools in last 5 years: better, worse or the same - in providing the skills needed for pursuing a 4-year college degree?					Number of cases
		Gotten better	Gotten worse	Stayed the same	Don't know	No answer	
Total		34%	14%	36%	14%	2%	803
Sex	Male	32%	16%	37%	12%	3%	342
	Female	35%	13%	35%	16%	2%	461
Race	White	34%	13%	35%	16%	2%	615
	Black	34%	17%	39%	7%	3%	112
Region	Northwest	29%	9%	40%	21%	1%	118
	Northern VA	34%	8%	33%	22%	2%	189
	West	39%	16%	35%	6%	3%	151
	South Central	40%	16%	32%	8%	4%	159
	Tidewater	26%	21%	41%	11%	1%	186
Children in Public School	Yes	43%	15%	32%	10%	1%	249
School Employee in Household	Yes	42%	14%	39%	5%		106
Family Income	Under 35,000	33%	9%	40%	11%	6%	174
	35-50,000	37%	17%	33%	13%	1%	122
	50-69,000	25%	23%	37%	14%	2%	123
	70,000 and above	38%	14%	31%	15%	2%	264
Education	H.S. or less	34%	15%	38%	12%	2%	240
	Some college	34%	17%	37%	11%	2%	206
	College grad and up	33%	12%	34%	17%	3%	351
Age	18-29	39%	14%	31%	14%	2%	114
	30-44	35%	13%	37%	13%	2%	246
	45-64	32%	18%	32%	15%	3%	309
	65 and older	27%	12%	47%	13%	2%	110
Place where live	Urban	29%	13%	39%	19%	1%	156
	Suburban	32%	15%	35%	15%	3%	283
	Rural/Small Town	37%	15%	36%	10%	2%	344
Party Identification	Democrat	34%	14%	39%	12%	1%	230
	Republican	37%	9%	35%	17%	2%	220
	Independent	31%	18%	35%	12%	3%	257

		Weighted Percent
Sex	Male	48%
	Female	52%
Race	White	72%
	Black	18%
Region	Northwest	12%
	Northern VA	27%
	West	19%
	South Central	18%
	Tidewater	24%
Children in Public School	Yes	35%
School Employee in Household	Yes	13%
Family Income	Under 35,000	19%
	35-50,000	16%
	50-69,000	15%
	70,000 and above	34%
Education	H.S. or less	32%
	Some college	26%
	College grad and up	41%
Age	18-29	20%
	30-44	34%
	45-64	29%
	65 and older	15%
Place where live	Urban	22%
	Suburban	35%
	Rural/Small Town	41%
Party Identification	Democrat	30%
	Republican	28%
	Independent	31%