



COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL 2011-2012

*A survey of Virginians conducted by the
Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute*

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VCU Commonwealth Education Poll Finds Majority of Virginians Support Increased Spending for K-12 and Oppose Test-Based Pay and Tenure for Teachers

In yet another year of concerns over revenue shortfalls and budget balancing, Virginians remain strongly supportive of funding for the public schools. Six-in-ten Virginians (60%) say that Virginia schools do not have enough funds to meet their needs, while only 29% say schools have enough funding now. This year a majority (51%) of Virginians said the amount of money spent on the schools affects education quality a great deal. This represents a nine percent increase from 2010. And they are willing to pay more in taxes to maintain school funding levels. Almost eight-in-ten Virginians (79%) said they would be willing to pay more in taxes to keep public schools funded at the current level. Also, a majority of Virginians (55%) believes that spending to improve the education system is a more important governmental priority than reducing the deficit. While overall support is strong, partisan differences exist with Republicans splitting from Democrats and Independents on the questions.

Job tenure is a concept unique to the educational sector. When the concept of tenure is explained in a balanced way, the poll finds a majority of 55% opposed to offering tenure to teachers while 32% favor and 12% hold no opinion on the tenure issue. While more favorable toward the idea of tenure than other state residents, more school employees and retirees oppose tenure (47%) than favor it (43%).

Pay for performance proposals are still being considered as a possible cure for ailing public schools in Virginia and nationally. Most Virginians (59%) oppose paying teachers whose students perform well on tests more than those whose students perform poorly. At the same time, a majority (52%) believes that basing part of a teacher's salary on student test scores will not help the schools retain high quality teachers. Only 28% take the opposite view saying teachers whose students perform well should be paid more than other teachers. There are sizeable differences of opinion by political party about whether test-based pay will help. Republicans split from Democrats and Independents; with a majority (59%) saying test-based pay will help keep high quality teachers. Only 34% of Independents and 30% of Democrats say the same. School employees and retirees are more likely than other state residents to oppose test-based teacher pay.

William C. Boshier, Jr., executive director, Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute and distinguished professor of public policy in the Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs said, “Even in tough budgetary times Virginians show consistent support for education funding and are willing to pay for it.” Boshier observed, “Opinion seems to have turned this year on the issues of test-based pay and tenure with majorities opposing both.” Boshier also noted, “Strong majorities of Virginians feel Virginia colleges and universities are doing a good job preparing graduates for their careers and producing graduates in high-demand fields.”

These findings are part of a new statewide survey conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University. The Commonwealth Education Poll was conducted by landline and cell telephone from December 9 to 29, 2011 with a random sample of 1,000 adults in Virginia. The margin of error for the poll is plus or minus 3.9 percentage points. This poll is conducted annually by VCU’s Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute (CEPI).

Other survey findings:

- **Which Cuts Hurt Education Quality?** Regardless of public desires for more school funding, most local school districts are in the process of making significant reductions, not increases, to budgets for the schools. The survey asked about the expected effect of six types of budget cuts on the quality of education in local schools. More than three-quarters of Virginians expect all of these cuts to hurt the quality of education either a lot or a little. Cuts expected to hurt the quality of education the most are those involving teacher layoffs (76% say teacher layoffs would hurt a lot). The cuts seen as least likely to hurt education quality include layoffs of administrative staff (36% say these cuts would hurt a lot), followed by cuts in teacher training and professional development (50% say these cuts would hurt the quality of education a lot).
- **Willingness to Pay for Schools and Other State Programs.** Public schools top the list of programs that Virginians are willing to support with increased tax dollars in order to keep funding levels stable but a majority of Virginians were willing to pay more for a number of programs. Sixty-eight percent say they would pay more in taxes to keep state mental health services at current levels and 63% were willing to pay more for programs for aid to low-income families. Fewer say the same about higher education funding (49%) and transportation (50%). About a quarter of state residents (26%) are willing to pay more to keep funding for prisons at current levels.
- **The Outcomes of a Higher Education.** When it comes to specific outcomes, majorities say the Virginia colleges and universities are doing a good job in all four areas considered. Sixty-eight percent of Virginians say colleges and universities are doing a good job providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job and producing graduates in scientific fields. Smaller majorities say the state schools do a good job preparing students for the workforce needs for the future (66%) and developing students’ writing and communication skills (57%).
- **Safety on College Campuses and the December 2011 VA Tech Shooting.** A majority of Virginians (78%) believe that Virginia’s college and university campuses are very or somewhat safe, while 17% say they are not very or not at all safe. This question was asked right after the most recent shooting incident at Virginia Tech on December 8, 2011. Respondents who said they had been following the incident somewhat closely were most likely to say that college and university campuses were very safe (34%) versus those who were following very closely (20%).

“In spite of another shooting incident at Virginia Tech in December 2011, almost eight-in-ten Virginians believe Virginia college and university campuses are very or somewhat safe,” said Farrah Stone Graham,

assistant professor in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs and director of the survey. "In fact, those that said they were following the incident very or somewhat closely were more likely to rate school campuses as very safe."

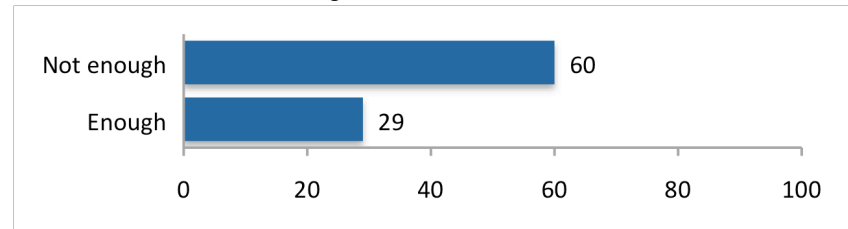
For a PDF of the 38-page report including complete question wording and detailed tables of results see http://www.cepi.vcu.edu/comm_ed_poll.html

School Funding As A Priority

In yet another year of concerns over revenue shortfalls and budget balancing, Virginians remain strongly supportive of funding for the public schools. Six-in-ten Virginians (60%) say that Virginia schools do not have enough funds to meet their needs, while only 29% say schools have enough funding now. This number has been consistent for the past four years the question has been asked. This year a majority (51%) of Virginians said the amount of money spent on the schools affects education quality a great deal. This represents a nine percent increase from 2010.

Do Schools Have Enough?

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



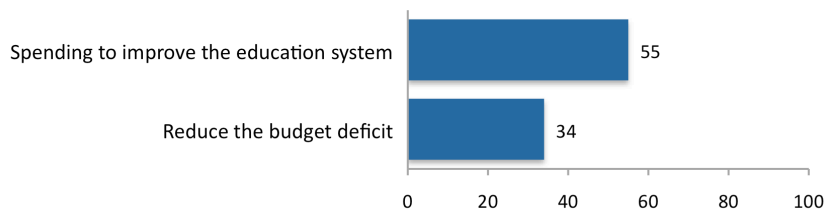
Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2011-2012
Don't know responses not shown

Partisan differences exist on both the issues. While still a majority, only 50% of Republicans think school funding is not enough, compared to 56% of Independents and 76% of Democrats. Republicans are also less likely to say the amount of funding affects quality a great deal with 29%, compared to 49% of Independents and 67% of Democrats. Men and women also see these questions differently with women being more likely to think that current funding is not enough and that money has a greater effect on quality.

Virginians also see spending to improve the education system as an important government priority. A

Education or the Deficit?

If you were setting government priorities these days, would you place a higher priority on reducing the budget deficit or spending more to improve the education system?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2011-2012
Don't know responses not shown

majority (55%) believes that spending to improve the education system is a more important priority than reducing the deficit. Partisan and gender differences exist on the issue. Women were more likely than men to see education spending as

more important (60% versus 50%). And Republicans were more likely to see reducing the deficit as the more important priority, with 59% saying so.

Those who believe schools need more funding are more likely to say that state government sources, rather than local government sources should provide the increase. Fully 44% of those saying schools don't have enough funding think increased dollars should come from state, rather than local government. This compares with just 12% of this group saying local government should provide increased funding for the schools. Almost four-in-ten (38%) of this group volunteered that both state and local government should provide increased funding, which is an eleven percent increase from last year. Of course, it's one thing to say more funds are needed and another to realize that such funding could entail a personal sacrifice in the form of more tax dollars.

Who Should Bear the Burden?

Do you think increased funding for the public schools should come from state government or local government?

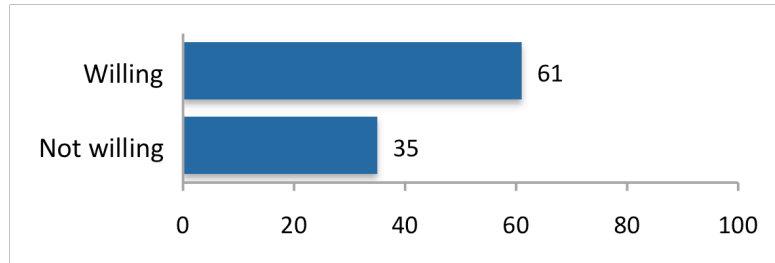
Among those saying not enough

	%
State government	44
Local government	12
Both (volunteered)	38
Don't know/Refused	6
	100

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2011-2012

Would You Pay for More School Funding?

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



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2011-2012

Don't know responses not shown

A 61% majority of Virginians indicates a personal willingness to pay higher taxes in order to increase school funding, 35% say they are not willing to do so. The proportion willing to pay higher taxes for this purpose is six percent higher than a year ago when 55% said they would be willing to pay more taxes in

order to increase school funding.

Almost seven-in-ten (69%) of school employees or retirees would be willing to pay more in taxes for a funding increase. Similarly, more than three quarters (76%) of those who believe that the amount of money spent on schools affects education quality a great deal are willing to pay more in taxes in order to increase funding. By contrast, Republicans were less likely to be willing to pay more with only 35%, compared to 84% of Democrats and 56% of Independents.

A plurality (40%) of those willing to pay more in taxes for a school funding increase say that a sales tax would be best; smaller proportions say an income tax (32%), real estate property tax (9%) or personal property tax (10%) would be best. These figures are similar to findings from past Commonwealth Education Polls.

What kind of tax?

What kind of tax increase do you think would be best?

Among those willing to pay more in taxes

	%
Sales tax	40
Income tax	32
Real estate property tax	9
Personal property tax	10
Don't know/Refused	<u>10</u>
	100

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2011-2012

Figures may add to 99 or 101 due to rounding

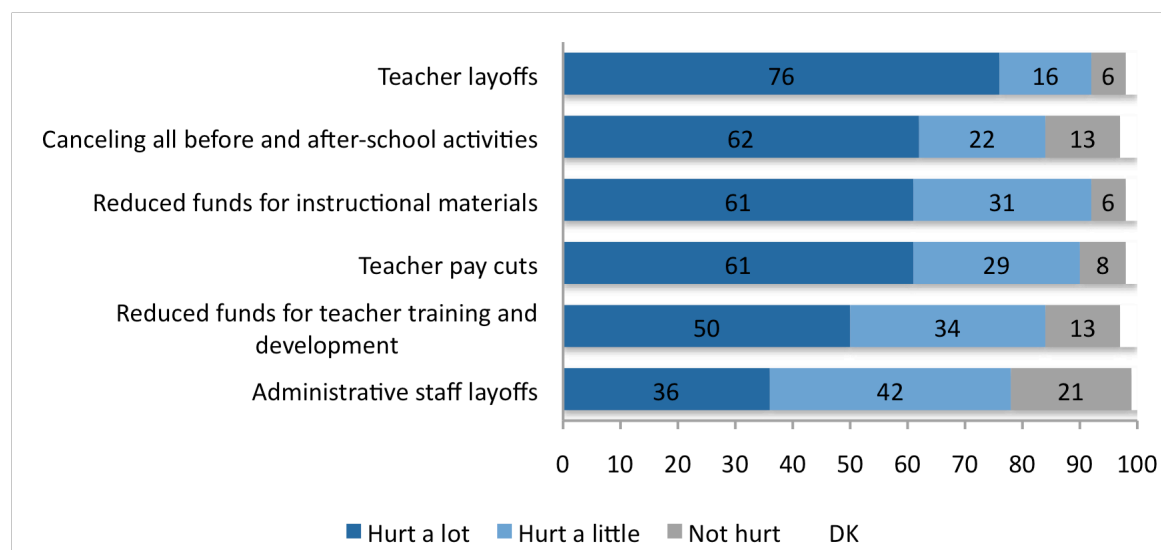
Which School Budget Cuts Will Hurt the Least?

Local school divisions around the state are currently in the process of making significant reductions, not increases, to school budgets due to declining revenues from both state and local sources. Fifty percent of Virginians believe these cuts will bring major changes to schools in their community, while 40% believe the schools will continue pretty much as they are now.

The survey asked about the expected effect of six types of budget cuts on the quality of education in local schools. More than three-quarters of Virginians expect all six types of cuts to hurt the quality of education either a lot or a little. The cuts seen as least likely to hurt the quality of education include

Estimating the Price of Budget Cuts on Education Quality

If funding cuts in education lead to..., would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community a lot, a little, or would that NOT hurt the quality of education in your community?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2011-2012

Figures may add to 99 or 101 due to rounding

layoffs of administrative staff; 36% believe these cuts would hurt the quality of education a lot while 42% say these layoffs would hurt a little. Half believe that reduced funds for teacher training and professional development would hurt education quality a lot; another 34% say this would hurt a little. These percentages are consistent with the last time the question was asked in 2009.

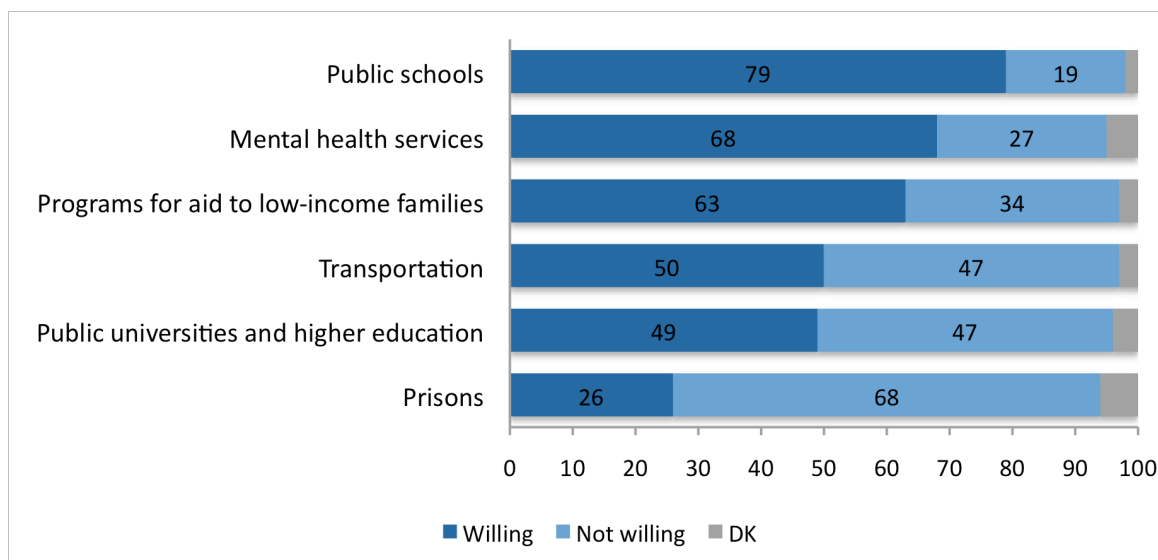
About six-in-ten believe that cancelling all before and after school activities would hurt education quality a lot (62%) as would having reduced funds for instructional materials (61%). Similarly, 61% say teacher pay cuts would hurt education quality a lot. Cuts expected to hurt the quality of education the most are those involving teacher layoffs; 76% say teacher layoffs would hurt education quality a lot.

Willingness to Pay for School Funding and Other State Programs

Public schools top the list of programs that Virginians are willing to support with increased tax dollars in order to keep funding levels stable. The Commonwealth Education Poll asked respondents whether or not they are willing to pay more in taxes in order to maintain current funding levels for each of six state programs. More say they would pay additional tax dollars for the public schools than say the same about any other program considered. Almost eight-in-ten Virginians (79%) say they would be willing to pay more in taxes for public schools; about two-in-ten (19%) would not be willing to pay more in taxes for the schools. Willingness to pay for school funding has increased ten percent from a year ago when 69% said they were willing to pay more in taxes to keep school funding at its current level.

Support for School Funding Strong

As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the program going at its current level.



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2011-2012

Figures may add to 99 or 101 due to rounding

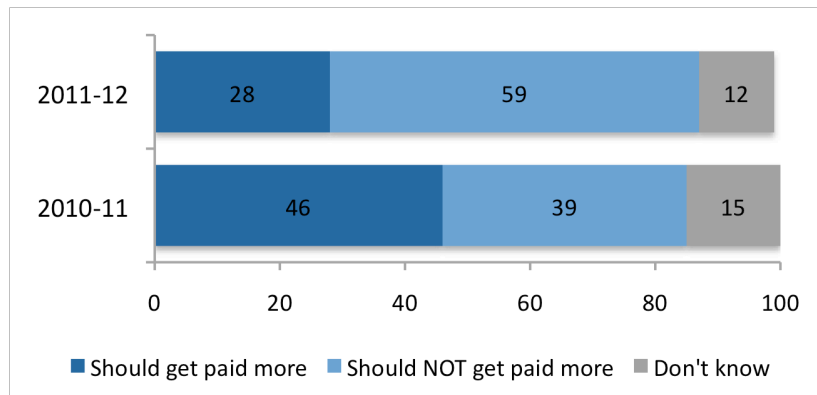
About seven-in-ten Virginians are willing to pay more in taxes for mental health services (68%) and 63% for programs that provide aid to low-income families. Views about higher education funding are divided with 49% willing to pay more in taxes for higher education and 47% not willing to do so. Similarly, half would pay more in taxes for transportation while 47% would not pay more in taxes to keep these services at its current level. Prison funding garnered the least support; 68% say they are not willing to pay more in taxes to keep prison funding at its current level while 26% are willing to do so.

Teacher Compensation and Teacher Tenure

Pay for performance proposals are still being considered as a possible cure for ailing public schools in Virginia and nationally. However, most Virginians (59%) oppose paying teachers whose students perform well on tests more than those whose students perform poorly, which is a 20 percentage-point increase from last year. Only 28% take the opposite view saying teachers whose students perform well should be paid more than other teachers.

Pay Based on Test Scores?

Do you think that teachers whose students perform well on tests should or should not get paid more than teachers whose students perform poorly on those tests?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2011-2012

School employees and retirees and parents of public school students tend to be more opposed than others to including test scores in teacher pay. Sixty-nine percent of parents and 66% of school employees and retirees say teachers should not be paid based on test scores.

Women are more opposed than men to test-based pay. Among women, 21% say teachers with higher performing students should get paid more than other teachers, 66% say they should not. Men are more divided with 38% saying such teachers should get paid more and 51% saying they should not.

Proponents of linking test scores with teacher pay sometimes argue that such proposals will help schools retain high quality teachers. This year a majority of Virginians (52%) disagree with this argument

and say it will not help. This represents a shift in opinion from 2009, when a 52% majority felt test-based pay would help with teacher quality.

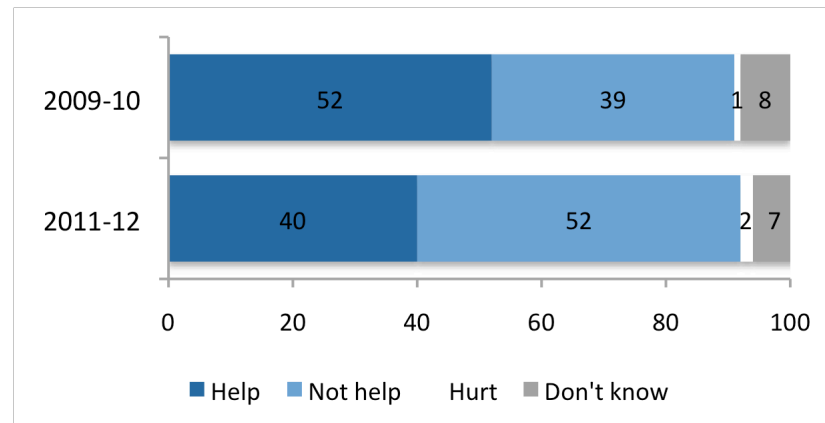
There are sizeable differences of opinion by political party.

Republicans split from Democrats and Independents; with a majority (59%) saying test-based pay will help keep high quality teachers. Only 34% of Independents and 30% of Democrats say the same.

Again there were differences by gender with men being more evenly divided on the issue. Forty-seven percent thought it would not help and 45% thought it would. A majority of women (56%) felt that test-based pay would not help with quality, and 35% thought it would.

Benefits of Test-based Pay

Do you think basing part of a teacher's salary on his or her student's performance on state tests would help or not help the schools keep high quality teachers?

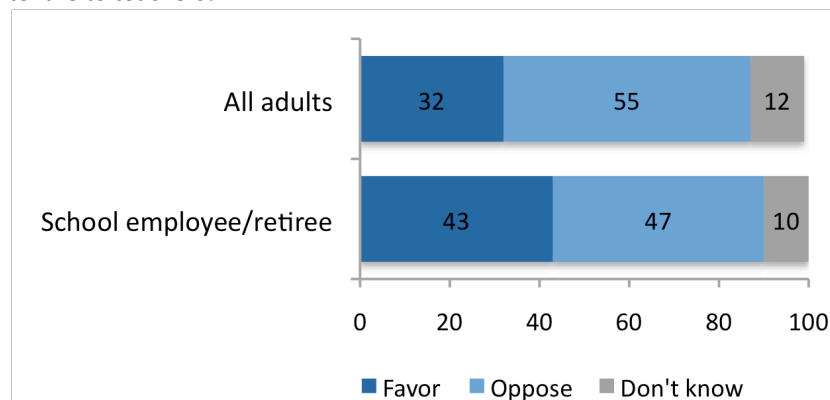


Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2011-2012

Teacher Tenure. Job tenure is a concept unique to the educational sector and has long been a topic of discussion and debate in education policy circles. What does the public think about teacher tenure? In

Opinion about Teacher Tenure

Teachers with tenure cannot be dismissed unless a school district follows detailed procedures. Some say that tenure protects teachers from being fired for arbitrary reasons. Others say that because of tenure, it is too difficult to replace ineffective teachers. What about you? Do you favor or oppose offering tenure to teachers?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2009-2010

the past Virginians have been divided on the issue. However, this year's poll has seen a shift, with 55% opposing offering tenure, which is a seven percent increase from the last two years. Almost one-third (32%) favor offering tenure and 12% are undecided.

While more favorable toward the idea of tenure

than other state residents, more school employees and retirees oppose tenure (47%) than favor it (43%). Partisan differences exist as well with 40% of Democrats favoring tenure, while only 29% of Independents and 24% of Republicans do.

The State of Higher Education?

How Safe are College Campuses?

Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia?

	%
Very safe	25
Somewhat safe	53
Not very safe	13
Not safe at all	4
Don't know/Refused	5
	100

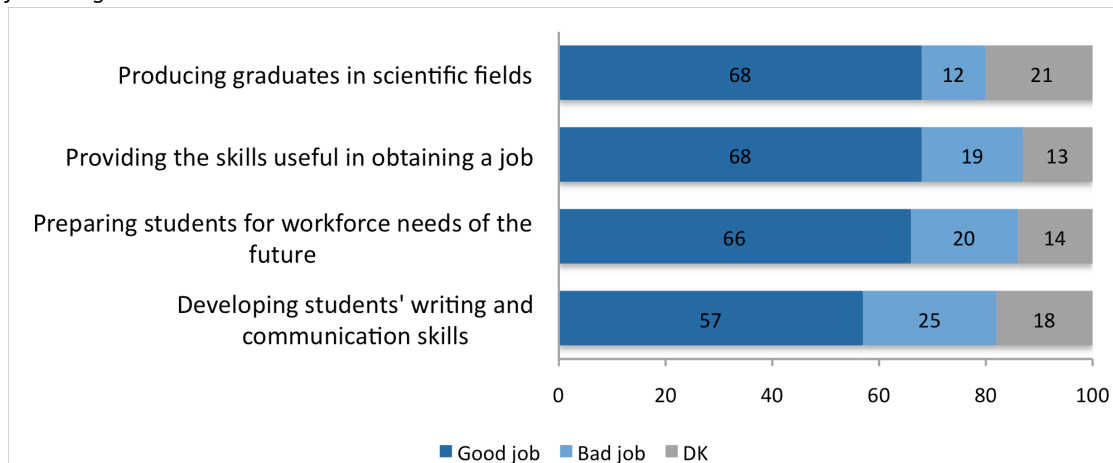
Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2011-2012

A majority of Virginians (78%) believe that Virginia's college and university campuses are very or somewhat safe, while 17% say not very or not at all safe. This question was asked right after the most recent shooting incident at Virginia Tech on December 8, 2011. Respondents who said they had been following the incident somewhat closely were most likely to say that college and university campuses were very safe (34%) versus those who were following very closely (20%).

Higher Education Outcomes. When it comes to specific outcomes, majorities say the Virginia colleges and universities are doing a good job in all four areas considered. Sixty-eight percent of Virginians say colleges and universities are doing a good job providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job and producing graduates in scientific fields. Smaller majorities say the state schools do a good job preparing students for the workforce needs for the future (66%) and developing students' writing and

How are Virginia's Colleges and Universities Doing?

Overall, do you think the colleges and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or a bad job in following areas?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2011-2012

communication skills (57%). There were significant partisan differences with Independents being the least likely to say colleges and universities are doing a good job in all four areas. While parents with children who attended a Virginia college or university were more likely to rate schools as doing a good job in all of the areas.

METHOD OF THE COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL

The Commonwealth Education Poll is a public opinion survey of Virginia residents about schools and education in the state. The survey was conducted by landline and cell telephone from December 9 to 29, 2011 with a randomly selected sample of 1,000 adults living in Virginia. The interviewing was conducted through the facilities of Issues and Answers, a research and polling company located in Virginia. They used a staff of professionally trained, paid interviewers and computer-assisted telephone interviewing software to conduct the survey.

The sample of telephone numbers was designed so that all adults in Virginia with access to either a residential landline or cellular telephone, including new and unlisted numbers, had a known chance of inclusion. The data are weighted to adjust for unequal probabilities of selection due to multiple adults living in landline households and for frame size of the landline and cell phone sampling frames. In addition, the data are weighted on sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region of residence and population density to reflect the demographic composition of the adult population in Virginia. 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 3.9 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 3.9 percentage points above or below the figure that would be obtained by interviewing all Virginian residents with telephones. Where the answers of subgroups are reported, the sampling error would be higher. Because of non-response (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.

Commonwealth Education Poll 2011-2012Statewide survey of Virginians¹

December 9-29, 2011

Number of Respondents: 1000

Q1. In your opinion, how much does the amount of money spent on the public schools affect the quality of students' education – a great deal, quite a lot, not too much, or not at all?

	11-12	10-11	09-10	08-09	2003	2002
	%	%	%	%	%	%
A great deal	51	42	39	43	42	45
Quite a lot	20	26	30	27	31	26
Not much	16	20	18	20	18	19
Not at all	4	4	4	4	2	4
Don't Know/Refused	9	7	10	7	7	5

Q2. Overall, do you think the funding for public schools in Virginia is enough to meet their needs, or not enough to meet their needs?

	11-12	10-11	09-10	08-09	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Enough	29	31	27	28	26	20	27	23	21
Not enough	60	59	63	62	64	69	64	67	70
Don't know/Refused	11	10	11	10	9	9	9	9	10

ASK IF NOT ENOUGH (Q10=2):

Q3. Do you think increased funding for the public schools should come from [ROTATE ORDER] state government or local government?

	Among those saying not enough		
	11-12	10-11	09-10
	%	%	%
State government	44	58	54
Local government	12	12	12
Both (VOLUNTEERED)	38	27	26
Don't Know/Refused	6	4	7

ASK FORM 1 ONLY:

Q4A. If you were setting government priorities these days, would you place a higher priority on reducing the budget deficit or spending more to improve the education system?

	Virginia
	11-12
	%
Reducing the budget deficit	29
Spending to improve the education system	61
Don't know/Refused	10

¹ Percentages may add to 99 or 101 due to rounding. Cells that are blank contain no cases. Cells with a zero percent entry contain cases, but the percentage is less than 0.5%.

ASK FORM 2:

Q4B. If you were setting government priorities today, would you place a higher priority on spending more to improve the education system or reducing the budget deficit?

	Virginia 11-12
	%
Spending to improve the education system	50
Reducing the budget deficit	39
Don't know/Refused	11

COMBINED Q4a AND Q4b

	Virginia 11-12	National trend for comparison: Pew Research 2009²
	%	%
Spending to improve the education system	55	57
Reducing the budget deficit	34	38
Don't know/Refused	11	5

ASK ALL:

Q5. Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding could be increased?

	11-12	10-11	09-10	08-09	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Willing	61	55	53	55	55	57	61	60	57
Not willing	35	39	41	37	38	36	34	34	36
Don't know/Refused	5	7	6	8	6	7	5	6	7

ASK IF WILLING (Q5=1):

Q6. What kind of tax increase do you think would be best – sales tax, income tax, real estate property tax, or personal property tax? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 through 4]**

(IF R SELECTS MORE THAN ONE, PROBE: "Which ONE do you think would be BEST?" IF STILL COMBO, CODE AS DK/REF.)

(NOTE FOR INTERVIEWERS: Real estate property tax is the tax based on the value of a home or other property that you own. Personal property tax is often called the "car tax" because it is based on the value of any cars or other vehicles that you own.)

	-----Among those willing to pay higher taxes-----								
	11-12	10-11	09-10	08-09	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sales tax	40	48	49	48	49	58	54	58	47
Income tax	32	20	18	18	15	13	14	14	16
Real estate property tax	9	15	12	14	13	15	13	10	16
Personal property tax	10	9	12	10	14	7	10	11	13
Don't know/Refused	10	8	9	9	9	7	10	6	9

² Pew Research Center for People and the Press Political Survey, Jul 22-26 2009. N=1,506 adults.

ASK ALL:

Q7. Local school districts are cutting budgets this year. Do you think the schools in your community will be able to continue pretty much as they are now, OR do you think these cuts will bring major changes to the schools in your community?³

	11-12	09-10
	%	%
Will continue as they are now	40	36
Will bring major changes	50	51
Don't know/Refused	10	13

Q8. As you may know, funding for a variety of state government programs and services is likely to be cut due to the economic downturn. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the program going at its current level.

(First, / Next,)

[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]... READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN IF NECESSARY: Would you be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep this program going at its current level?

	Willing	Not willing	DK
	%	%	%
a. Public schools	79	19	2
10-11	69	27	4
09-10	66	31	3
08-09	68	28	3
b. Mental health services	68	27	5
10-11	60	34	6
09-10	61	34	5
08-09	62	31	8
c. Public universities and higher education ⁴	49	47	4
10-11	50	44	6
09-10	48	49	3
08-09	46	49	5
d. Prisons	26	68	6
10-11	23	71	7
09-10	25	69	6
08-09	24	68	7
e. Programs for aid to low-income families	63	34	3
10-11	60	35	5
09-10	59	36	4
08-09	61	33	7
f. Transportation	50	47	4
10-11	48	47	5
09-10	46	50	4
08-09	48	46	5

³ In 2003 through 2008-2009, a similar question was asked about a hypothetical situation, "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?"

⁴ "Public" added to the 2010-2011 wording.

* "Waste none" was combined with "Doesn't waste very much"

Q9. If funding cuts in education lead to **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community a lot, a little, or would that NOT hurt the quality of education in your community? What about if funding cuts lead to **[INSERT ITEM]**? **READ IF NECESSARY:** Would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community a lot, a little, or would that NOT hurt the quality of education in your community?

	Hurt a lot	Hurt a little	Not hurt	Don't know
	%	%	%	%
a. Teacher layoffs	76	16	6	2
09-10	74	16	6	3
b. Teacher pay cuts	61	29	8	2
09-10	63	25	8	3
c. Administrative staff layoffs	36	42	21	2
09-10	37	42	17	4
d. Canceling all before and after-school activities	62	22	13	3
09-10	59	26	13	3
e. Reduced funds for teacher training and professional development	50	34	13	3
09-10	49	35	12	4
f. Reduced funds for instructional materials such as books, computers, and library resources	61	31	6	2
09-10	60	28	8	3

ASK ALL:

Thinking about teacher pay...

Q10. Do you think that teachers whose students perform well on tests should or should not get paid more than teachers whose students perform poorly on those tests?

	Virginia			National trend for comparison CNN 2009⁵
	11-12	10-11	09-10	
	%	%	%	%
Should get paid more	28	46	36	50
Should not get paid more	59	39	52	48
Don't Know/Refused	12	15	12	2

Q11. Do you think basing part of a teacher's salary on his or her student's performance on state tests would help or not help the schools keep high quality teachers?

	11-12	09-10
	%	%
Help	40	52
Not help	52	39
Hurt school's ability to keep high quality teachers (VOLUNTEERED)	2	1
Don't Know/Refused	7	8

⁵ CNN survey conducted by Opinion Research Corporation, March 12-15, 2009. N= 1,019 adults.

Q12. Teachers with tenure [**ten**-yur] cannot be dismissed unless a school district follows detailed procedures. Some say that tenure [**ten**-yur] protects teachers from being fired for arbitrary reasons. Others say that because of tenure [**ten**-yur], it is too difficult to replace ineffective teachers. What about you? Do you favor or oppose offering tenure [**ten**-yur] to teachers?

	11-12	10-11	09-10
	%	%	%
Favor	32	35	37
Oppose	55	48	48
Don't Know/Refused	12	16	16

Now, thinking about colleges and universities in Virginia...

Q13. Overall do you think that colleges and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job...

	Good job	Bad job	Don't know
	%	%	%
a. In providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job	68	19	13
b. In developing students' writing and communication skills	57	25	18
c. In producing graduates in scientific fields, such as engineering, math and technology	68	12	21
d. In preparing students for the workforce needs of the future	66	20	14

Q14. Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia?

	11-12
	%
Very safe	25
Somewhat safe	53
Not very safe	13
Not at all safe	4
Don't Know/Refused	5

Q15. How closely have you been following the most recent shootings at Virginia Tech (December 8, 2011)?

	11-12
	%
Very closely	48
Somewhat closely	40
Not very closely	9
Not at all	2
Don't Know/Refused	2

Tables of Results by Selected Subgroups⁶

		Q1. In your opinion, how much does the amount of money spent on the public schools affect the quality of students' education – a great deal, quite a lot, not too much, or not at all?					Number of cases
		A great deal	Quite a lot	Not too much	Not at all	Don't know	
All adults		51%	20%	16%	4%	9%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	40%	24%	22%	6%	8%	143
	Northern VA	43%	26%	16%	6%	10%	245
	West	58%	11%	21%	4%	6%	176
	South Central	64%	15%	9%	2%	10%	198
	Tidewater	51%	21%	13%	3%	12%	238
Gender	Men	44%	23%	18%	5%	10%	427
	Women	56%	18%	14%	3%	9%	573
Age	18-34	43%	23%	18%	8%	8%	141
	35-44	53%	30%	14%	0%	2%	137
	45-64	59%	18%	11%	3%	9%	419
	65 and older	45%	12%	23%	3%	17%	303
Education	H.S. or less	51%	15%	13%	6%	14%	237
	Some college	42%	27%	19%	2%	11%	240
	College grad or more	59%	20%	16%	2%	3%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	55%	14%	21%	3%	8%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	55%	21%	11%	4%	10%	253
	\$100,000 or more	51%	27%	14%	6%	2%	221
School employee or retiree?	Yes	57%	22%	9%	5%	7%	233
	No	49%	19%	18%	4%	10%	736
Parent of public school student?	Yes	51%	21%	17%	6%	5%	250
	No	51%	19%	16%	4%	11%	750
Party identification	Democrat	67%	24%	4%	1%	3%	255
	Republican	29%	25%	30%	4%	13%	244
	Independent	49%	16%	16%	9%	7%	358

⁶ In the following tables, cells that are blank contain no cases. Cells with a zero percent entry contain cases, but the percentage is less than 0.5%. Percentages may add to 99 or 101 due to rounding.

		Q2. Overall, do you think the funding for public schools in Virginia is enough to meet their needs, or not enough to meet their needs?			
		Enough	Not enough	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		29%	60%	11%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	34%	55%	11%	143
	Northern VA	36%	56%	8%	245
	West	22%	74%	4%	176
	South Central	25%	62%	14%	198
	Tidewater	26%	56%	18%	238
Gender	Men	33%	54%	14%	427
	Women	26%	65%	9%	573
Age	18-34	36%	48%	16%	141
	35-44	25%	73%	2%	137
	45-64	24%	64%	11%	419
	65 and older	30%	62%	8%	303
Education	H.S. or less	25%	62%	13%	237
	Some college	28%	59%	13%	240
	College grad or more	31%	62%	7%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	27%	66%	6%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	23%	65%	12%	253
	\$100,000 or more	28%	70%	2%	221
School employee or retiree?	Yes	17%	76%	6%	233
	No	33%	56%	12%	736
Parent of public school student?	Yes	32%	58%	10%	250
	No	28%	61%	11%	750
Party identification	Democrat	18%	73%	9%	255
	Republican	44%	50%	7%	244
	Independent	30%	56%	15%	358

		Q3. Do you think increased funding for the public schools should come from [ROTATE ORDER:] state government or local government?				Number of cases
		State government	Local government	Both [VOLUNTEERED]	Don't know	
All answering not enough		44%	12%	38%	6%	628
VA Region	Northwest	56%	1%	31%	12%	93
	Northern VA	45%	8%	36%	10%	129
	West	53%	4%	39%	5%	131
	South Central	36%	16%	48%	0%	127
	Tidewater	34%	28%	33%	4%	148
Gender	Men	33%	19%	40%	7%	242
	Women	52%	8%	36%	5%	386
Age	18-34	47%	24%	28%	1%	80
	35-44	51%	17%	30%	2%	90
	45-64	47%	4%	48%	1%	292
	65 and older	33%	10%	35%	23%	166
Education	H.S. or less	48%	8%	37%	7%	152
	Some college	53%	18%	23%	6%	154
	College grad or more	38%	12%	46%	4%	299
Family Income	Under \$50,000	53%	11%	28%	8%	167
	50K to under \$100,000	44%	19%	36%	1%	158
	\$100,000 or more	42%	11%	42%	6%	142
Parent of public school student?	Yes	53%	15%	31%	1%	169
	No	41%	11%	40%	8%	459
Party identification	Democrat	46%	16%	33%	5%	200
	Republican	45%	11%	31%	13%	119
	Independent	45%	10%	42%	3%	218

Q4aForm1 and Q4bForm2 COMBINED		Q4Com.If you were setting government priorities these days, would you place a higher priority on reducing the budget deficit or spending more to improve the education system.			Number of cases
		Reducing the budget deficit	Spending to improve the education system	Don't know	
All adults		34%	55%	11%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	40%	41%	19%	143
	Northern VA	39%	53%	8%	245
	West	31%	57%	12%	176
	South Central	28%	63%	9%	198
	Tidewater	31%	59%	9%	238
Gender	Men	41%	50%	10%	427
	Women	29%	60%	11%	573
Age	18-34	30%	65%	5%	141
	35-44	34%	53%	13%	137
	45-64	35%	57%	8%	419
	65 and older	39%	40%	21%	303
Education	H.S. or less	33%	55%	12%	237
	Some college	33%	56%	11%	240
	College grad or more	33%	56%	8%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	20%	71%	9%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	31%	55%	14%	253
	\$100,000 or more	43%	49%	8%	221
School employee or retiree?	Yes	31%	59%	10%	233
	No	35%	54%	11%	736
Parent of public school student?	Yes	32%	57%	11%	250
	No	35%	54%	10%	750
Party identification	Democrat	14%	77%	9%	255
	Republican	59%	29%	12%	244
	Independent	35%	56%	9%	358

		Q5. Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding could be increased?			
		Willing	Not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		61%	35%	5%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	50%	38%	12%	143
	Northern VA	61%	36%	3%	245
	West	52%	44%	4%	176
	South Central	72%	24%	5%	198
	Tidewater	65%	29%	5%	238
Gender	Men	60%	38%	2%	427
	Women	61%	32%	7%	573
Age	18-34	71%	23%	6%	141
	35-44	70%	28%	2%	137
	45-64	55%	42%	4%	419
	65 and older	50%	42%	7%	303
Education	H.S. or less	55%	36%	9%	237
	Some college	62%	36%	2%	240
	College grad or more	66%	31%	3%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	65%	32%	3%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	63%	34%	2%	253
	\$100,000 or more	63%	36%	1%	221
School employee or retiree?	Yes	69%	28%	3%	233
	No	58%	36%	6%	736
Parent of public school student?	Yes	65%	28%	7%	250
	No	58%	37%	4%	750
Party identification	Democrat	84%	13%	3%	255
	Republican	35%	59%	6%	244
	Independent	56%	39%	5%	358

		Q7. Local school districts are cutting budgets this year. Do you think the schools in your community will be able to continue pretty much as they are now, OR do you think these cuts will bring major changes...?			
		Will continue as they are now	Will bring major changes	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		40%	50%	10%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	50%	40%	10%	143
	Northern VA	40%	44%	16%	245
	West	36%	59%	5%	176
	South Central	32%	61%	6%	198
	Tidewater	44%	46%	10%	238
Gender	Men	48%	40%	12%	427
	Women	34%	57%	9%	573
Age	18-34	41%	50%	8%	141
	35-44	39%	56%	5%	137
	45-64	42%	48%	10%	419
	65 and older	36%	48%	16%	303
Education	H.S. or less	41%	50%	10%	237
	Some college	40%	46%	14%	240
	College grad or more	37%	54%	9%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	42%	49%	9%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	32%	55%	13%	253
	\$100,000 or more	39%	52%	8%	221
School employee or retiree?	Yes	26%	69%	5%	233
	No	44%	44%	12%	736
Parent of public school student?	Yes	42%	52%	6%	250
	No	40%	49%	12%	750
Party identification	Democrat	28%	67%	4%	255
	Republican	54%	31%	15%	244
	Independent	41%	46%	13%	358

		Q8a. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the - Public schools - program going at its current level.			Number of cases
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	
All adults		79%	19%	2%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	81%	17%	2%	143
	Northern VA	72%	26%	2%	245
	West	82%	17%	1%	176
	South Central	83%	16%	1%	198
	Tidewater	81%	17%	2%	238
Gender	Men	73%	26%	1%	427
	Women	84%	14%	2%	573
Age	18-34	88%	11%	1%	141
	35-44	83%	16%	1%	137
	45-64	78%	21%	1%	419
	65 and older	65%	31%	4%	303
Education	H.S. or less	81%	23%	0%	237
	Some college	79%	20%	1%	240
	College grad or more	80%	18%	2%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	87%	13%	0%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	83%	17%	1%	253
	\$100,000 or more	76%	23%	1%	221
School employee or retiree?	Yes	84%	14%	2%	233
	No	78%	21%	1%	736
Parent of public school student?	Yes	82%	16%	2%	250
	No	78%	21%	1%	750
Party identification	Democrat	94%	5%	1%	255
	Republican	60%	37%	3%	244
	Independent	77%	22%	1%	358

		Q8b. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the - Mental health services - program going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		68%	27%	5%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	57%	34%	9%	143
	Northern VA	66%	28%	6%	245
	West	71%	24%	5%	176
	South Central	71%	28%	1%	198
	Tidewater	69%	25%	5%	238
Gender	Men	59%	36%	4%	427
	Women	74%	20%	6%	573
Age	18-34	78%	23%	3%	141
	35-44	63%	31%	7%	137
	45-64	72%	26%	2%	419
	65 and older	49%	39%	13%	303
Education	H.S. or less	67%	28%	6%	237
	Some college	66%	24%	10%	240
	College grad or more	71%	27%	2%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	79%	20%	1%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	75%	21%	4%	253
	\$100,000 or more	59%	36%	5%	221
Party identification	Democrat	81%	18%	1%	255
	Republican	56%	36%	8%	244
	Independent	63%	28%	8%	358

		Q8c. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the - Universities and higher education - going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		49%	47%	4%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	54%	42%	4%	143
	Northern VA	44%	53%	4%	245
	West	48%	49%	3%	176
	South Central	54%	45%	1%	198
	Tidewater	51%	42%	7%	238
Gender	Men	40%	58%	2%	427
	Women	57%	38%	5%	573
Age	18-34	55%	44%	1%	141
	35-44	44%	55%	1%	137
	45-64	51%	44%	5%	419
	65 and older	42%	51%	8%	303
Education	H.S. or less	51%	46%	3%	237
	Some college	45%	51%	5%	240
	College grad or more	53%	44%	3%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	62%	33%	4%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	50%	45%	5%	253
	\$100,000 or more	51%	49%	0%	221
Party identification	Democrat	64%	30%	6%	255
	Republican	42%	57%	2%	244
	Independent	41%	56%	3%	358

		Q8d. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the - Prisons - program going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes			Number of cases
		more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	
All adults		26%	68%	6%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	22%	75%	4%	143
	Northern VA	32%	60%	8%	245
	West	29%	62%	9%	176
	South Central	27%	67%	7%	198
	Tidewater	16%	81%	3%	238
Gender	Men	25%	71%	4%	427
	Women	26%	66%	8%	573
Age	18-34	27%	68%	5%	141
	35-44	31%	68%	1%	137
	45-64	25%	68%	7%	419
	65 and older	21%	68%	11%	303
Education	H.S. or less	20%	77%	3%	237
	Some college	29%	64%	7%	240
	College grad or more	29%	63%	8%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	32%	62%	6%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	28%	70%	3%	253
	\$100,000 or more	25%	72%	3%	221
Party identification	Democrat	35%	61%	4%	255
	Republican	28%	63%	8%	244
	Independent	17%	76%	7%	358

		Q8e. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the - Programs for aid to low-income families - going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		63%	34%	3%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	53%	45%	2%	143
	Northern VA	66%	28%	6%	245
	West	63%	36%	1%	176
	South Central	73%	24%	3%	198
	Tidewater	57%	40%	3%	238
Gender	Men	52%	45%	3%	427
	Women	71%	26%	4%	573
Age	18-34	72%	27%	1%	141
	35-44	63%	37%	1%	137
	45-64	62%	32%	6%	419
	65 and older	51%	45%	4%	303
Education	H.S. or less	57%	38%	5%	237
	Some college	62%	36%	2%	240
	College grad or more	71%	27%	2%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	75%	24%	1%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	68%	28%	4%	253
	\$100,000 or more	58%	42%	0%	221
Party identification	Democrat	80%	17%	3%	255
	Republican	44%	53%	3%	244
	Independent	59%	37%	4%	358

		Q8f. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the - Transportation - program going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		50%	47%	4%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	46%	52%	3%	143
	Northern VA	62%	34%	4%	245
	West	46%	51%	3%	176
	South Central	53%	43%	3%	198
	Tidewater	38%	58%	5%	238
Gender	Men	47%	50%	3%	427
	Women	52%	44%	4%	573
Age	18-34	50%	46%	4%	141
	35-44	58%	41%	1%	137
	45-64	51%	48%	1%	419
	65 and older	43%	49%	9%	303
Education	H.S. or less	52%	44%	4%	237
	Some college	47%	49%	4%	240
	College grad or more	51%	46%	3%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	57%	39%	4%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	43%	55%	1%	253
	\$100,000 or more	54%	45%	1%	221
Party identification	Democrat	57%	41%	1%	255
	Republican	43%	56%	3%	244
	Independent	51%	44%	5%	358

		Q9a. If funding cuts in education lead to - Teacher layoffs -, would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community...?				Number of cases
		Hurt a lot	Hurt a little	Not hurt	Don't know	
All adults		76%	16%	6%	2%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	67%	24%	8%	1%	143
	Northern VA	73%	16%	8%	3%	245
	West	79%	16%	6%	0%	176
	South Central	78%	17%	2%	3%	198
	Tidewater	81%	12%	7%	0%	238
Gender	Men	67%	22%	9%	1%	427
	Women	82%	12%	4%	2%	573
Age	18-34	82%	17%	1%	1%	141
	35-44	82%	13%	4%	0%	137
	45-64	77%	11%	8%	3%	419
	65 and older	62%	25%	11%	1%	303
Education	H.S. or less	80%	12%	7%	1%	237
	Some college	78%	14%	7%	2%	240
	College grad or more	74%	18%	5%	3%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	75%	20%	4%	2%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	82%	10%	7%	1%	253
	\$100,000 or more	73%	16%	8%	3%	221
School employee or retiree?	Yes	81%	12%	6%	1%	233
	No	75%	16%	7%	2%	736
Parent of public school student?	Yes	88%	10%	2%	0%	250
	No	71%	19%	8%	2%	750
Party identification	Democrat	94%	3%	2%	1%	255
	Republican	54%	32%	13%	1%	244
	Independent	75%	18%	7%	1%	358

		Q9b. If funding cuts in education lead to - Teacher pay cuts -, would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community...?				Number of cases
		Hurt a lot	Hurt a little	Not hurt	Don't know	
All adults		61%	29%	8%	2%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	61%	31%	6%	2%	143
	Northern VA	60%	35%	5%	1%	245
	West	62%	23%	13%	3%	176
	South Central	70%	26%	3%	1%	198
	Tidewater	56%	29%	13%	2%	238
Gender	Men	59%	28%	11%	1%	427
	Women	62%	30%	6%	2%	573
Age	18-34	63%	31%	4%	1%	141
	35-44	70%	24%	5%	1%	137
	45-64	64%	27%	8%	1%	419
	65 and older	48%	34%	15%	4%	303
Education	H.S. or less	64%	30%	6%	1%	237
	Some college	59%	28%	10%	3%	240
	College grad or more	61%	27%	10%	2%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	66%	25%	8%	1%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	63%	23%	11%	3%	253
	\$100,000 or more	65%	28%	7%	1%	221
School employee or retiree?	Yes	66%	25%	8%	1%	233
	No	59%	30%	8%	2%	736
Parent of public school student?	Yes	61%	33%	5%	1%	250
	No	61%	28%	9%	2%	750
Party identification	Democrat	75%	20%	4%	1%	255
	Republican	46%	34%	17%	3%	244
	Independent	55%	38%	5%	2%	358

		Q9c. If funding cuts in education lead to - Administrative staff layoffs -, would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community...?				Number of cases
		Hurt a lot	Hurt a little	Not hurt	Don't know	
All adults		36%	42%	21%	2%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	27%	49%	21%	3%	143
	Northern VA	29%	51%	19%	1%	245
	West	51%	26%	21%	2%	176
	South Central	40%	33%	25%	2%	198
	Tidewater	32%	46%	18%	4%	238
Gender	Men	34%	36%	29%	1%	427
	Women	37%	47%	14%	3%	573
Age	18-34	42%	40%	18%	0%	141
	35-44	47%	37%	14%	2%	137
	45-64	27%	48%	21%	3%	419
	65 and older	33%	38%	27%	2%	303
Education	H.S. or less	47%	37%	14%	3%	237
	Some college	35%	45%	17%	3%	240
	College grad or more	25%	47%	27%	1%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	51%	37%	12%	0%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	30%	39%	26%	6%	253
	\$100,000 or more	23%	49%	27%	0%	221
School employee or retiree?	Yes	33%	34%	33%	0%	233
	No	36%	45%	16%	3%	736
Parent of public school student?	Yes	39%	44%	16%	1%	250
	No	34%	41%	23%	3%	750
Party identification	Democrat	40%	44%	13%	3%	255
	Republican	21%	41%	35%	3%	244
	Independent	35%	47%	17%	1%	358

		Q9d. If funding cuts in education lead to - Canceling all before and after-school activities -, would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community...?				Number of cases
		Hurt a lot	Hurt a little	Not hurt	Don't know	
All adults		62%	22%	13%	3%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	63%	20%	16%	0%	143
	Northern VA	49%	31%	14%	6%	245
	West	68%	15%	11%	6%	176
	South Central	70%	16%	13%	1%	198
	Tidewater	66%	21%	13%	1%	238
Gender	Men	61%	19%	15%	5%	427
	Women	62%	24%	12%	2%	573
Age	18-34	74%	16%	10%	0%	141
	35-44	72%	14%	15%	0%	137
	45-64	58%	26%	10%	6%	419
	65 and older	45%	28%	23%	5%	303
Education	H.S. or less	62%	20%	15%	4%	237
	Some college	71%	19%	7%	3%	240
	College grad or more	57%	27%	13%	4%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	69%	20%	9%	2%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	68%	19%	12%	1%	253
	\$100,000 or more	58%	21%	18%	4%	221
School employee or retiree?	Yes	68%	22%	9%	1%	233
	No	60%	22%	14%	4%	736
Parent of public school student?	Yes	67%	25%	8%	1%	250
	No	59%	21%	16%	5%	750
Party identification	Democrat	77%	17%	5%	0%	255
	Republican	51%	23%	24%	2%	244
	Independent	53%	28%	14%	5%	358

		Q9e. If funding cuts in education lead to - Reduced funds for teacher training and professional development-, would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community...?				Number of cases
		Hurt a lot	Hurt a little	Not hurt	Don't know	
All adults		50%	34%	13%	3%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	41%	36%	22%	2%	143
	Northern VA	34%	48%	12%	7%	245
	West	58%	28%	13%	1%	176
	South Central	53%	38%	7%	2%	198
	Tidewater	65%	20%	14%	1%	238
Gender	Men	44%	35%	18%	3%	427
	Women	54%	34%	9%	3%	573
Age	18-34	49%	39%	11%	1%	141
	35-44	60%	24%	16%	0%	137
	45-64	48%	38%	11%	4%	419
	65 and older	46%	29%	19%	6%	303
Education	H.S. or less	68%	23%	7%	1%	237
	Some college	42%	37%	15%	6%	240
	College grad or more	39%	44%	15%	2%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	57%	33%	9%	2%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	60%	25%	11%	4%	253
	\$100,000 or more	39%	44%	17%	0%	221
School employee or retiree?	Yes	61%	27%	11%	1%	233
	No	46%	37%	13%	3%	736
Parent of public school student?	Yes	50%	35%	15%	0%	250
	No	50%	34%	12%	4%	750
Party identification	Democrat	64%	30%	5%	2%	255
	Republican	37%	33%	26%	5%	244
	Independent	44%	40%	12%	3%	358

		Q9f. If funding cuts in education lead to - Reduced funds for instructional materials such as books, computers, and library resources-, would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community...?				Number of cases
		Hurt a lot	Hurt a little	Not hurt	Don't know	
All adults		61%	31%	6%	2%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	49%	43%	6%	2%	143
	Northern VA	53%	39%	6%	2%	245
	West	60%	26%	10%	3%	176
	South Central	67%	30%	3%	0%	198
	Tidewater	74%	20%	4%	2%	238
Gender	Men	50%	39%	8%	2%	427
	Women	69%	25%	4%	2%	573
Age	18-34	71%	24%	4%	1%	141
	35-44	55%	41%	4%	0%	137
	45-64	65%	26%	7%	2%	419
	65 and older	44%	43%	9%	5%	303
Education	H.S. or less	65%	26%	6%	2%	237
	Some college	66%	29%	3%	2%	240
	College grad or more	55%	36%	8%	2%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	73%	21%	6%	0%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	69%	24%	5%	3%	253
	\$100,000 or more	59%	32%	8%	0%	221
School employee or retiree?	Yes	60%	33%	6%	1%	233
	No	61%	31%	6%	2%	736
Parent of public school student?	Yes	60%	37%	2%	0%	250
	No	61%	28%	8%	3%	750
Party identification	Democrat	78%	20%	1%	0%	255
	Republican	35%	46%	16%	3%	244
	Independent	58%	35%	5%	2%	358

		Q10. Do you think that teachers whose students perform well on tests should or should not get paid more than teachers whose students perform poorly on those tests?			Number of cases
		Should get paid more	Should NOT get paid more	Don't know	
All adults		28%	59%	12%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	25%	68%	7%	143
	Northern VA	28%	59%	13%	245
	West	30%	61%	9%	176
	South Central	33%	60%	7%	198
	Tidewater	26%	53%	21%	238
Gender	Men	38%	51%	12%	427
	Women	21%	66%	13%	573
Age	18-34	25%	67%	8%	141
	35-44	28%	55%	17%	137
	45-64	24%	60%	17%	419
	65 and older	40%	51%	8%	303
Education	H.S. or less	25%	60%	15%	237
	Some college	32%	53%	15%	240
	College grad or more	26%	64%	9%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	28%	61%	11%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	27%	56%	17%	253
	\$100,000 or more	31%	60%	9%	221
School employee or retiree?	Yes	22%	66%	12%	233
	No	29%	59%	13%	736
Parent of public school student?	Yes	21%	69%	10%	250
	No	32%	55%	13%	750
Party identification	Democrat	19%	72%	9%	255
	Republican	35%	49%	16%	244
	Independent	34%	54%	11%	358

		Q11. Do you think basing part of a teacher's salary on his or her student's performance on state tests would help or not help the schools keep high quality teachers?				
		Help	Not help	Hurt schools' ability to keep high quality teachers (VOLUNTEERED)	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		40%	52%	2%	7%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	42%	56%	0%	2%	143
	Northern VA	39%	53%	0%	8%	245
	West	36%	50%	4%	10%	176
	South Central	40%	49%	5%	6%	198
	Tidewater	41%	55%	0%	4%	238
Gender	Men	45%	47%	1%	7%	427
	Women	35%	56%	2%	6%	573
Age	18-34	41%	55%	0%	3%	141
	35-44	35%	58%	2%	4%	137
	45-64	38%	52%	3%	7%	419
	65 and older	42%	46%	0%	12%	303
Education	H.S. or less	38%	52%	0%	9%	237
	Some college	43%	47%	3%	6%	240
	College grad or more	35%	59%	2%	5%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	41%	52%	1%	7%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	41%	55%	0%	4%	253
	\$100,000 or more	36%	56%	2%	5%	221
School employee or retiree?	Yes	34%	57%	3%	6%	233
	No	40%	52%	1%	7%	736
Parent of public school student?	Yes	42%	51%	2%	6%	250
	No	39%	53%	1%	7%	750
Party identification	Democrat	30%	64%	3%	3%	255
	Republican	59%	35%	0%	6%	244
	Independent	34%	55%	1%	10%	358

Q12. Teachers with tenure cannot be dismissed unless a school district follows detailed procedures. Some say that tenure protects teachers from being fired for arbitrary reasons... Do you favor or oppose offering tenure to teachers?

		Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		32%	55%	12%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	37%	45%	18%	143
	Northern VA	29%	60%	10%	245
	West	39%	52%	9%	176
	South Central	19%	71%	9%	198
	Tidewater	37%	46%	17%	238
Gender	Men	35%	53%	11%	427
	Women	30%	57%	13%	573
Age	18-34	36%	50%	14%	141
	35-44	35%	57%	8%	137
	45-64	34%	58%	8%	419
	65 and older	23%	57%	20%	303
Education	H.S. or less	37%	48%	15%	237
	Some college	34%	48%	18%	240
	College grad or more	26%	70%	4%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	33%	55%	12%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	39%	53%	8%	253
	\$100,000 or more	33%	60%	7%	221
School employee or retiree?	Yes	43%	47%	10%	233
	No	28%	58%	13%	736
Parent of public school student?	Yes	31%	54%	15%	250
	No	33%	56%	11%	750
Party identification	Democrat	40%	48%	12%	255
	Republican	24%	62%	14%	244
	Independent	29%	58%	13%	358

		Q13a.Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in providing skills that will be useful in obtaining a job?			
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		68%	19%	13%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	79%	10%	12%	143
	Northern VA	65%	19%	16%	245
	West	49%	36%	15%	176
	South Central	74%	16%	11%	198
	Tidewater	78%	12%	10%	238
Gender	Men	71%	19%	9%	427
	Women	65%	18%	16%	573
Age	18-34	72%	20%	8%	141
	35-44	69%	12%	19%	137
	45-64	67%	21%	12%	419
	65 and older	63%	19%	19%	303
Education	H.S. or less	67%	16%	17%	237
	Some college	73%	22%	5%	240
	College grad or more	68%	18%	14%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	59%	24%	16%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	70%	20%	10%	253
	\$100,000 or more	75%	13%	12%	221
Parent of VA college student?	Yes	71%	16%	13%	309
	No	54%	28%	19%	691
Party identification	Democrat	77%	13%	10%	255
	Republican	72%	14%	13%	244
	Independent	66%	25%	9%	358

		Q13b.Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in developing students' writing and communication skills?			
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		57%	25%	18%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	63%	26%	11%	143
	Northern VA	52%	22%	26%	245
	West	42%	41%	17%	176
	South Central	79%	11%	10%	198
	Tidewater	58%	23%	19%	238
Gender	Men	60%	29%	11%	427
	Women	54%	22%	24%	573
Age	18-34	62%	25%	13%	141
	35-44	64%	20%	16%	137
	45-64	55%	28%	17%	419
	65 and older	49%	22%	29%	303
Education	H.S. or less	54%	20%	26%	237
	Some college	58%	35%	7%	240
	College grad or more	62%	21%	16%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	58%	23%	19%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	66%	26%	8%	253
	\$100,000 or more	58%	23%	19%	221
Parent of VA college student?	Yes	60%	21%	19%	309
	No	38%	36%	26%	691
Party identification	Democrat	63%	20%	17%	255
	Republican	74%	17%	10%	244
	Independent	47%	34%	20%	358

		Q13c.Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in producing graduates in scientific fields?			
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		68%	12%	21%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	65%	17%	18%	143
	Northern VA	58%	10%	32%	245
	West	73%	16%	12%	176
	South Central	74%	9%	17%	198
	Tidewater	72%	10%	18%	238
Gender	Men	71%	10%	19%	427
	Women	65%	13%	22%	573
Age	18-34	73%	11%	15%	141
	35-44	71%	13%	16%	137
	45-64	68%	11%	21%	419
	65 and older	57%	12%	31%	303
Education	H.S. or less	64%	9%	27%	237
	Some college	72%	12%	16%	240
	College grad or more	68%	14%	18%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	69%	11%	20%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	70%	11%	20%	253
	\$100,000 or more	65%	12%	23%	221
Parent of VA college student?	Yes	70%	10%	19%	309
	No	53%	10%	37%	691
Party identification	Democrat	72%	7%	20%	255
	Republican	75%	13%	12%	244
	Independent	64%	14%	22%	358

		Q13d.Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in preparing students for the workforce needs of the future?			
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		66%	20%	14%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	67%	24%	9%	143
	Northern VA	63%	17%	19%	245
	West	55%	34%	11%	176
	South Central	71%	18%	11%	198
	Tidewater	75%	10%	15%	238
Gender	Men	66%	24%	10%	427
	Women	66%	17%	17%	573
Age	18-34	64%	26%	9%	141
	35-44	61%	17%	23%	137
	45-64	72%	18%	10%	419
	65 and older	61%	16%	23%	303
Education	H.S. or less	65%	16%	19%	237
	Some college	71%	23%	6%	240
	College grad or more	65%	21%	13%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	61%	23%	16%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	69%	18%	13%	253
	\$100,000 or more	76%	16%	8%	221
Parent of VA college student?	Yes	68%	22%	10%	309
	No	65%	18%	16%	691
Party identification	Democrat	82%	9%	8%	255
	Republican	69%	26%	6%	244
	Independent	57%	25%	18%	358

		Q14. Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia?					
		Very Safe	Somewhat Safe	Not Very Safe	Not At All Safe	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		25%	53%	13%	4%	5%	1000
VA Region	Northwest	32%	55%	7%	0%	6%	143
	Northern VA	31%	54%	9%	1%	5%	245
	West	24%	41%	20%	9%	6%	176
	South Central	21%	54%	18%	2%	6%	198
	Tidewater	20%	63%	11%	5%	2%	238
Gender	Men	32%	50%	12%	1%	5%	427
	Women	20%	56%	13%	6%	5%	573
Age	18-34	22%	55%	13%	0%	9%	141
	35-44	26%	43%	23%	3%	5%	137
	45-64	28%	56%	8%	6%	2%	419
	65 and older	25%	53%	15%	4%	3%	303
Education	H.S. or less	21%	53%	17%	3%	7%	237
	Some college	28%	55%	10%	7%	0%	240
	College grad or more	25%	57%	10%	3%	4%	485
Family Income	Under \$50,000	14%	49%	18%	8%	10%	236
	50K to under \$100,000	23%	61%	11%	4%	2%	253
	\$100,000 or more	27%	63%	6%	1%	3%	221
Parent of VA college student?	Yes	26%	55%	9%	6%	5%	309
	No	21%	54%	15%	6%	4%	691
Following VA Tech incident?	Very closely	20%	55%	15%	6%	5%	428
	Somewhat closely	34%	47%	12%	2%	5%	356
	Not very closely	14%	65%	14%	0%	7%	101
	Not at all	7%	67%	0%	0%	27%	21
Party identification	Democrat	20%	62%	13%	4%	2%	255
	Republican	26%	51%	14%	2%	6%	244
	Independent	28%	52%	11%	6%	4%	358