



COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL 2013-14

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

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Section I: Majority of Virginians are Increasingly Concerned About the Impact of SOLs on Classroom Learning but See Benefits to the Tests

Large majorities of Virginians have concerns about how mandatory testing is impacting students and teachers in the classroom but also think Standards of Learning tests help with school accountability and academic standards, according to a new Commonwealth Poll released today by Virginia Commonwealth University's [Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute](#).

The poll found a majority of Virginians (62 percent) strongly or somewhat agrees that SOLs hold schools accountable and 55 percent agree that SOLs ensure that students meet the same academic standards.

Even with those benefits, Virginians see testing having negative effects in the classroom. Three-in-four respondents (75 percent) strongly or somewhat agree that preparing for SOLs means teachers can't cover all the important material needed, with 55 percent strongly agreeing with the statement. The percentage of respondents that strongly agree has increased 10 percent (from 45 percent to 55 percent) since 2002, the last time the question was asked. A large majority also thinks that SOLs are putting too much pressure on students, with 63 percent strongly or somewhat agreeing.

One proposed benefit to testing is increasing student performance. However, when asked, a large majority of respondents said that increased testing made no difference (33 percent) or hurt (35 percent) student performance. The percentage of respondents who indicated that testing hurts performance has increased 9 percent since the last time the question was asked in 2007-08. Respondents were also asked how much they agreed with the statement, "SOLs improve student achievement." A majority (54 percent) strongly or somewhat disagreed. The percentage of respondents that disagreed has increased by 16 percent since 2002, the last time the question was asked.

"While SOLs are still seen as helping with accountability and standards, over time the numbers of Virginians with concerns about how mandatory testing negatively affects students, teachers and performance is increasing," said 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 at VCU. "With regard to local school options, the public remains supportive of providing local school divisions with greater options for how they do business."

Minorities and those with lower levels of education or income were more likely to think testing has benefits for students. Thirty-nine percent of minorities said that increased testing has helped student performance, while only 17 percent of whites said the same. Minorities were also more likely to agree

that SOLs improve student achievement. A majority of 55 percent strongly or somewhat agreed with the statement, compared to 37 percent of whites.

There were also significant differences by gender, with women being more likely to see the negative effects that SOL tests have in the classroom. Seven in 10 women strongly or somewhat agreed that SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students, compared to 56 percent of men. Women were also more likely to think that SOL preparation negatively impacts teachers' ability to cover all the important material in the classroom. A solid majority of women (60 percent) strongly agreed with the statement. Only 49 percent of men felt the same.

"It is interesting to see that minorities were more likely to view SOLs as helping achievement and performance, while women were more likely to see the negative effects on teachers and students in the classroom," said Farrah Stone Graham, Ph.D., assistant professor in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs and director of the survey.

When asked about how to address schools that consistently fail to meet testing standards, a majority (53 percent) opposed the idea of those schools being taken over by another entity. However, one region, south central Virginia, had a majority of respondents (53 percent) who favored the strategy.

More than seven in 10 respondents (72 percent) favored allowing students who are homeschooled to participate on local public school sport teams and 63 percent favored allowing localities to have the option to start the public school calendar before Labor Day, marking a 5 percent decrease from last year. There were regional differences on the issue of homeschooler participation in public school sports; however, all had majority support. The south central region was the most supportive with 81 percent, and the northwest was the least supportive of the option, with 66 percent. Parents of public school students were much more evenly split on the issue of changing the school calendar, with 40 percent opposing the idea, compared with 28 percent of those who don't have children in public schools.

When respondents were asked to select which type of school they thought would provide the best education, 51 percent indicated public school as their choice. Almost one-third (32 percent) said private school. A much smaller percentage indicated a charter school (8 percent), home school (6 percent) and virtual school (1 percent). Public school employees and retirees and minorities were more likely to choose public school with 60 percent and 57 percent, respectively, indicating the option.

The Commonwealth Education Poll was conducted by landline and cell telephone from Dec. 27, 2013, to Jan. 3, 2014, with a random sample of 803 adults in Virginia. The margin of error for the poll is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points. This poll is conducted annually by VCU's Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute (CEPI).

For a PDF of the 73-page report, including complete question wording and detailed tables of results, see <http://www.cepi.vcu.edu/publications/polls/>.

High-stakes Testing and SOLs

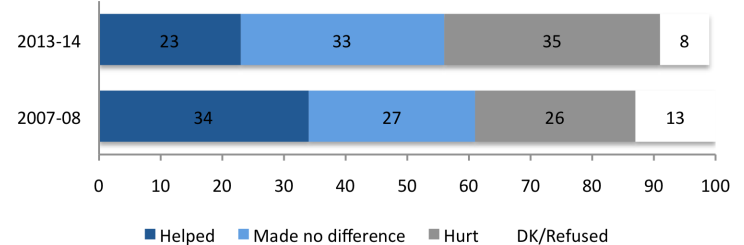
After more than a decade of No Child Left Behind and Standards of Learning (SOLs), Virginians still see some benefits to standardized testing but increasing numbers have concerns about the effects testing is having on teachers and students in the classroom. One proposed benefit to testing is increasing student performance. However, when asked, a large majority of respondents said that increased testing made no difference (33%) or hurt (35%) student performance. The percentage of respondents who indicated that testing hurts performance has increased 9% since the last time the question was asked in 2007-08. Respondents were also asked how much they agreed with the statement: SOLs improve student achievement. A majority (54%) strongly or somewhat disagreed. The percentage of respondents that disagree has increased by 16% since 2002, the last time the question was asked.

Respondents did see some positive benefits. A majority of Virginians thinks that SOLs provide accountability and consistency with academic standards. Sixty-two percent strongly or somewhat agree that SOLs hold schools accountable and 55% agree that SOLs ensure that students meet the same academic standards.

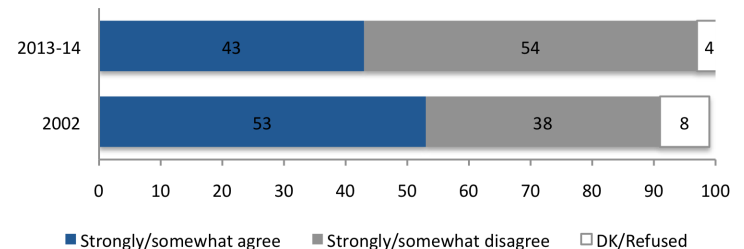
Even with those benefits, Virginians see testing having negative effects in the classroom. Three-in-four respondents (75%) strongly or somewhat agree that preparing for SOLs means teachers can't cover all the

Does Testing Help?

Has increased testing helped, hurt or made no difference in the performance of students?



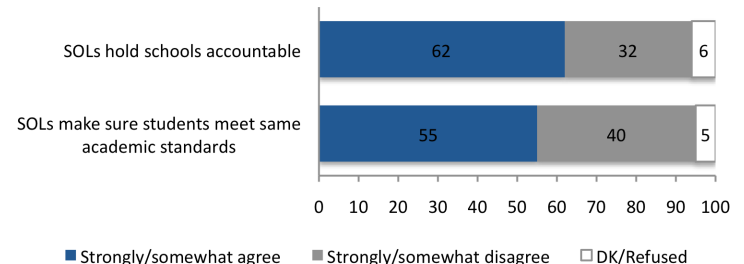
How much do you agree? SOLs help improve student achievement.



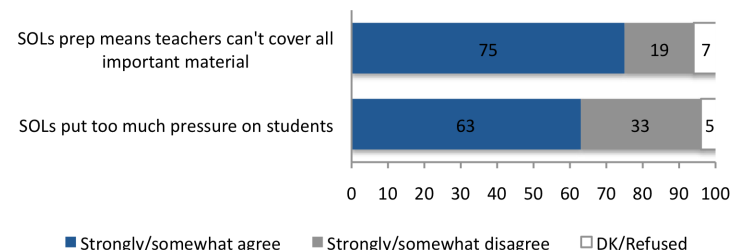
Are SOLs Worth It?

How much do you agree with the following statements?

Benefits of SOLs



Costs of SOLs



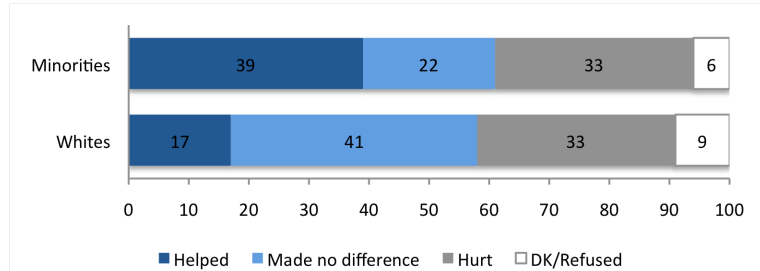
Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-14

important material needed, with 55% strongly agreeing with the statement. The percentage of respondents that strongly agree has increased 10% (from 45% to 55%) since 2002, the last time the questions was asked. A large majority also thinks that SOLs are putting too much pressure on students, with 63% strongly or somewhat agreeing.

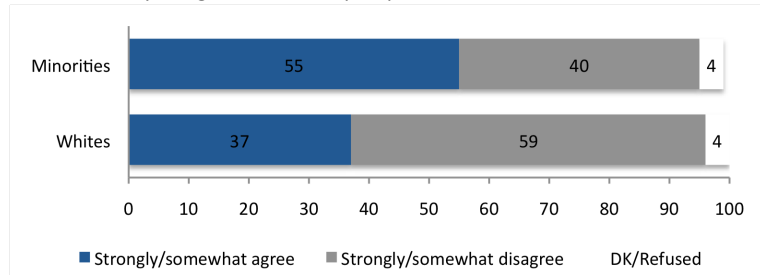
Opinion about SOLs differs depending on demographic characteristics. Minorities and those with lower levels of education or income were more likely to think testing had benefits for students. Thirty-nine percent of minorities said that increased testing has helped student performance, while only 17% of Whites said the same. Minorities were also more likely to agree that SOLs improve student achievement. A majority of 55% strongly or somewhat agreed with the statement, compared to 37% of Whites.

Racial Differences on the Benefits of Testing

Has increased testing helped, hurt or made no difference in the performance of students?



How much do you agree? SOLs help improve student achievement.

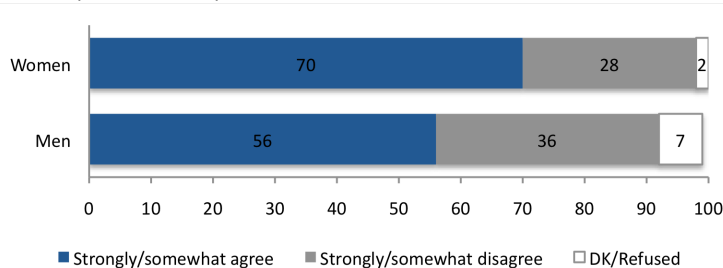


Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-14

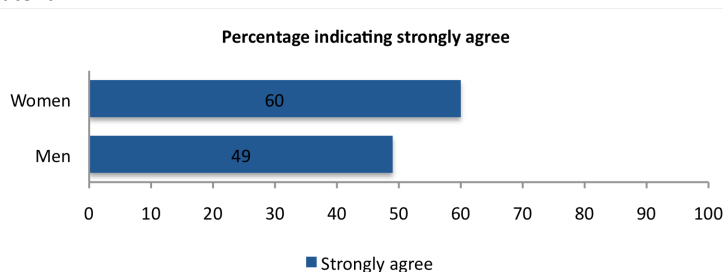
Gender Differences on Impact in the Classroom

How much do you agree with the following statements...?

SOL tests put too much pressure on students.



So much time is spent preparing for SOLs, teachers can't cover all important material.



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-14

There were also significant differences by gender, with women being more likely to see the negative effects that SOL tests have in the classroom. Seven-in-ten women strongly or somewhat agreed that SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students, compared to 56% of men. Parents of public school students were also more likely to agree that students are put under too much pressure. Forty-six percent of parents strongly agreed, compared with 34% of those who don't have children in public schools.

Women were also more likely to think that SOL preparation negatively impacts teachers' ability to cover all the important material in the classroom. A solid majority of women, 60%, strongly agreed with the statement. Only 49% of men felt the same. Public school employees or retirees were the most likely to strongly agree with 65%.

What About Failing Schools?

More than a decade of mandatory SOL testing raises the question of what should be done about schools that continually fail to meet testing standards.

We asked respondents whether they favored or opposed the idea of having consistently failing schools taken over by another entity. A slight majority, 53% oppose the idea of school takeover.

Parents of public school students were more likely to be in favor of the strategy, with 46%, compared to 36% of everyone else. There were also significant differences of opinion based on age. Younger respondents, those under 45 years old, were more likely to favor school takeover. Forty-three percent of 18-34 year olds and 47% of 35-44 year olds supported the idea. Respondents over the age of 45 were less supportive. Thirty-six percent of 45-64 year olds and 28% of those over 65 favored taking over consistently failing schools. From a regional perspective, respondents from the South Central region were more likely to favor the idea of school takeover, with a majority of 53%.

Should Failing Schools be Taken Over?

Do you favor or oppose having failing schools taken over by another entity?

| | % |
|--------------------|----------|
| Favor | 39 |
| Oppose | 53 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>8</u> |
| | 100 |

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

Who Should be Responsible?

*(Of those who favored school takeover)
Who should be responsible for taking over
failing public schools?*

| | % |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| State government | 32 |
| Local government | 25 |
| Charter school | 22 |
| Another local school district | 14 |
| Some other entity | 1 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>6</u> |
| | 100 |

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

Those respondents who indicated they were in favor were asked which entity should be responsible for the takeover. Almost one-in-three respondents (32%) thought that the state government should be responsible for taking over failing schools. Close behind with 25% was local government or a charter school organization with 22%.

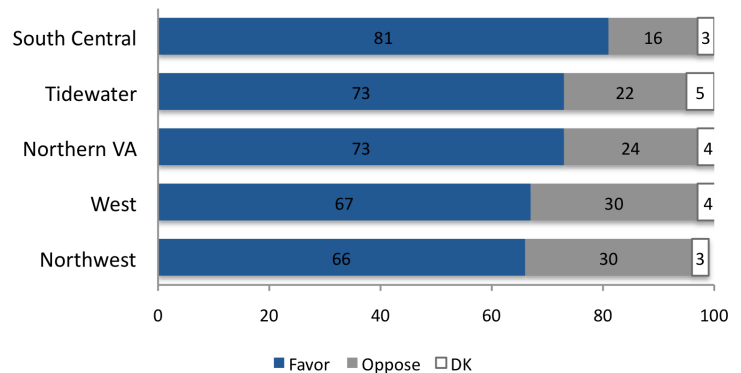
Options for Local School Divisions

Again this year, respondents were asked their opinion regarding two issues for local school divisions, setting the school calendar and opening participation on school sport teams. Large majorities were in favor of each. More than two-thirds of respondents (72%) favored allowing students who are homeschooled to participate on local public school sport teams and 63% favored allowing localities to have the option to start the public school calendar before Labor Day.

There were significant differences in support by region, with South Central, Northern Virginia and Tidewater being the most supportive. At least seven-in-ten respondents in each region favored allowing participation. The least supportive region was Northwest, where only 66% of respondents favored allowing participation.

Sports for Homeschoolers?

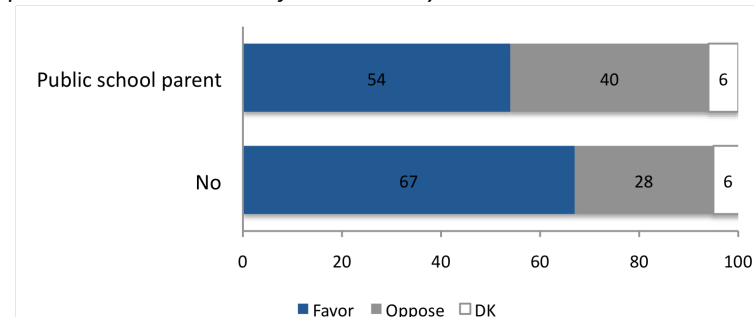
Would you favor or oppose allowing students who are homeschooled to participate on local public school sport teams?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

School Before Labor Day?

Would you favor or oppose localities having the option to start their public school calendar before Labor Day?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

There were differences of opinion on changing the school calendar as well. Parents of public school students, among those most affected by the change, were more likely to oppose localities having the option to start school before Labor Day. Parents are much more evenly split on the issue with forty percent opposing the idea, compared with 28% of those who don't have children in public schools.

Choice of Educational Options

When respondents were also asked to select which type of school they thought would provide the best education, 51% indicated regular public school as their choice. Almost one-third (32%) said private school. A much smaller percentage indicated a charter school (8%), home school (6%) and virtual school (1%). Public school employees and retirees and minorities were more likely to choose public school with 60% and 57%, respectively, indicating the option.

There were significant regional differences as well.

Respondents from Northern VA and the West region were the most likely to note public school as the best option with 59%. Those in the Northwest and Tidewater regions were less likely to choose public school as their option, with 49% and 44%, respectively. Respondents in South Central Virginia were more likely to choose private school, with 43% selecting that option, compared to 38% selecting public school.

Which type of school is best?

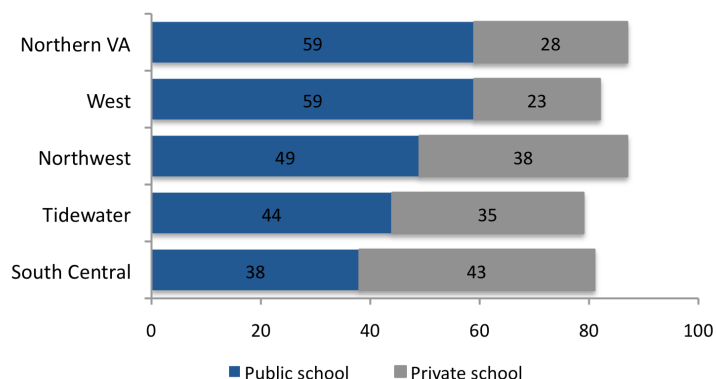
If it was your decision and you could select any type of school, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?

| | % |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Regular public school | 51 |
| Private school | 32 |
| Charter school | 8 |
| Home school | 6 |
| Virtual school | 1 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>2</u> |
| | 100 |

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

Which type of school is best?

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



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

Section II: Majority of Virginians Think Their Schools are Safe and Support Increased Spending for K-12

Amid continued concern over incidences of school violence, a majority of Virginians feel the schools in their community are safe. Eighty percent of respondents indicated feeling their schools were safe, with 29% saying they were very safe. Only 17% felt their schools were not very or not at all safe.

Respondents from Northern VA and the West regions were more likely to say their schools were very safe (38% and 34%) compared to those in the South Central and Tidewater regions (23% and 16%).

Respondents were also asked their opinion on approaches to addressing issues of school safety, specifically whether to use additional security measures or the mental health system. A majority agreed that additional security measures should be used to address school safety, with 54%. About a quarter of respondents (27%) thought that safety issues should be addressed through the mental health system. Ten percent offered that both approaches should be used. Again, there were regional differences regarding which approach to use. Respondents from the Northwest and West regions were significantly more likely to think additional security measures should be used, each with 64%. Those in the South Central and Northern VA regions were more likely to think that the mental health system should be used with 37%.

"While, overall, Virginians feel schools in their community are safe, they think that additional security measures should be used to address issues of school safety," said 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.

In yet another year of concerns over budget balancing, Virginians remain strongly supportive of funding for public schools. Sixty-five percent of Virginians say that Virginia schools do not have enough funds to meet their needs, while only 27% say schools have enough funding now. Respondents are also concerned about how funding affects quality. Three-quarters of respondents (75%) said that the amount of funding affects quality a great deal or quite a lot, which is an increase of 8% over last year.

Virginians are willing to pay more in taxes to support school funding levels. Seven-in-ten respondents (70%) said they would be willing to pay more in taxes to keep public schools funded at the current level and 59% are willing to pay more so that school funding can be increased. Also, a majority of Virginians (57%) believes that spending to improve the education system is a more important governmental priority than reducing the deficit. While overall support is strong, age and partisan differences exist, with those under the age of 45 and Democrats being more likely to see educational spending as a higher priority and to be willing to pay.

"Even in tough budgetary times Virginians show consistent support for education funding and are willing to pay for it," said Farrah Stone Graham, Ph.D., assistant professor in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs and director of the survey.

Job tenure is a concept unique to the educational sector. What does the public think about offering tenure to teachers? A plurality of respondents, 47%, opposes offering tenure, while 41% support it and 13% are undecided. School employees and retirees are more likely than other state residents to favor tenure, with 54% supporting. Age also played a role with 50% of respondents under the age of 35 being in favor of offering tenure. Partisan differences exist as well with 46% of Democrats favoring tenure, while only 37% of Independents and 37% of Republicans do.

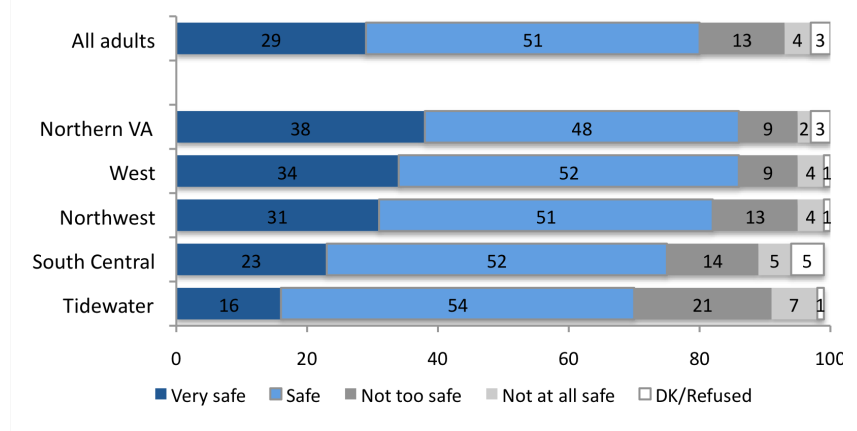
Public schools and mental health services top the list of programs that Virginians are willing to support with increased tax dollars in order to keep funding levels stable but a majority of Virginians were willing to pay more for a number of programs. Sixty-two percent say they would pay more in taxes to keep programs for aid to low-income families at current levels. Fewer say the same about transportation (52%) and higher education funding (49%). About a fifth of state residents (21%) are willing to pay more to keep funding for prisons at current levels.

School Safety

Amid continued concern over incidences of school violence, a majority of Virginians feel the schools in their community are safe. Eighty percent of respondents indicated feeling their community's schools were safe, with 29% saying they were very safe. Only 17% felt their schools were not very or not at all safe. There were regional differences for those who felt their schools were very safe.

How Safe Are Public Schools?

In general, do you feel the public schools in your community are very safe, safe, not too safe, or not at all safe?



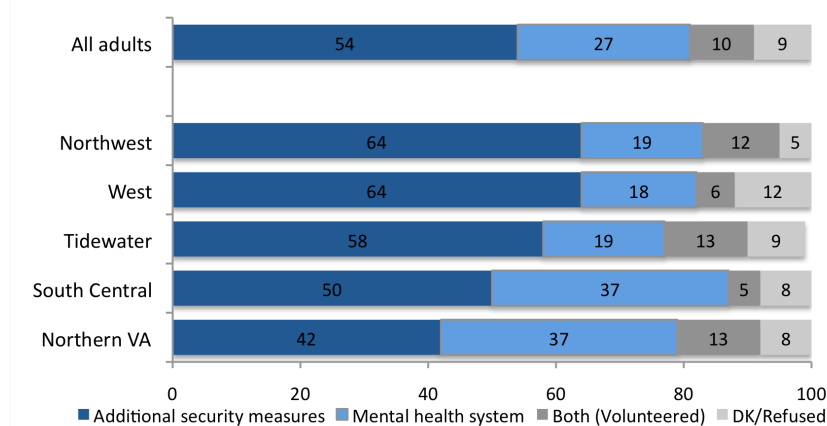
Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

Respondents from Northern VA and the West regions were more likely to say their schools were very safe (38% and 34%) compared to those in the South Central and Tidewater regions (23% and 16%).

Family income also played a role in perception of safety. Forty percent of respondents with a family income of \$100,000 or more felt their schools were very safe, compared to only 22% of those with an income of \$50-100,000 and 28% of those with an income under \$50,000.

Approaches to School Safety?

Which approach to school safety do you most agree with, even if neither is exactly right? We should address school safety issues with additional security measures or through the mental health system.



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

Respondents were also asked their opinion on approaches to addressing issues of school safety, specifically whether to use additional security measures or the mental health system. A majority agreed that additional security measures should be used to address school safety, with 54%. About a quarter of respondents, 27%, thought that safety issues should be

addressed through the mental health system. Ten percent offered that both approaches should be used.

Again, there were regional differences regarding which approach to use. Respondents from the Northwest and West regions were significantly more likely to think additional security measures should be used with 64%. Those in the South Central and Northern VA regions were more likely to think that the mental health system should be used with 37%. Family income and education level also played a role. Respondents with a family income of under \$50,000 were more likely to agree that additional security measures should be used with 63%, while only 43% of those making \$100,000 or more thought the same. Those with a high school diploma or less were more likely to think additional security measures should be used with 69%, compared to those with a college degree or higher, with only 41%. There were differences based on political party identification as well, with 61% of Republicans thinking we should use additional security measures compared to 47% of Democrats and 54% of Independents.

School Funding As A Priority

In yet another year of concerns over budget balancing, Virginians remain strongly supportive of funding for the public schools. Almost two-thirds of Virginians (65%) say that Virginia schools do not have enough funds to meet their needs, while only 27% say schools have enough funding now. This number has been consistent

for the past five years the question has been asked.

Virginians also see the amount of funding on public schools affecting quality.

Three-quarters of respondents (75%) said that the amount of funding

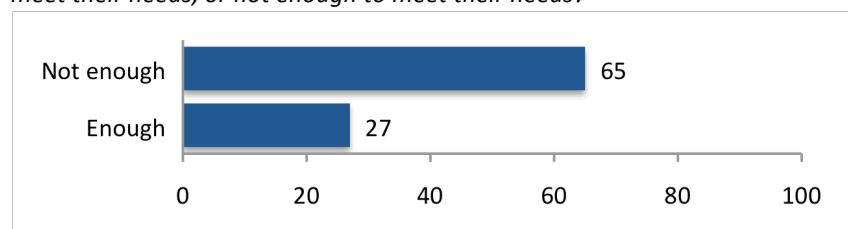
affects quality a great deal

or quite a lot, which is an increase of 8% over last year.

Partisan differences exist on both the issues. While still a majority, only 54% of Republicans think school funding is not enough, compared to 67% of Independents and 72% of Democrats. Republicans and Independents are also less likely to say the amount of funding affects quality a great deal with 42%, compared to 58% of Democrats. Women also see these questions differently. Seventy-

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?

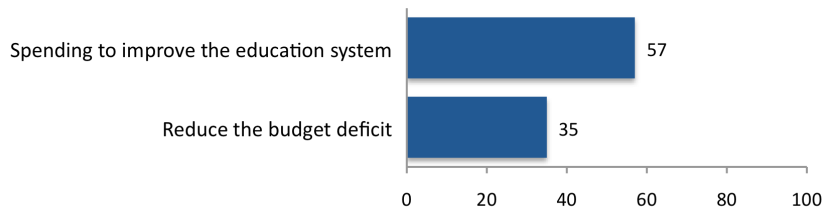


Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014
Don't know responses not shown

three percent of women think that current funding is not enough and 59% think that money has a great effect on quality (compared to men with 57% and 41% respectively) .

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 2013-2014

Don't know responses not shown

Virginians also see spending to improve the education system as an important government priority. A majority (57%) believes that spending to improve the education system is a more important priority than reducing the deficit. Partisan and age differences exist on

the issue. Those under 45 were more likely to see education spending as more important than those over 45. Seven-in-ten respondents aged 35-44 felt education spending was more important, compared to 47% of those over the age of 65. Conversely, Republicans were more likely to see reducing the deficit as the more important priority, with 49% saying so, compared to 22% of Democrats.

Those who believe schools need more funding say state government sources, rather than local government sources, should provide the increase. A majority, 57%, thinks the state government should be responsible for increased funding for schools. This compares with just 11% of this group saying local government should provide the increased funding. About a quarter (27%) of this group volunteered that both state and local government should provide increased funding. 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 paying 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 | 57 |
| Local government | 11 |
| Both (volunteered) | 27 |
| Don't know/Refused | 4 |
| | 100 |

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

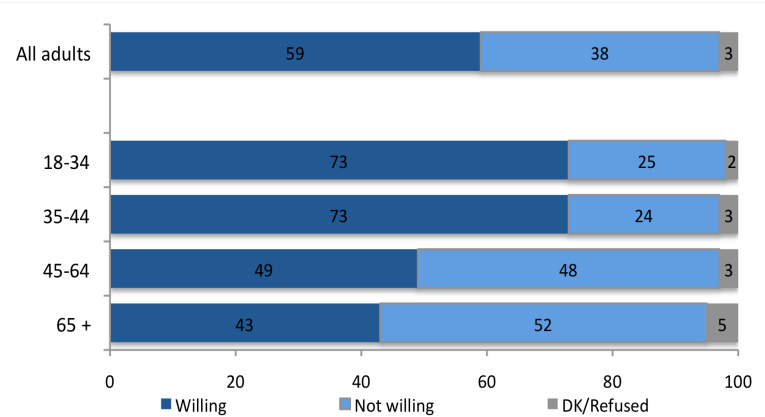
Willingness to Pay

Fifty-nine percent of Virginians indicate a personal willingness to pay higher taxes in order to increase school funding, while 38% say they are not willing to do so. The proportion willing to pay higher taxes for this purpose is approximately the same as last year.

Sixty-nine percent of those with a college degree or higher would be willing to pay more in taxes for a funding increase. And those respondents under the age of 45 were most likely to be willing with 73%, compared to those who were 45-64 with 49% and over 65 with 43%. By contrast, Republicans and Independents were less likely to be willing to pay more with 49% and 50% respectively, compared to 69% of Democrats.

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 2013-2014

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 | 44 |
| Income tax | 23 |
| Real estate property tax | 17 |
| Personal property tax | 11 |
| Don't know/Refused | 4 |
| | 100 |

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

Figures may add to 99 or 101 due to rounding

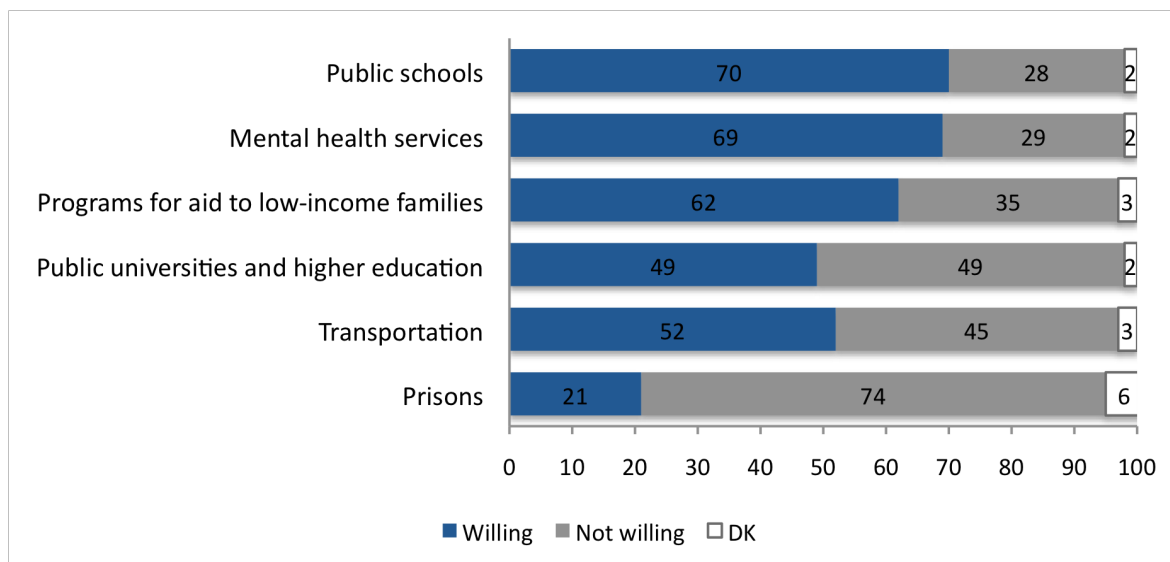
A plurality (44%) of those willing to pay more in taxes for a school funding increase say that a sales tax would be best; smaller proportions say an income tax (23%), real estate property tax (17%) or personal property tax (11%) would be best. These figures are similar to findings from past Commonwealth Education Polls.

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. This year 70% of respondents said they would be willing to pay more taxes to keep public schools funded at the current level; 28% said they would not be willing. Mental health services followed closely with 69% being willing to pay more to maintain the current level. Sixty-two percent of Virginians are willing to pay more in taxes for programs that provide aid to low-income families. Views about higher education funding are equally divided with 49% of respondents willing to pay more in taxes for higher education and 49% not willing to do so. Similarly, 52% would pay more in taxes for transportation while 45% would not pay more in taxes to keep these services at its current level. Prison funding garnered the least support; 74% say they are not willing to pay more in taxes to keep prison funding at its current level while 21% are willing to do so.

Again, age played a significant role with respondents under the age of 45 being more willing to pay more in taxes for public education. Eighty-one percent of those under 45 were willing to pay more in taxes to keep public schools going at its current level. There were also partisan differences, with 80% of Democrats and 70% of Independents being willing to pay more in taxes, compared to 57% of Republicans.

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 2013-2014
 Figures may add to 99 or 101 due to rounding

Teacher Tenure

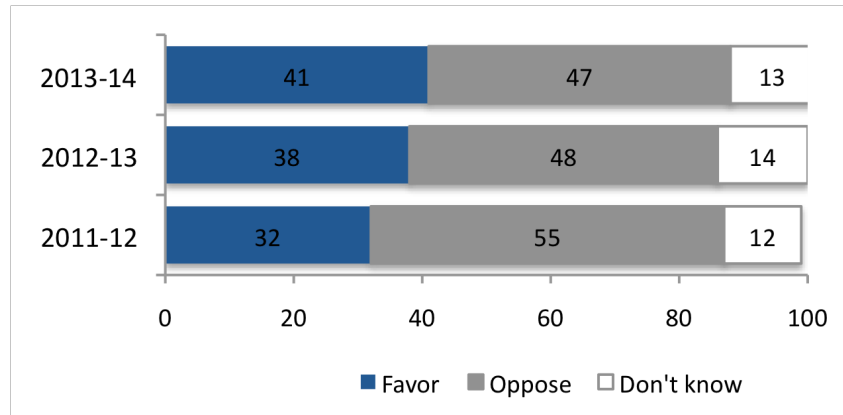
Job tenure is a concept unique to the educational sector and has long been a topic of discussion and debate in education policy circles. What does the public think about teacher tenure? This year Virginians again are more divided on the issue. A plurality of respondents, 47%, opposes offering tenure, while 41% support it and 13% are undecided.

School employees and retirees are more likely than other state residents to favor tenure, with 54%

supporting. Younger respondents were more likely to be supportive with 50% of those under the age of 35 in favor of offering tenure. Partisan differences exist as well with 46% of Democrats favoring tenure, while only 37% of Independents and 36% of Republicans do.

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 2013-2014

Section III: Virginians Think Higher Education is Producing Graduates That are Ready for the World of Work

Large majorities of Virginians think that Virginia colleges and universities are doing a good job producing graduates that are ready for the world of work. Seventy-two percent of Virginians say colleges and universities are doing a good job producing graduates in scientific fields and providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job. Slightly smaller majorities say the state schools do a good job preparing students for the workforce needs for the future (69%) and developing students' writing and communication skills (63%).

The percentage of respondents that think colleges and universities are doing a good job increased in all four areas since last year. The largest increase (7%) was in areas related to connecting college students to the world of work, specifically providing skills that will be useful in obtaining a job and preparing students for the workforce needs of the future.

Overall, Virginians believe that high school graduates are prepared for higher education and college graduates are prepared for the workplace. Strong majorities agreed that high school graduates are ready for college (63%) and that college graduates are ready for work (68%). However, a similar majority thought that high school graduates were not prepared for the workplace. Sixty-seven percent strongly or somewhat disagreed with the statement that high school graduates are ready for work.

"Virginians think our colleges and universities are doing a good job connecting students to the world of work," said William C. Bosher, Jr., executive director, Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute and distinguished professor of public policy in the Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at VCU. "They also gave Virginia's four-year institutions and community colleges high marks for the quality of education they provide."

In today's fluctuating job market young people are struggling to find what works to make them competitive. The survey also asked respondents about what they think students need to have in order to succeed. A majority of Virginians (59%) indicated that it is more important to have specific job knowledge and skills than a college degree from a well-respected university in order to succeed in today's workplace. Only 29% thought that a college degree was more important to success. Eight percent of respondents offered that both are important.

There were regional differences on the issue. Respondents in the Northwest and South Central regions were more likely to indicate the importance of job-specific knowledge and skills with 68% and 62% respectively. Northern VA and the West regions were more likely to say that a college degree was more important with 36%, compared to Tidewater and the Northwest with 22% and 20% respectively. Respondents with a family income of \$50-100,000 were most likely to say obtaining specific knowledge and skills was more important with 71%, compared to 55% for everyone else.

"In a tough job market, a majority of Virginians think that having skills and knowledge related to a specific job are key to succeeding today," said Farrah Stone Graham, Ph.D., assistant professor in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs and director of the survey.

Overall, respondents have a positive evaluation of the quality of education provided by Virginia's four-year colleges and universities and community colleges. A strong majority of 79% rated the educational quality of colleges and universities as either excellent (23%) or good (56%). A similar majority of 77% rated a community college education as either excellent (20%) or good (57%). Mixed reviews were given for internet-based programs, where the degree is completed entirely online. A plurality of

respondents, 45%, rated the educational quality of internet-based programs as either fair or poor, while 36% rated them as either excellent or good, and 19% said don't know or refused.

Respondents were also asked to give their impression of the level of safety on college and university campuses. A strong majority (70%) believes that Virginia's college and university campuses are safe, with 12% saying very safe. There was a 10% decrease in the number of respondents indicating campuses are very safe compared to last year (22%). A quarter of respondents, 25%, said that campuses are not very or not at all safe.

Evaluating Higher Education Outcomes

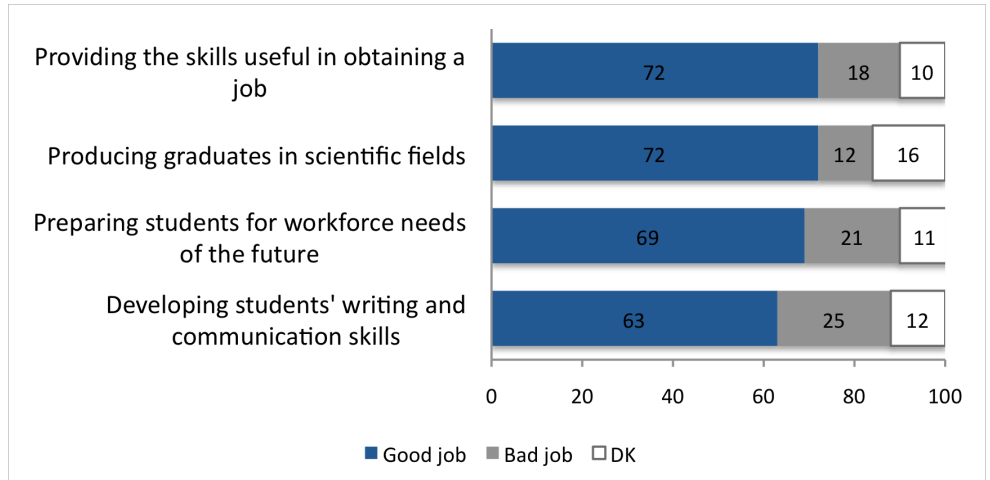
When it comes to specific outcomes, strong majorities say the Virginia colleges and universities are doing a good job in all four areas considered. Seventy-two percent of Virginians say colleges and universities are doing a good job providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job and

72% in producing graduates in scientific fields. Sixty-nine percent say the state schools do a good job preparing students for the workforce needs for the future. And a slightly smaller majority (63%) thinks they are doing a good job developing students' writing and communication skills.

The percentage of respondents that think colleges and universities are doing a good job increased in all four areas since last year. The largest increase (7%) was in areas related to connecting college students to the world of work, specifically providing skills that will be useful in obtaining a job and preparing students for the workforce needs of the future.

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 2013-2014

Evaluating Higher Education Outcomes

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

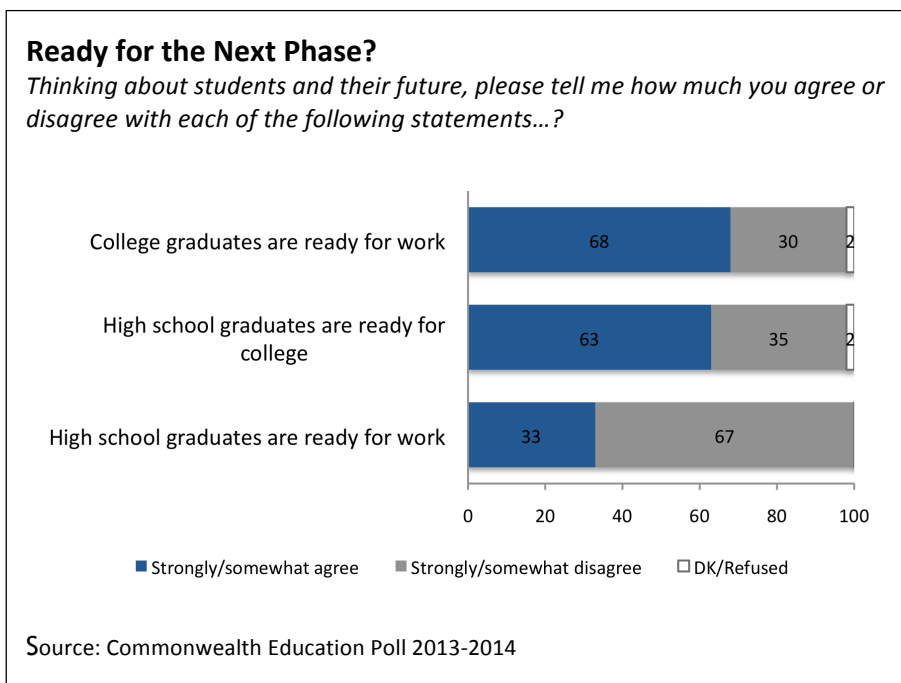
| | Those saying "Good job" | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------|------------|
| | 2013-14 | 2012-13 | Difference |
| | % | % | % |
| Providing skills that will be useful in obtaining a job | 72 | 65 | +7 |
| Developing students' writing and communication skills | 63 | 59 | +4 |
| Producing graduates in scientific fields | 72 | 67 | +5 |
| Preparing students for workforce needs of the future | 69 | 62 | +7 |

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

Preparing Students for the Next Stage

We also asked respondents about how prepared high school and college students are to move into the next phase of their education or career. Overall, Virginians believe that high school graduates are prepared for higher education and college graduates are prepared for the world of work. Strong majorities agreed that high school graduates are ready for college (63%) and that college graduates are ready for work (68%). However, a similar majority thought that high school graduates were not prepared for the workplace. Sixty-seven percent strongly or somewhat disagreed with the statement that high school graduates are ready for work. Sixty-seven percent strongly or somewhat disagreed with the statement that high school graduates are ready for work.

Family income and education level made a difference in the perception of high school graduates' readiness for the workplace. While all were still majorities, respondents who made more than \$50,000 a year were more likely to disagree that high school graduates were ready for work, compared to 72% for those making \$50-\$100,000 and 76% for those making more than \$100,000. Those respondents who had a college degree or higher were also more likely to disagree with 75%. Age also played a role with respondents between the ages of 35 and 44 being most likely to disagree that high school graduates are ready, with 80%.



What Students Need To Succeed

What Do Students Need to Succeed?

If you had to choose, which do you think is more important for young people to succeed today-- Earning a college degree from a well-respected university or obtaining the knowledge and skills needed to do a specific job?

| | % |
|--|----|
| Earning a college degree from a well-respected university | 29 |
| Obtaining the knowledge and skills needed to do a specific job | 59 |
| Both (VOLUNTEERED) | 8 |
| Neither (VOLUNTEERED) | 1 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 4 |

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

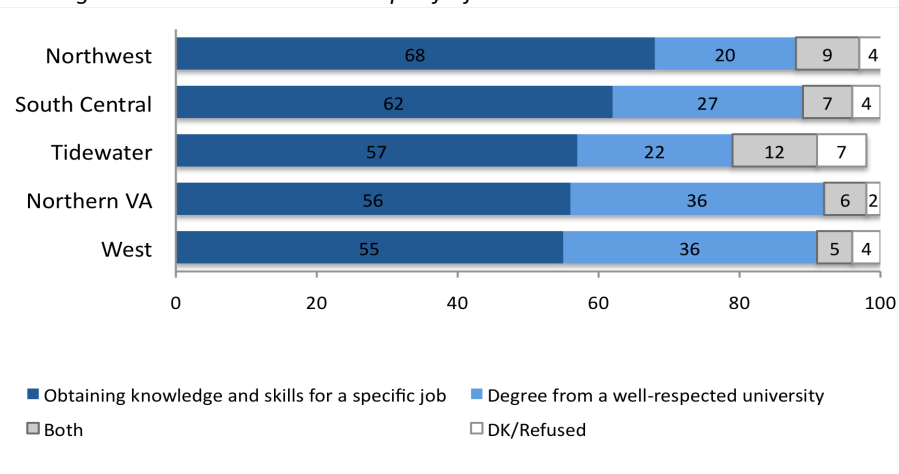
In today's fluctuating job market young people are struggling to find what works to make them competitive. The survey also asked respondents about what they think students need to have in order to succeed. A majority of Virginians (59%) indicated that it is more important to have specific job knowledge and skills than a college degree from a well-respected university in order to succeed in today's workplace. Only 29% thought that a college degree was more important to success.

Eight percent of respondents offered that both are important. It is interesting to note that the percentage of respondents that indicated job-specific knowledge and skills was 9% higher than a national survey conducted by the Gallup organization that asked the same question¹.

There were regional differences on the issue. Respondents in the Northwest and South Central regions were more likely to indicate the importance of job-specific knowledge and skills with 68% and 62% respectively. Northern VA and the West regions were more likely to say that a college degree was more important with 36%, compared to Tidewater and the Northwest with 22% and 20% respectively. There was also significant difference based on family income level. Respondents with a family income of \$50-100,000 were

Regional Perspective on What Students Need

If you had to choose, which do you think is more important for young people to succeed today-- Earning a college degree from a well-respected university or obtaining the knowledge and skills needed to do a specific job?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

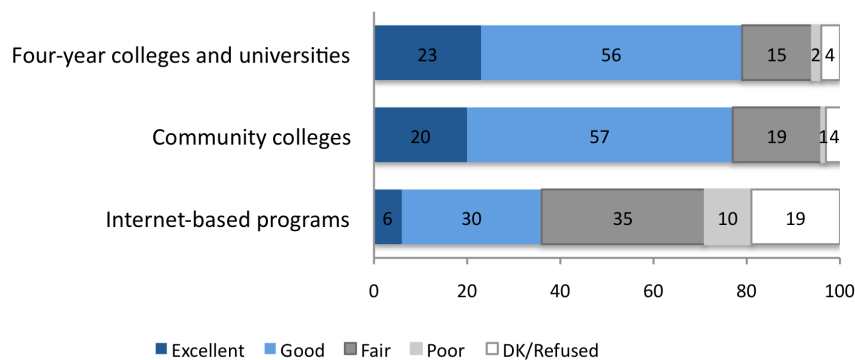
¹ See the attached tables for reference and data.

most likely to say obtaining specific knowledge and skills was more important, with 71%, compared to 55% for everyone else.

Evaluating Higher Education Options

Evaluating Higher Ed Options

From what you know, how would you rate the quality of education offered by the following...?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

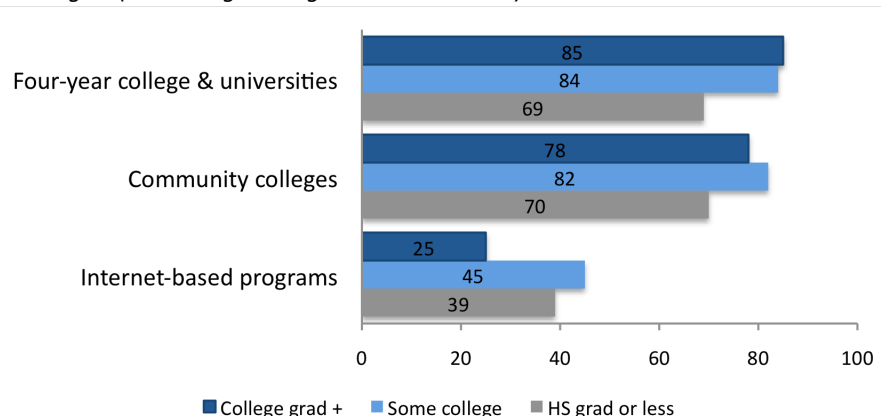
Overall, respondents have a positive evaluation of the quality of education provided by Virginia's four-year colleges and universities and community colleges. A strong majority of 79% rated the educational quality of colleges and universities as either excellent (23%) or good (56%).

A similar majority of 77% rated a community college education as either excellent (20%) or good (57%). Mixed reviews were given for internet-based programs, where the degree is completed entirely online. A plurality of respondents, 45%, rated the educational quality of internet-based programs as either fair or poor, while 36% rated them as either excellent or good, and 19% said don't know or refused.

Respondents who have experience in the higher education system had a more positive view of the educational quality of traditional four-year institutions and community colleges. Virginia four-year colleges and universities and community colleges received higher ratings of quality from respondents with a college degree (85% and 78%) and some college (84% and 82%) than those with a high school diploma or less (69% and 70%).

Evaluating Higher Ed Options

From what you know, how would you rate the quality of education offered by the following...? (Percentage rating Excellent or Good)



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

Respondents with some college experience and those with a high school diploma or less were more likely to provide a rating of excellent or good for internet-based programs, with 45% and 39% respectively, compared to those with a college degree or more, with 25%.

Campus Safety

A strong majority of Virginians (70%) believes that Virginia's college and university campuses are safe, with 12% saying very safe. There was a 10% decrease in the number of respondents indicating campuses are very safe compared to last year (22%). A quarter of respondents, 25%, said that campuses are not very or not at all safe.

While all were majorities, there were differences in the percentage rating campuses safe or very safe based on family income and education level.

Respondents with a family income of less than \$50,000 were less likely to say campuses are safe or very safe with 61%, compared to those making \$50-100,000 (77%) or more than \$100,000 (82%).

Respondents with a high school diploma or less were also significantly less likely to give a rating of safe or very safe, with 56%, compared to 75% of those with some college experience and 82% of those with a college degree or more. Those in the West region were significantly less likely to say safe or very safe, with only 60%, compared to all the other regions.

How Safe are College Campuses?

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

| | % |
|--------------------|----------|
| Very safe | 12 |
| Safe | 58 |
| Not very safe | 22 |
| Not safe at all | 3 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>4</u> |
| | 100 |

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014

METHOD OF THE COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL

The Commonwealth Education Poll 2013-2014, sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), obtained telephone interviews with a representative sample of 803 adults living in Virginia. Telephone interviews were conducted by landline (562) and cell phone (241, including 110 without a landline phone). The survey was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI). Interviews were done in English by Princeton Data Source from December 27, 2013 to January 3, 2014. Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is ± 4.5 percentage points.

A combination of landline and cellular random digit dial (RDD) samples was used to represent all adults in Virginia who have access to either a landline or cellular telephone. Both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International, LLC (SSI) according to PSRAI specifications. Numbers for the landline sample were drawn with probabilities in proportion to their share of listed telephone households from active blocks (area code + exchange + two-digit block number) that contained three or more residential directory listings. The cellular sample was not list-assisted, but was drawn through a systematic sampling from dedicated wireless 100-blocks and shared service 100-blocks with no directory-listed landline numbers.

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 4.5 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 4.5 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.

State-wide survey of Virginians²
 December 27, 2013-January 3, 2014
 Number of Respondents: 803

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?

| | 13-14 | 12-13 | 11-12 | 10-11 | 09-10 | 08-09 | 2003 | 2002 |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| A great deal | 50 | 45 | 51 | 42 | 39 | 43 | 42 | 45 |
| Quite a lot | 25 | 22 | 20 | 26 | 30 | 27 | 31 | 26 |
| Not much | 16 | 23 | 16 | 20 | 18 | 20 | 18 | 19 |
| Not at all | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 6 | 6 | 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?

| | 13-14 | 12-13 | 11-12 | 10-11 | 09-10 | 08-09 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Enough | 27 | 25 | 29 | 31 | 27 | 28 | 26 | 20 | 27 | 23 | 21 |
| Not enough | 65 | 64 | 60 | 59 | 63 | 62 | 64 | 69 | 64 | 67 | 70 |
| Don't know/Refused | 8 | 11 | 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 | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 13-14 | 12-13 | 11-12 | 10-11 | 09-10 |
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| State government | 57 | 57 | 44 | 58 | 54 |
| Local government | 11 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Both (VOLUNTEERED) | 27 | 26 | 38 | 27 | 26 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 4 | 3 | 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 public education system?

| | Virginia | | |
|---|----------|-------|-------|
| | 13-14 | 12-13 | 11-12 |
| | % | % | % |
| Reducing the budget deficit | 31 | 39 | 29 |
| Spending to improve the public education system | 58 | 55 | 61 |
| Don't know/Refused | 11 | 6 | 10 |

² 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 | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 13-14 | 12-13 | 11-12 |
| | % | % | % |
| Spending to improve the public education system | 57 | 57 | 50 |
| Reducing the budget deficit | 39 | 36 | 39 |
| Don't know/Refused | 4 | 7 | 11 |

COMBINED Q4a AND Q4b

| | Virginia | | | National trend for comparison |
|---|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 13-14 | 12-13 | 11-12 | Pew Research 2009³ |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Spending to improve the public education system | 57 | 56 | 55 | 57 |
| Reducing the budget deficit | 35 | 38 | 34 | 38 |
| Don't know/Refused | 8 | 7 | 11 | 5 |

ASK ALL:

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

| | 13-14 | 12-13 | 11-12 | 10-11 | 09-10 | 08-09 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Willing | 59 | 60 | 61 | 55 | 53 | 55 | 55 | 57 | 61 | 60 | 57 |
| Not willing | 38 | 35 | 35 | 39 | 41 | 37 | 38 | 36 | 34 | 34 | 36 |
| Don't know/Refused | 3 | 5 | 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----- | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 13-14 | 12-13 | 11-12 | 10-11 | 09-10 | 08-09 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 02 | 01 |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Sales tax | 44 | 45 | 40 | 48 | 49 | 48 | 49 | 58 | 54 | 58 | 47 |
| Income tax | 23 | 22 | 32 | 20 | 18 | 18 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 16 |
| Real estate property tax | 17 | 15 | 9 | 15 | 12 | 14 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 10 | 16 |
| Personal property tax | 11 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 14 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 13 |
| Don't know/Refused | 4 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 9 |

³ 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?⁴

| | 13-14 | 12-13 | 11-12 | 09-10 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | % | % | % | % |
| Will continue as they are now | 36 | 39 | 40 | 36 |
| Will bring major changes | 56 | 51 | 50 | 51 |
| Don't know/Refused | 9 | 9 | 10 | 13 |

⁴ 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?"

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 | 70 | 28 | 2 |
| 12-13 | 69 | 27 | 4 |
| 11-12 | 79 | 19 | 2 |
| 10-11 | 69 | 27 | 4 |
| 09-10 | 66 | 31 | 3 |
| 08-09 | 68 | 28 | 3 |
| b. Mental health services | 69 | 29 | 2 |
| 12-13 | 70 | 23 | 7 |
| 11-12 | 68 | 27 | 5 |
| 10-11 | 60 | 34 | 6 |
| 09-10 | 61 | 34 | 5 |
| 08-09 | 62 | 31 | 8 |
| c. Public universities and higher education ⁵ | 49 | 49 | 2 |
| 12-13 | 50 | 46 | 4 |
| 11-12 | 49 | 47 | 4 |
| 10-11 | 50 | 44 | 6 |
| 09-10 | 48 | 49 | 3 |
| 08-09 | 46 | 49 | 5 |
| d. Prisons | 21 | 74 | 6 |
| 12-13 | 21 | 72 | 7 |
| 11-12 | 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 | 62 | 35 | 3 |
| 12-13 | 60 | 35 | 5 |
| 11-12 | 63 | 34 | 3 |
| 10-11 | 60 | 35 | 5 |
| 09-10 | 59 | 36 | 4 |
| 08-09 | 61 | 33 | 7 |
| f. Transportation | 52 | 45 | 3 |
| 12-13 | 49 | 48 | 4 |
| 11-12 | 50 | 47 | 4 |
| 10-11 | 48 | 47 | 5 |
| 09-10 | 46 | 50 | 4 |
| 08-09 | 48 | 46 | 5 |

⁵ "Public" added to the 2010-2011 wording.

Q9. 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?

| | 13-14 | 12-13 | 11-12 | 10-11 | 09-10 |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| Favor | 41 | 38 | 32 | 35 | 37 |
| Oppose | 47 | 48 | 55 | 48 | 48 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 13 | 15 | 12 | 16 | 16 |

Q10. Over the last decade, there has been a significant increase in standardized testing of students in the public schools to measure academic achievement. Just your impression, or what you may have heard or read, has increased testing helped, hurt, or made no difference in the performance of students in your local public schools?

{modified 2008, PDK/Gallup 2013}

| | Virginia | | National trend for comparison |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 13-14 | 07-08 | PDK/Gallup 2013⁶ |
| | % | % | % |
| Helped | 23 | 34 | 22 |
| Made no difference | 33 | 27 | 41 |
| Hurt | 35 | 26 | 36 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 8 | 13 | 1 |

⁶ PDK/Gallup, May 2013, n=1,001 adults.

Q11. Now I'm going to read you some statements about Standards of Learning, or S-O-L, which are a standardized testing program for public schools in Virginia. For each statement, please tell me how much you agree or disagree. (First,/Next,) **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]. {2002} READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN IF NECESSARY:** Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat DISagree, or strongly disagree?

| | Virginia 2013-14 | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know/Refused |
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| a. The SOL tests make sure that all students in Virginia meet the same academic standards | 21 | 34 | 19 | 21 | 5 |
| b. The SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students | 37 | 26 | 18 | 15 | 5 |
| c. The SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement | 25 | 37 | 18 | 14 | 6 |
| d. So much class time is spent preparing for the SOL tests that teachers can't cover all the important material | 55 | 20 | 11 | 8 | 7 |
| e. The SOL tests help improve student achievement | 12 | 31 | 28 | 26 | 4 |

| | Virginia 2002 | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know/Refused |
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| a. The SOL tests make sure that all students in Virginia meet the same academic standards | 22 | 41 | 17 | 13 | 8 |
| b. The SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students | 36 | 25 | 20 | 12 | 7 |
| c. The SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement | 29 | 45 | 11 | 6 | 9 |
| d. So much class time is spent preparing for the SOL tests that teachers can't cover all the important material | 45 | 27 | 11 | 6 | 11 |
| e. The SOL tests help improve student achievement | 13 | 42 | 22 | 16 | 8 |

[READ TO ALL:] Moving on...

Q12. One strategy for dealing with consistently failing schools has been to have the school administration taken over by another entity, such as the government or another local school district. In general, would you favor or oppose having failing public schools be taken over by another entity?

| | 13-14 |
|--------------------|--------------|
| | % |
| Favor | 39 |
| Oppose | 53 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 8 |

ASK IF FAVOR ANOTHER ENTITY TAKING OVER FAILING SCHOOLS (Q12=1):

Q12a. Who should be responsible for taking over failing public schools? Should it be the state government, the local or municipal government, another local school district or a charter school organization?

| | 13-14 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| | % |
| State government | 32 |
| Local government | 25 |
| Another local school district | 14 |
| Charter school organization | 22 |
| Some other entity | 1 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 6 |

Q13. Would you favor or oppose allowing students who are homeschooled to participate on local public school sport teams?

| | 13-14 | 12-13 |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | % | % |
| Favor | 72 | 67 |
| Oppose | 24 | 28 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 4 | 5 |

Q14. Would you favor or oppose localities having the option to start their public school calendar before Labor Day?

| | 13-14 | 12-13 |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | % | % |
| Favor | 63 | 68 |
| Oppose | 31 | 24 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 6 | 8 |

Q15. Regardless of whether you have children or not...If it were your decision and you could select any type of school, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child? Would you select [INSERT ITEMS; RANDOMIZE] a charter school, home school, private school, regular public school, or virtual school?

[IF NEEDED: Virtual schools can be run publicly or privately, allowing students to work with their curriculum and teachers over the internet- in combination with, or in place of, traditional classroom learning.]

| | Virginia | | National trend for comparison |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|---|
| | 13-14 | 12-13 | Friedman Foundation 2012⁷ |
| | % | % | % |
| Charter school | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Home school | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Private school | 32 | 32 | 37 |
| Regular public school | 51 | 47 | 42 |
| Virtual school | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 2 | 6 | 7 |

⁷ The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, April 17-24, 2012, n= 803 adults.

Q16. In general, do you feel the public schools in your community are very safe, safe, not very safe, not at all safe?

| | 13-14 |
|--------------------|--------------|
| | % |
| Very safe | 29 |
| Safe | 51 |
| Not very safe | 13 |
| Not at all safe | 4 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 3 |

Q17. Which approach to school safety do you most agree with, even if neither is exactly right? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

| | 13-14 |
|--|--------------|
| | % |
| We should address school safety issues with additional security measures | 54 |
| We should address school safety issues through the mental health system | 27 |
| Both (VOLUNTEERED) | 10 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 9 |

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

Q18. 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 | 72 | 18 | 10 |
| 12-13 | 65 | 18 | 16 |
| 11-12 | 68 | 19 | 13 |
| b. In developing students' writing and communication skills | 63 | 25 | 12 |
| 12-13 | 59 | 24 | 17 |
| 11-12 | 57 | 25 | 18 |
| c. In producing graduates in scientific fields, such as engineering, math and technology | 72 | 12 | 16 |
| 12-13 | 67 | 12 | 20 |
| 11-12 | 68 | 12 | 21 |
| d. In preparing students for the workforce needs of the future | 69 | 21 | 11 |
| 12-13 | 62 | 21 | 16 |
| 11-12 | 66 | 20 | 14 |

Q19. Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia?

| | 13-14 | 12-13* | 11-12* |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| | % | % | % |
| Very safe | 12 | 22 | 25 |
| Safe | 58 | 58 | 53 |
| Not very safe | 22 | 12 | 13 |
| Not at all safe | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 4 | 4 | 5 |

*Response wording was "somewhat safe" instead of "safe."

Q20. If you had to choose, which do you think is more important for young people to succeed today? **[READ]**

| | Virginia | National trend for comparison |
|--|-----------------|--|
| | 13-14 | Gallup Oct 2013⁸ |
| | % | % |
| Earning a college degree from a well-respected university | 29 | 47 |
| Obtaining the knowledge and skills needed to do a specific job | 59 | 50 |
| Both (VOLUNTEERED) | 8 | - |
| Neither (VOLUNTEERED) | 1 | - |
| Don't Know/Refused | 4 | 4 |

Q21. Thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. **[INSERT ITEMS; RANDOMIZE]. READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN IF NECESSARY:** Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat DISagree, or strongly disagree?

| | Virginia 2013-14 | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know/Refused |
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| a. Today's HIGH SCHOOL graduate is ready for the world of work | 5 | 28 | 34 | 33 | 1 |
| b. Today's HIGH SCHOOL graduate is ready for college | 12 | 51 | 24 | 11 | 2 |
| c. Today's COLLEGE graduate is ready for the world of work | 13 | 55 | 20 | 10 | 2 |

⁸ Gallup Organization, Oct 5-6, 2013, n= 1,025.

Q22. From what you know, how would you rate the quality of education offered by the following? (First,) how about [INSERT ITEMS; RANDOMIZE]? [READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN AS NECESSARY: OVERALL, would you rate their quality of education as excellent, good, only fair or poor?

| Virginia 2013-14 | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Don't know/Refused |
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| a. Internet-based college programs, in which courses are entirely online | 6 | 30 | 35 | 10 | 19 |
| b. Four-year colleges or universities | 23 | 56 | 15 | 2 | 4 |
| c. Community colleges | 20 | 57 | 19 | 1 | 4 |

| National trend for comparison- Gallup Oct 2013⁹ | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Don't know/Refused |
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| a. Internet-based college programs, in which courses are entirely online | 5 | 29 | 34 | 18 | 13 |
| b. Four-year colleges or universities | 16 | 52 | 22 | 8 | 2 |
| c. Community colleges | 13 | 51 | 27 | 6 | 3 |

⁹ Gallup Organization, Oct 3-6, 2013, n=1,028 adults.

Tables with Subgroup Analysis

| | | 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 | | 50% | 25% | 16% | 3% | 6% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 43% | 21% | 29% | 3% | 4% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 46% | 34% | 12% | 2% | 6% | 224 |
| | West | 54% | 20% | 15% | 4% | 7% | 140 |
| | South Central | 56% | 19% | 20% | 2% | 2% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 51% | 22% | 13% | 5% | 8% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 41% | 26% | 21% | 4% | 8% | 410 |
| | Women | 59% | 23% | 12% | 3% | 4% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 59% | 21% | 13% | 1% | 6% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 56% | 29% | 9% | 2% | 4% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 46% | 27% | 17% | 4% | 6% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 38% | 24% | 27% | 5% | 5% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 42% | 24% | 18% | 6% | 10% | 188 |
| | Some college | 56% | 23% | 16% | 1% | 3% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 52% | 27% | 15% | 2% | 4% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 51% | 20% | 16% | 5% | 8% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 55% | 25% | 15% | 1% | 4% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 47% | 35% | 13% | 2% | 4% | 205 |
| Race | White | 49% | 26% | 17% | 3% | 5% | 569 |
| | Minority | 53% | 20% | 14% | 4% | 9% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 56% | 20% | 20% | 2% | 1% | 154 |
| | No | 49% | 25% | 16% | 3% | 7% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 57% | 25% | 11% | 2% | 4% | 197 |
| | No | 47% | 24% | 18% | 4% | 7% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 58% | 26% | 10% | 2% | 4% | 348 |
| | Republican | 42% | 26% | 22% | 4% | 6% | 305 |
| | Independent | 42% | 20% | 20% | 7% | 11% | 106 |

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 | | 27% | 65% | 8% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 37% | 61% | 2% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 34% | 56% | 10% | 224 |
| | West | 30% | 60% | 10% | 140 |
| | South Central | 18% | 76% | 6% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 16% | 74% | 10% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 31% | 57% | 12% | 410 |
| | Women | 22% | 73% | 5% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 23% | 68% | 8% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 23% | 70% | 7% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 25% | 68% | 7% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 35% | 52% | 13% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 26% | 62% | 12% | 188 |
| | Some college | 26% | 70% | 4% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 28% | 64% | 9% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 24% | 67% | 9% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 26% | 68% | 7% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 28% | 65% | 7% | 205 |
| Race | White | 28% | 64% | 7% | 569 |
| | Minority | 22% | 68% | 10% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 21% | 74% | 5% | 154 |
| | No | 28% | 63% | 9% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 28% | 67% | 4% | 197 |
| | No | 26% | 64% | 10% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 22% | 72% | 6% | 348 |
| | Republican | 36% | 54% | 10% | 305 |
| | Independent | 22% | 67% | 10% | 106 |

| | | Q3. Do you think increased funding for the public schools should come from [ROTATE ORDER:] state government or local government? | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | State government | Local government | Both [VOLUNTEERED] | Don't know | Number of cases |
| All adults | | 57% | 11% | 27% | 4% | 492 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 43% | 16% | 36% | 5% | 68 |
| | Northern VA | 52% | 11% | 34% | 3% | 120 |
| | West | 54% | 12% | 29% | 5% | 87 |
| | South Central | 63% | 7% | 23% | 6% | 98 |
| | Tidewater | 64% | 12% | 16% | 8% | 119 |
| Gender | Men | 55% | 14% | 26% | 5% | 214 |
| | Women | 58% | 9% | 27% | 6% | 278 |
| Age | 18-34 | 65% | 16% | 15% | 4% | 80 |
| | 35-44 | 51% | 6% | 39% | 3% | 70 |
| | 45-64 | 58% | 9% | 28% | 5% | 209 |
| | 65 and older | 42% | 15% | 30% | 13% | 122 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 62% | 10% | 21% | 7% | 114 |
| | Some college | 56% | 15% | 24% | 6% | 150 |
| | College grad or more | 52% | 10% | 35% | 4% | 225 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 64% | 8% | 23% | 5% | 159 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 51% | 10% | 31% | 7% | 138 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 52% | 14% | 30% | 4% | 126 |
| Race | White | 52% | 12% | 31% | 5% | 335 |
| | Minority | 65% | 10% | 18% | 7% | 136 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 47% | 9% | 39% | 5% | 99 |
| | No | 59% | 12% | 24% | 6% | 393 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 60% | 10% | 25% | 6% | 127 |
| | No | 55% | 12% | 28% | 5% | 365 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 62% | 8% | 27% | 3% | 249 |
| | Republican | 45% | 20% | 27% | 8% | 149 |
| | Independent | 56% | 8% | 28% | 8% | 65 |

| 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. | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|------------|-----------------|
| | | Reducing the budget deficit | Spending to improve the education system | Don't know | Number of cases |
| All adults | | 35% | 57% | 8% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 37% | 59% | 3% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 32% | 62% | 7% | 224 |
| | West | 41% | 46% | 13% | 140 |
| | South Central | 35% | 57% | 8% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 34% | 60% | 6% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 41% | 53% | 6% | 410 |
| | Women | 29% | 62% | 9% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 29% | 63% | 8% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 23% | 70% | 7% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 40% | 52% | 8% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 45% | 47% | 7% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 34% | 57% | 9% | 188 |
| | Some college | 37% | 55% | 8% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 35% | 60% | 5% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 32% | 61% | 7% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 35% | 58% | 7% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 40% | 53% | 8% | 205 |
| Race | White | 40% | 53% | 7% | 569 |
| | Minority | 22% | 69% | 9% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 34% | 60% | 6% | 154 |
| | No | 35% | 57% | 8% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 30% | 64% | 6% | 197 |
| | No | 37% | 54% | 9% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 22% | 72% | 6% | 348 |
| | Republican | 49% | 44% | 7% | 305 |
| | Independent | 41% | 50% | 9% | 106 |

| | | 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 | | 59% | 38% | 3% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 55% | 45% | 0% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 70% | 27% | 2% | 224 |
| | West | 52% | 45% | 2% | 140 |
| | South Central | 55% | 38% | 6% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 55% | 42% | 3% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 59% | 40% | 1% | 410 |
| | Women | 59% | 36% | 4% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 73% | 25% | 2% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 73% | 24% | 3% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 49% | 48% | 3% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 43% | 52% | 5% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 49% | 47% | 4% | 188 |
| | Some college | 59% | 39% | 2% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 69% | 29% | 2% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 57% | 39% | 4% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 63% | 35% | 1% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 66% | 31% | 3% | 205 |
| Race | White | 59% | 39% | 2% | 569 |
| | Minority | 61% | 34% | 5% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 64% | 36% | 0% | 154 |
| | No | 58% | 38% | 3% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 64% | 33% | 3% | 197 |
| | No | 57% | 40% | 3% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 69% | 28% | 3% | 348 |
| | Republican | 49% | 48% | 3% | 305 |
| | Independent | 50% | 47% | 3% | 106 |

| | | 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] | | | | | |
| | | Sales tax | Income tax | Real estate property tax | Personal property tax | Don't know | Number of cases |
| | | | | | | | |
| All adults | | 44% | 23% | 17% | 11% | 4% | 441 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 40% | 24% | 19% | 13% | 3% | 64 |
| | Northern VA | 44% | 30% | 11% | 12% | 4% | 144 |
| | West | 57% | 16% | 10% | 13% | 4% | 68 |
| | South Central | 41% | 26% | 20% | 7% | 6% | 83 |
| | Tidewater | 41% | 13% | 30% | 11% | 4% | 82 |
| Gender | Men | 44% | 23% | 19% | 9% | 4% | 219 |
| | Women | 45% | 22% | 16% | 13% | 4% | 222 |
| Age | 18-34 | 35% | 25% | 22% | 13% | 5% | 87 |
| | 35-44 | 47% | 19% | 22% | 8% | 4% | 68 |
| | 45-64 | 56% | 20% | 12% | 10% | 2% | 164 |
| | 65 and older | 34% | 33% | 11% | 12% | 10% | 109 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 50% | 16% | 16% | 14% | 4% | 88 |
| | Some college | 49% | 23% | 15% | 10% | 3% | 118 |
| | College grad or more | 37% | 27% | 20% | 11% | 5% | 234 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 45% | 17% | 23% | 13% | 2% | 126 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 40% | 21% | 21% | 12% | 5% | 128 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 46% | 32% | 11% | 7% | 3% | 125 |
| Race | White | 45% | 25% | 15% | 11% | 5% | 305 |
| | Minority | 41% | 20% | 22% | 13% | 3% | 124 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 42% | 20% | 22% | 14% | 2% | 92 |
| | No | 45% | 23% | 16% | 11% | 5% | 349 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 51% | 23% | 18% | 6% | 2% | 122 |
| | No | 41% | 22% | 17% | 14% | 6% | 319 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 42% | 26% | 22% | 7% | 2% | 241 |
| | Republican | 49% | 16% | 15% | 17% | 2% | 124 |
| | Independent | 46% | 19% | 8% | 19% | 8% | 52 |

| | | 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? | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Will continue as they are now | Will bring major changes | Don't know | Number of cases |
| All adults | | 36% | 56% | 9% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 36% | 55% | 9% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 37% | 53% | 10% | 224 |
| | West | 38% | 57% | 5% | 140 |
| | South Central | 35% | 50% | 14% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 32% | 63% | 6% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 43% | 48% | 9% | 410 |
| | Women | 28% | 64% | 9% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 38% | 54% | 8% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 18% | 72% | 10% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 36% | 55% | 9% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 46% | 46% | 7% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 36% | 57% | 8% | 188 |
| | Some college | 33% | 58% | 9% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 37% | 53% | 10% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 31% | 62% | 6% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 41% | 51% | 8% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 39% | 51% | 10% | 205 |
| Race | White | 40% | 51% | 9% | 569 |
| | Minority | 25% | 67% | 8% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 33% | 61% | 6% | 154 |
| | No | 36% | 55% | 9% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 33% | 60% | 7% | 197 |
| | No | 37% | 54% | 9% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 31% | 61% | 8% | 348 |
| | Republican | 43% | 50% | 7% | 305 |
| | Independent | 31% | 56% | 14% | 106 |

| | | 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. | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Yes, willing to pay more in taxes | No, not willing | Don't know | Number of cases |
| All adults | | 70% | 28% | 2% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 67% | 31% | 2% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 77% | 21% | 2% | 224 |
| | West | 64% | 35% | 1% | 140 |
| | South Central | 70% | 26% | 4% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 68% | 30% | 1% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 68% | 31% | 1% | 410 |
| | Women | 73% | 25% | 3% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 81% | 17% | 3% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 81% | 19% | 0% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 66% | 33% | 1% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 52% | 42% | 6% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 70% | 29% | 1% | 188 |
| | Some college | 67% | 29% | 4% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 73% | 27% | 1% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 74% | 24% | 3% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 67% | 32% | 1% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 76% | 24% | 0% | 205 |
| Race | White | 67% | 32% | 1% | 569 |
| | Minority | 78% | 19% | 3% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 72% | 27% | 1% | 154 |
| | No | 70% | 28% | 2% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 76% | 24% | 0% | 197 |
| | No | 68% | 30% | 3% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 80% | 18% | 2% | 348 |
| | Republican | 57% | 41% | 2% | 305 |
| | Independent | 70% | 28% | 1% | 106 |

| | | 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 | | 69% | 29% | 2% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 76% | 22% | 1% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 74% | 25% | 1% | 224 |
| | West | 68% | 30% | 3% | 140 |
| | South Central | 64% | 33% | 3% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 64% | 35% | 1% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 68% | 30% | 2% | 410 |
| | Women | 70% | 29% | 1% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 71% | 29% | 0% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 67% | 30% | 3% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 73% | 26% | 1% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 65% | 32% | 4% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 65% | 32% | 2% | 188 |
| | Some college | 66% | 32% | 2% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 76% | 23% | 1% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 69% | 29% | 2% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 73% | 26% | 1% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 74% | 26% | 0% | 205 |
| Race | White | 72% | 27% | 1% | 569 |
| | Minority | 64% | 34% | 2% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 76% | 23% | 1% | 154 |
| | No | 68% | 30% | 2% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 67% | 32% | 1% | 197 |
| | No | 70% | 28% | 2% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 79% | 20% | 1% | 348 |
| | Republican | 59% | 40% | 1% | 305 |
| | Independent | 63% | 32% | 5% | 106 |

| | | 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 – Public universities and higher education - program going at its current level. | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Yes, willing to pay more in taxes | No, not willing | Don't know | Number of cases |
| All adults | | 49% | 49% | 2% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 44% | 51% | 5% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 55% | 44% | 1% | 224 |
| | West | 50% | 49% | 1% | 140 |
| | South Central | 49% | 50% | 1% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 41% | 55% | 3% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 47% | 52% | 1% | 410 |
| | Women | 51% | 47% | 3% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 56% | 43% | 1% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 55% | 43% | 2% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 46% | 52% | 1% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 37% | 59% | 4% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 47% | 51% | 2% | 188 |
| | Some college | 46% | 51% | 3% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 53% | 46% | 1% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 53% | 45% | 2% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 47% | 51% | 2% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 50% | 50% | 0% | 205 |
| Race | White | 45% | 53% | 2% | 569 |
| | Minority | 56% | 41% | 2% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 56% | 42% | 2% | 154 |
| | No | 47% | 51% | 2% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 55% | 43% | 1% | 197 |
| | No | 46% | 52% | 2% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 61% | 38% | 1% | 348 |
| | Republican | 38% | 61% | 1% | 305 |
| | Independent | 36% | 56% | 7% | 106 |

| | | 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 | No, not willing | Don't know | Number of cases |
| All adults | | 21% | 74% | 6% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 16% | 79% | 4% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 23% | 71% | 6% | 224 |
| | West | 18% | 77% | 5% | 140 |
| | South Central | 19% | 72% | 9% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 24% | 71% | 5% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 24% | 71% | 5% | 410 |
| | Women | 17% | 76% | 6% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 27% | 68% | 5% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 14% | 79% | 7% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 20% | 75% | 5% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 21% | 73% | 6% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 21% | 72% | 8% | 188 |
| | Some college | 19% | 73% | 8% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 22% | 75% | 2% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 21% | 73% | 6% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 18% | 76% | 5% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 25% | 74% | 1% | 205 |
| Race | White | 19% | 78% | 3% | 569 |
| | Minority | 25% | 66% | 9% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 22% | 76% | 1% | 154 |
| | No | 20% | 73% | 7% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 20% | 74% | 6% | 197 |
| | No | 21% | 73% | 6% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 21% | 72% | 7% | 348 |
| | Republican | 23% | 74% | 3% | 305 |
| | Independent | 15% | 76% | 9% | 106 |

| | | 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 - program going at its current level. | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Yes, willing to pay more in taxes | No, not willing | Don't know | Number of cases |
| All adults | | 62% | 35% | 3% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 66% | 32% | 3% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 68% | 30% | 2% | 224 |
| | West | 60% | 38% | 2% | 140 |
| | South Central | 59% | 36% | 5% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 58% | 39% | 3% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 61% | 38% | 2% | 410 |
| | Women | 64% | 32% | 4% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 68% | 29% | 4% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 61% | 36% | 3% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 61% | 37% | 2% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 58% | 38% | 4% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 66% | 32% | 1% | 188 |
| | Some college | 59% | 38% | 4% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 62% | 35% | 4% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 70% | 27% | 2% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 62% | 35% | 3% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 56% | 41% | 2% | 205 |
| Race | White | 59% | 39% | 2% | 569 |
| | Minority | 71% | 26% | 3% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 67% | 32% | 1% | 154 |
| | No | 62% | 35% | 3% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 58% | 41% | 1% | 197 |
| | No | 65% | 32% | 3% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 78% | 19% | 3% | 348 |
| | Republican | 46% | 53% | 1% | 305 |
| | Independent | 52% | 43% | 5% | 106 |

| | | 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 | | 52% | 45% | 3% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 42% | 52% | 5% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 60% | 37% | 2% | 224 |
| | West | 42% | 56% | 2% | 140 |
| | South Central | 51% | 44% | 5% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 54% | 44% | 3% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 53% | 44% | 3% | 410 |
| | Women | 50% | 47% | 3% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 56% | 41% | 3% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 59% | 36% | 5% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 50% | 49% | 1% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 43% | 51% | 6% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 51% | 45% | 3% | 188 |
| | Some college | 52% | 45% | 3% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 52% | 45% | 3% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 58% | 41% | 2% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 48% | 48% | 4% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 55% | 43% | 1% | 205 |
| Race | White | 47% | 50% | 3% | 569 |
| | Minority | 61% | 36% | 3% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 51% | 43% | 6% | 154 |
| | No | 52% | 46% | 3% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 54% | 44% | 1% | 197 |
| | No | 50% | 46% | 4% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 60% | 38% | 2% | 348 |
| | Republican | 44% | 54% | 2% | 305 |
| | Independent | 46% | 47% | 7% | 106 |

| | | Q9. 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 | | 41% | 47% | 13% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 45% | 45% | 10% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 34% | 51% | 14% | 224 |
| | West | 45% | 37% | 18% | 140 |
| | South Central | 39% | 50% | 11% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 43% | 48% | 9% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 38% | 51% | 11% | 410 |
| | Women | 43% | 43% | 14% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 50% | 41% | 10% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 34% | 52% | 14% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 39% | 48% | 12% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 37% | 48% | 15% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 40% | 45% | 15% | 188 |
| | Some college | 41% | 47% | 12% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 41% | 48% | 10% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 44% | 42% | 14% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 41% | 47% | 12% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 37% | 57% | 7% | 205 |
| Race | White | 37% | 52% | 10% | 569 |
| | Minority | 49% | 34% | 17% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 54% | 39% | 6% | 154 |
| | No | 38% | 48% | 14% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 35% | 51% | 14% | 197 |
| | No | 43% | 45% | 12% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 46% | 41% | 12% | 348 |
| | Republican | 36% | 55% | 10% | 305 |
| | Independent | 37% | 45% | 18% | 106 |

| | | Q10. Just your impression, or what you may have heard or read, has increased testing helped, hurt, or made no difference in the performance of students in your local public schools? | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------|------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Helped | Made no difference | Hurt | Don't Know | Number of cases |
| All adults | | 23% | 33% | 35% | 8% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 18% | 45% | 31% | 6% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 28% | 26% | 37% | 9% | 224 |
| | West | 18% | 32% | 41% | 9% | 140 |
| | South Central | 24% | 42% | 28% | 6% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 23% | 39% | 28% | 10% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 26% | 34% | 30% | 9% | 410 |
| | Women | 20% | 36% | 36% | 7% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 25% | 37% | 29% | 8% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 22% | 42% | 27% | 10% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 24% | 35% | 33% | 8% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 18% | 26% | 47% | 8% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 28% | 23% | 37% | 11% | 188 |
| | Some college | 26% | 38% | 32% | 3% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 16% | 45% | 30% | 9% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 29% | 28% | 34% | 9% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 21% | 44% | 26% | 8% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 15% | 42% | 39% | 4% | 205 |
| Race | White | 17% | 41% | 33% | 9% | 569 |
| | Minority | 39% | 22% | 33% | 6% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 15% | 52% | 32% | 2% | 154 |
| | No | 25% | 32% | 34% | 9% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 26% | 42% | 29% | 3% | 197 |
| | No | 22% | 32% | 35% | 11% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 23% | 39% | 32% | 6% | 348 |
| | Republican | 21% | 35% | 35% | 10% | 305 |
| | Independent | 26% | 26% | 37% | 11% | 106 |

| | | Q11a. For each statement, please tell me how much you agree or disagree. The SOL tests make sure that all students in Virginia meet the same academic standards | | | | | Number of cases |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know | |
| All adults | | 21% | 34% | 19% | 21% | 5% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 16% | 33% | 24% | 25% | 2% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 19% | 38% | 19% | 17% | 6% | 224 |
| | West | 31% | 26% | 16% | 24% | 3% | 140 |
| | South Central | 18% | 36% | 20% | 23% | 3% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 23% | 35% | 19% | 17% | 6% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 23% | 33% | 19% | 20% | 5% | 410 |
| | Women | 20% | 36% | 19% | 21% | 4% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 18% | 35% | 20% | 20% | 6% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 19% | 36% | 16% | 22% | 7% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 24% | 34% | 21% | 19% | 2% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 23% | 32% | 18% | 21% | 6% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 28% | 26% | 17% | 23% | 5% | 188 |
| | Some college | 21% | 39% | 21% | 17% | 1% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 15% | 38% | 20% | 21% | 7% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 28% | 32% | 16% | 19% | 5% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 16% | 34% | 27% | 17% | 6% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 14% | 42% | 16% | 27% | 2% | 205 |
| Race | White | 19% | 36% | 19% | 21% | 4% | 569 |
| | Minority | 26% | 33% | 17% | 19% | 5% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 17% | 36% | 20% | 26% | 2% | 154 |
| | No | 22% | 34% | 19% | 19% | 5% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 23% | 32% | 20% | 21% | 3% | 197 |
| | No | 20% | 35% | 19% | 20% | 5% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 18% | 36% | 23% | 19% | 4% | 348 |
| | Republican | 25% | 35% | 17% | 19% | 4% | 305 |
| | Independent | 27% | 29% | 13% | 27% | 4% | 106 |

| | | Q11b. For each statement, please tell me how much you agree or disagree. The SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students. | | | | | Number of cases |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know | |
| All adults | | 37% | 26% | 18% | 15% | 5% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 45% | 26% | 13% | 12% | 4% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 29% | 24% | 24% | 16% | 7% | 224 |
| | West | 45% | 25% | 13% | 14% | 3% | 140 |
| | South Central | 38% | 26% | 19% | 14% | 2% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 37% | 27% | 14% | 16% | 6% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 31% | 25% | 19% | 17% | 7% | 410 |
| | Women | 44% | 26% | 16% | 12% | 2% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 35% | 32% | 13% | 13% | 7% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 44% | 22% | 20% | 11% | 3% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 39% | 24% | 18% | 17% | 2% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 34% | 22% | 21% | 15% | 9% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 43% | 22% | 12% | 17% | 6% | 188 |
| | Some college | 41% | 29% | 18% | 11% | 2% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 29% | 27% | 22% | 16% | 6% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 41% | 25% | 16% | 13% | 3% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 40% | 23% | 17% | 15% | 5% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 34% | 28% | 20% | 15% | 2% | 205 |
| Race | White | 39% | 24% | 18% | 15% | 4% | 569 |
| | Minority | 34% | 29% | 18% | 13% | 6% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 40% | 25% | 19% | 13% | 3% | 154 |
| | No | 37% | 26% | 17% | 15% | 5% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 46% | 22% | 17% | 14% | 1% | 197 |
| | No | 34% | 27% | 18% | 15% | 6% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 38% | 29% | 19% | 11% | 3% | 348 |
| | Republican | 39% | 27% | 12% | 16% | 5% | 305 |
| | Independent | 36% | 13% | 23% | 21% | 7% | 106 |

| | | Q11c. For each statement, please tell me how much you agree or disagree. The SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement | | | | | Number of cases |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know | |
| All adults | | 25% | 37% | 18% | 14% | 6% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 20% | 30% | 27% | 19% | 3% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 22% | 39% | 19% | 14% | 6% | 224 |
| | West | 22% | 46% | 12% | 13% | 7% | 140 |
| | South Central | 23% | 37% | 21% | 14% | 4% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 36% | 32% | 14% | 12% | 7% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 25% | 37% | 17% | 13% | 7% | 410 |
| | Women | 25% | 37% | 19% | 15% | 5% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 30% | 38% | 15% | 13% | 4% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 18% | 36% | 22% | 16% | 8% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 30% | 36% | 19% | 12% | 4% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 14% | 39% | 20% | 17% | 10% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 27% | 36% | 16% | 13% | 8% | 188 |
| | Some college | 26% | 40% | 21% | 11% | 3% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 22% | 36% | 18% | 18% | 6% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 30% | 35% | 18% | 10% | 6% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 14% | 47% | 17% | 15% | 7% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 26% | 29% | 22% | 21% | 2% | 205 |
| Race | White | 23% | 37% | 20% | 14% | 5% | 569 |
| | Minority | 30% | 36% | 15% | 12% | 7% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 19% | 39% | 18% | 21% | 3% | 154 |
| | No | 26% | 37% | 18% | 13% | 6% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 26% | 37% | 19% | 15% | 3% | 197 |
| | No | 25% | 37% | 18% | 14% | 7% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 24% | 40% | 19% | 14% | 3% | 348 |
| | Republican | 26% | 37% | 19% | 13% | 5% | 305 |
| | Independent | 30% | 29% | 12% | 19% | 10% | 106 |

| | | Q11d. For each statement, please tell me how much you agree or disagree. So much class time is spent preparing for the SOL tests that teachers can't cover all the important material | | | | | Number of cases |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know | |
| All adults | | 55% | 20% | 11% | 8% | 7% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 57% | 23% | 7% | 10% | 3% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 47% | 22% | 16% | 6% | 10% | 224 |
| | West | 57% | 23% | 8% | 6% | 6% | 140 |
| | South Central | 63% | 14% | 11% | 6% | 6% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 54% | 17% | 10% | 12% | 7% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 49% | 23% | 12% | 6% | 10% | 410 |
| | Women | 60% | 17% | 10% | 10% | 3% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 52% | 20% | 15% | 8% | 5% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 59% | 20% | 11% | 5% | 4% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 60% | 17% | 7% | 9% | 6% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 43% | 24% | 13% | 7% | 13% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 48% | 21% | 10% | 10% | 10% | 188 |
| | Some college | 60% | 19% | 13% | 5% | 3% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 56% | 18% | 10% | 8% | 7% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 60% | 14% | 11% | 11% | 5% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 49% | 24% | 13% | 5% | 9% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 57% | 21% | 11% | 7% | 5% | 205 |
| Race | White | 56% | 22% | 8% | 8% | 6% | 569 |
| | Minority | 49% | 16% | 17% | 9% | 8% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 65% | 18% | 9% | 5% | 3% | 154 |
| | No | 53% | 20% | 11% | 8% | 8% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 58% | 20% | 12% | 9% | 1% | 197 |
| | No | 53% | 20% | 10% | 8% | 10% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 61% | 19% | 9% | 7% | 4% | 348 |
| | Republican | 51% | 22% | 13% | 5% | 9% | 305 |
| | Independent | 46% | 18% | 8% | 19% | 9% | 106 |

| | | Q11e. For each statement, please tell me how much you agree or disagree. The SOL tests help improve student achievement | | | | | Number of cases |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know | |
| All adults | | 12% | 31% | 28% | 26% | 4% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 7% | 31% | 31% | 30% | 1% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 12% | 33% | 26% | 25% | 5% | 224 |
| | West | 14% | 28% | 31% | 21% | 6% | 140 |
| | South Central | 12% | 24% | 27% | 35% | 1% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 16% | 35% | 26% | 19% | 4% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 13% | 31% | 26% | 26% | 5% | 410 |
| | Women | 12% | 31% | 30% | 25% | 2% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 12% | 36% | 19% | 26% | 7% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 10% | 24% | 36% | 30% | 0% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 15% | 30% | 32% | 22% | 1% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 12% | 31% | 24% | 25% | 8% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 16% | 31% | 27% | 22% | 5% | 188 |
| | Some college | 13% | 32% | 28% | 26% | 1% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 8% | 29% | 29% | 29% | 5% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 19% | 32% | 20% | 24% | 4% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 9% | 30% | 30% | 27% | 4% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 8% | 27% | 36% | 27% | 2% | 205 |
| Race | White | 9% | 28% | 30% | 29% | 4% | 569 |
| | Minority | 19% | 36% | 23% | 17% | 4% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 8% | 30% | 26% | 35% | 1% | 154 |
| | No | 13% | 31% | 28% | 24% | 4% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 15% | 26% | 26% | 31% | 2% | 197 |
| | No | 11% | 33% | 28% | 23% | 5% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 13% | 31% | 26% | 27% | 3% | 348 |
| | Republican | 9% | 36% | 26% | 26% | 3% | 305 |
| | Independent | 20% | 15% | 36% | 23% | 6% | 106 |

| | | Q12. One strategy for dealing with consistently failing schools has been to have the school administration taken over by another entity, such as the government or another local school district. In general, would you favor or oppose having failing public schools be taken over by another entity? | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|--------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Favor | Oppose | Don't know | Number of cases |
| All adults | | 39% | 53% | 8% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 34% | 53% | 13% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 36% | 57% | 7% | 224 |
| | West | 35% | 60% | 5% | 140 |
| | South Central | 53% | 43% | 3% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 36% | 50% | 13% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 41% | 52% | 7% | 410 |
| | Women | 37% | 54% | 9% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 43% | 49% | 8% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 47% | 47% | 6% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 36% | 54% | 10% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 28% | 64% | 8% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 35% | 59% | 6% | 188 |
| | Some college | 41% | 49% | 9% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 40% | 50% | 10% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 37% | 59% | 4% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 43% | 50% | 7% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 45% | 46% | 9% | 205 |
| Race | White | 39% | 53% | 9% | 569 |
| | Minority | 41% | 53% | 7% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 33% | 56% | 12% | 154 |
| | No | 40% | 52% | 8% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 46% | 49% | 5% | 197 |
| | No | 36% | 55% | 10% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 39% | 55% | 6% | 348 |
| | Republican | 38% | 51% | 10% | 305 |
| | Independent | 40% | 48% | 12% | 106 |

| | | Q12a. Who should be responsible for taking over failing public schools? Should it be the state government, the local or municipal government, another local school district or a charter school organization? | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|---|----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| | | State Govt. | Local Govt. | Another local school district | Charter School organization | Some other entity | Don't know | Number of cases |
| All adults | | 32% | 25% | 14% | 22% | 1% | 6% | 303 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 35% | 16% | 28% | 20% | 0% | 1% | 36 |
| | Northern VA | 25% | 26% | 22% | 20% | 1% | 5% | 85 |
| | West | 14% | 42% | 9% | 31% | 1% | 4% | 41 |
| | South Central | 44% | 18% | 7% | 26% | 0% | 5% | 70 |
| | Tidewater | 40% | 22% | 9% | 15% | 1% | 12% | 71 |
| Gender | Men | 30% | 25% | 14% | 24% | 1% | 5% | 171 |
| | Women | 34% | 25% | 14% | 20% | 0% | 7% | 132 |
| Age | 18-34 | 36% | 16% | 22% | 22% | 0% | 5% | 52 |
| | 35-44 | 26% | 39% | 12% | 18% | 0% | 4% | 44 |
| | 45-64 | 34% | 24% | 8% | 26% | 1% | 6% | 129 |
| | 65 and older | 28% | 28% | 14% | 21% | 1% | 7% | 68 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 39% | 28% | 15% | 12% | 0% | 5% | 63 |
| | Some college | 30% | 19% | 14% | 26% | 1% | 9% | 83 |
| | College grad or more | 29% | 27% | 13% | 27% | 1% | 3% | 155 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 47% | 26% | 8% | 14% | 0% | 6% | 86 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 22% | 28% | 16% | 24% | 0% | 10% | 82 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 21% | 24% | 21% | 31% | 2% | 1% | 94 |
| Race | White | 30% | 27% | 14% | 22% | 1% | 6% | 205 |
| | Minority | 36% | 21% | 15% | 22% | 0% | 6% | 86 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 37% | 18% | 23% | 19% | 0% | 3% | 46 |
| | No | 32% | 26% | 13% | 23% | 1% | 6% | 257 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 26% | 29% | 19% | 20% | 0% | 6% | 86 |
| | No | 36% | 22% | 11% | 23% | 1% | 6% | 217 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 35% | 22% | 15% | 22% | 1% | 5% | 138 |
| | Republican | 24% | 30% | 15% | 28% | 0% | 2% | 112 |
| | Independent | 46% | 20% | 8% | 14% | 2% | 9% | 37 |

Q13. Would you favor or oppose allowing students who are
homeschooled to participate on local public school sport teams?

| | | Favor | Oppose | Don't know | Number of cases |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------|--------|------------|-----------------|
| All adults | | 72% | 24% | 4% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 66% | 30% | 3% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 73% | 24% | 4% | 224 |
| | West | 67% | 30% | 4% | 140 |
| | South Central | 81% | 16% | 3% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 73% | 22% | 5% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 72% | 25% | 3% | 410 |
| | Women | 73% | 22% | 4% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 85% | 12% | 3% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 79% | 15% | 6% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 65% | 33% | 3% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 61% | 33% | 6% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 66% | 30% | 4% | 188 |
| | Some college | 77% | 20% | 3% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 74% | 21% | 4% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 73% | 23% | 4% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 74% | 23% | 3% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 75% | 23% | 3% | 205 |
| Race | White | 73% | 23% | 4% | 569 |
| | Minority | 73% | 23% | 4% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 61% | 37% | 1% | 154 |
| | No | 74% | 21% | 4% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 75% | 22% | 3% | 197 |
| | No | 71% | 24% | 4% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 72% | 23% | 4% | 348 |
| | Republican | 76% | 23% | 1% | 305 |
| | Independent | 68% | 22% | 9% | 106 |

| | | Q14. Would you favor or oppose localities having the option to start their public school calendar before Labor Day? | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|--------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Favor | Oppose | Don't know | Number of cases |
| All adults | | 63% | 31% | 6% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 58% | 41% | 1% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 64% | 28% | 7% | 224 |
| | West | 63% | 30% | 6% | 140 |
| | South Central | 66% | 30% | 4% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 61% | 31% | 8% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 63% | 31% | 6% | 410 |
| | Women | 63% | 32% | 5% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 63% | 28% | 10% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 70% | 29% | 1% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 60% | 35% | 4% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 60% | 32% | 8% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 47% | 43% | 9% | 188 |
| | Some college | 72% | 25% | 3% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 70% | 25% | 5% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 62% | 34% | 4% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 66% | 28% | 6% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 66% | 31% | 3% | 205 |
| Race | White | 64% | 31% | 5% | 569 |
| | Minority | 60% | 32% | 7% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 60% | 36% | 3% | 154 |
| | No | 63% | 30% | 6% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 54% | 40% | 6% | 197 |
| | No | 67% | 28% | 6% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 66% | 30% | 5% | 348 |
| | Republican | 65% | 31% | 4% | 305 |
| | Independent | 56% | 30% | 14% | 106 |

| | | Q15. Regardless of whether you have children or not...If it were your decision and you could select any type of school, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child? | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Charter School | Home School | Private School | Regular public school | Virtual School | Don't know | Number of cases |
| All adults | | 8% | 6% | 32% | 51% | 1% | 2% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 7% | 5% | 38% | 49% | 0% | 1% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 7% | 2% | 28% | 59% | 0% | 4% | 224 |
| | West | 8% | 7% | 23% | 59% | 2% | 1% | 140 |
| | South Central | 10% | 7% | 43% | 38% | 0% | 2% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 10% | 10% | 35% | 44% | 0% | 2% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 8% | 8% | 32% | 50% | 1% | 1% | 410 |
| | Women | 8% | 5% | 33% | 51% | 0% | 2% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 9% | 7% | 29% | 51% | 1% | 2% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 7% | 7% | 39% | 45% | 0% | 1% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 8% | 5% | 32% | 55% | 0% | 1% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 10% | 5% | 33% | 46% | 0% | 6% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 7% | 9% | 27% | 54% | 1% | 3% | 188 |
| | Some college | 10% | 6% | 32% | 50% | 0% | 1% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 9% | 3% | 38% | 47% | 0% | 2% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 6% | 9% | 26% | 56% | 1% | 1% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 14% | 6% | 38% | 41% | 0% | 1% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 9% | 1% | 38% | 49% | 0% | 2% | 205 |
| Race | White | 9% | 8% | 32% | 48% | 1% | 2% | 569 |
| | Minority | 5% | 2% | 34% | 57% | 0% | 2% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 10% | 2% | 27% | 60% | 0% | 1% | 154 |
| | No | 8% | 7% | 33% | 49% | 1% | 2% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 9% | 6% | 32% | 50% | 2% | 2% | 197 |
| | No | 8% | 6% | 33% | 51% | 0% | 2% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 8% | 4% | 32% | 55% | 0% | 1% | 348 |
| | Republican | 9% | 7% | 32% | 49% | 1% | 2% | 305 |
| | Independent | 8% | 9% | 34% | 42% | 1% | 6% | 106 |

| | | Q16. In general, do you feel the public schools in your community are very safe, safe, not very safe, not at all safe? | | | | | Number of cases |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Very Safe | Somewhat Safe | Not Very Safe | Not At All Safe | Don't know | |
| All adults | | 29% | 51% | 13% | 4% | 3% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 31% | 51% | 13% | 4% | 1% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 38% | 48% | 9% | 2% | 3% | 224 |
| | West | 34% | 52% | 9% | 4% | 1% | 140 |
| | South Central | 23% | 52% | 14% | 5% | 5% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 16% | 54% | 21% | 7% | 1% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 30% | 53% | 12% | 3% | 2% | 410 |
| | Women | 27% | 50% | 15% | 5% | 3% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 30% | 49% | 10% | 7% | 4% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 25% | 55% | 15% | 4% | 0% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 31% | 50% | 16% | 2% | 1% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 25% | 52% | 12% | 4% | 7% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 31% | 49% | 13% | 4% | 3% | 188 |
| | Some college | 26% | 56% | 14% | 3% | 2% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 29% | 50% | 13% | 5% | 3% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 28% | 51% | 14% | 4% | 3% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 22% | 52% | 16% | 6% | 4% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 40% | 48% | 8% | 3% | 0% | 205 |
| Race | White | 29% | 51% | 13% | 4% | 2% | 569 |
| | Minority | 27% | 52% | 15% | 3% | 4% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 36% | 49% | 13% | 1% | 1% | 154 |
| | No | 27% | 52% | 13% | 5% | 3% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 31% | 51% | 13% | 4% | 2% | 197 |
| | No | 28% | 51% | 13% | 5% | 3% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 32% | 45% | 15% | 5% | 3% | 348 |
| | Republican | 29% | 54% | 13% | 2% | 2% | 305 |
| | Independent | 22% | 58% | 11% | 7% | 2% | 106 |

| | | Q17. Which approach to school safety do you most agree with, even if neither is exactly right? | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Additional security measures | Through the mental health system | Both (VOL.) | Don't Know | Number of cases |
| All adults | | 54% | 27% | 10% | 9% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 64% | 19% | 12% | 5% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 42% | 37% | 13% | 8% | 224 |
| | West | 64% | 18% | 6% | 12% | 140 |
| | South Central | 50% | 37% | 5% | 8% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 58% | 19% | 13% | 9% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 52% | 29% | 10% | 10% | 410 |
| | Women | 56% | 25% | 11% | 8% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 48% | 35% | 8% | 9% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 47% | 32% | 11% | 10% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 64% | 20% | 10% | 6% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 49% | 24% | 15% | 12% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 69% | 16% | 6% | 9% | 188 |
| | Some college | 51% | 29% | 14% | 6% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 41% | 37% | 11% | 11% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 63% | 23% | 9% | 5% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 51% | 26% | 10% | 12% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 43% | 38% | 12% | 8% | 205 |
| Race | White | 52% | 28% | 12% | 8% | 569 |
| | Minority | 59% | 26% | 6% | 9% | 199 |
| School employee or retiree? | Yes | 56% | 27% | 10% | 8% | 154 |
| | No | 53% | 27% | 10% | 9% | 648 |
| Parent of public school student? | Yes | 55% | 28% | 12% | 5% | 197 |
| | No | 53% | 27% | 9% | 11% | 604 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 47% | 36% | 9% | 8% | 348 |
| | Republican | 61% | 22% | 10% | 7% | 305 |
| | Independent | 54% | 19% | 15% | 11% | 106 |

| | | Q18a.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 | | 72% | 18% | 10% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 72% | 13% | 14% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 72% | 14% | 13% | 224 |
| | West | 73% | 22% | 5% | 140 |
| | South Central | 74% | 22% | 5% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 69% | 18% | 13% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 68% | 22% | 10% | 410 |
| | Women | 76% | 13% | 10% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 72% | 20% | 8% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 83% | 8% | 9% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 70% | 19% | 11% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 65% | 20% | 14% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 69% | 21% | 10% | 188 |
| | Some college | 76% | 17% | 7% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 72% | 15% | 13% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 73% | 19% | 8% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 68% | 20% | 12% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 72% | 15% | 13% | 205 |
| Race | White | 74% | 15% | 10% | 569 |
| | Minority | 68% | 22% | 10% | 199 |
| Parent of VA college student | Yes | 68% | 23% | 9% | 318 |
| | No | 74% | 16% | 11% | 484 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 73% | 17% | 10% | 348 |
| | Republican | 75% | 17% | 8% | 305 |
| | Independent | 60% | 24% | 16% | 106 |

| | | Q18b.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 | | 63% | 25% | 12% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 58% | 29% | 13% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 66% | 21% | 14% | 224 |
| | West | 64% | 24% | 12% | 140 |
| | South Central | 65% | 26% | 9% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 62% | 27% | 12% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 61% | 27% | 12% | 410 |
| | Women | 66% | 22% | 12% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 68% | 23% | 9% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 66% | 18% | 15% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 64% | 25% | 11% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 52% | 32% | 16% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 63% | 24% | 13% | 188 |
| | Some college | 71% | 20% | 10% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 57% | 29% | 14% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 71% | 20% | 9% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 57% | 28% | 16% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 57% | 31% | 12% | 205 |
| Race | White | 64% | 23% | 13% | 569 |
| | Minority | 63% | 27% | 10% | 199 |
| Parent of VA college student | Yes | 61% | 29% | 10% | 318 |
| | No | 64% | 23% | 13% | 484 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 61% | 28% | 11% | 348 |
| | Republican | 69% | 20% | 10% | 305 |
| | Independent | 59% | 23% | 18% | 106 |

| | | Q18c.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 | | 72% | 12% | 16% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 76% | 11% | 14% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 68% | 11% | 21% | 224 |
| | West | 73% | 12% | 15% | 140 |
| | South Central | 72% | 15% | 12% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 75% | 11% | 14% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 73% | 13% | 15% | 410 |
| | Women | 72% | 11% | 17% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 74% | 10% | 17% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 77% | 10% | 13% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 71% | 12% | 17% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 67% | 16% | 16% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 70% | 12% | 18% | 188 |
| | Some college | 78% | 9% | 13% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 69% | 15% | 16% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 72% | 12% | 16% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 74% | 10% | 16% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 71% | 14% | 15% | 205 |
| Race | White | 74% | 10% | 16% | 569 |
| | Minority | 70% | 15% | 15% | 199 |
| Parent of VA college student | Yes | 71% | 13% | 16% | 318 |
| | No | 73% | 11% | 16% | 484 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 72% | 13% | 15% | 348 |
| | Republican | 76% | 11% | 13% | 305 |
| | Independent | 65% | 11% | 24% | 106 |

| | | Q18d.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 | | 69% | 21% | 11% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 66% | 18% | 17% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 70% | 16% | 14% | 224 |
| | West | 71% | 24% | 5% | 140 |
| | South Central | 70% | 24% | 6% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 66% | 23% | 12% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 67% | 23% | 10% | 410 |
| | Women | 70% | 18% | 12% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 70% | 23% | 8% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 73% | 17% | 9% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 68% | 21% | 12% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 65% | 22% | 14% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 66% | 24% | 10% | 188 |
| | Some college | 70% | 21% | 9% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 69% | 18% | 13% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 69% | 22% | 9% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 65% | 22% | 14% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 69% | 18% | 13% | 205 |
| Race | White | 70% | 19% | 11% | 569 |
| | Minority | 66% | 24% | 10% | 199 |
| Parent of VA college student | Yes | 72% | 18% | 11% | 318 |
| | No | 67% | 22% | 11% | 484 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 71% | 20% | 9% | 348 |
| | Republican | 73% | 20% | 7% | 305 |
| | Independent | 51% | 28% | 22% | 106 |

| | | Q19. Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia? | | | | | Number of cases |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Very Safe | Somewhat Safe | Not Very Safe | Not At All Safe | Don't know | |
| All adults | | 12% | 58% | 22% | 3% | 4% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 12% | 64% | 18% | 2% | 3% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 15% | 58% | 17% | 2% | 7% | 224 |
| | West | 15% | 45% | 33% | 3% | 3% | 140 |
| | South Central | 14% | 62% | 19% | 4% | 2% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 6% | 62% | 25% | 4% | 3% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 17% | 57% | 19% | 2% | 4% | 410 |
| | Women | 8% | 59% | 25% | 4% | 4% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 15% | 53% | 23% | 4% | 4% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 8% | 73% | 11% | 3% | 5% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 14% | 60% | 21% | 3% | 2% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 10% | 48% | 34% | 3% | 6% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 11% | 45% | 34% | 5% | 4% | 188 |
| | Some college | 11% | 64% | 19% | 3% | 4% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 15% | 67% | 14% | 1% | 4% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 12% | 49% | 32% | 4% | 3% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 13% | 64% | 17% | 2% | 4% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 17% | 65% | 12% | 2% | 5% | 205 |
| Race | White | 14% | 59% | 20% | 3% | 4% | 569 |
| | Minority | 9% | 55% | 28% | 4% | 4% | 199 |
| Parent of VA college student | Yes | 10% | 60% | 26% | 1% | 2% | 318 |
| | No | 13% | 57% | 20% | 4% | 5% | 484 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 12% | 63% | 20% | 3% | 2% | 348 |
| | Republican | 14% | 57% | 24% | 2% | 3% | 305 |
| | Independent | 10% | 53% | 23% | 7% | 6% | 106 |

| | | Q20. If you had to choose, which do you think is more important for young people to succeed today? | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|-------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Earning a college degree from a well-respected university | Obtaining the knowledge and skills needed to do a specific job | Both (VOL.) | Neither (VOL.) | Don't know | Number of cases |
| All adults | | 29% | 59% | 8% | 1% | 4% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 20% | 68% | 9% | 0% | 4% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 36% | 56% | 6% | 0% | 2% | 224 |
| | West | 36% | 55% | 5% | 0% | 4% | 140 |
| | South Central | 27% | 62% | 7% | 0% | 4% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 22% | 57% | 12% | 1% | 7% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 29% | 62% | 5% | 0% | 4% | 410 |
| | Women | 30% | 55% | 10% | 1% | 4% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 30% | 61% | 5% | 1% | 2% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 34% | 57% | 5% | 0% | 3% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 27% | 57% | 11% | 0% | 5% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 29% | 61% | 7% | 0% | 4% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 30% | 57% | 8% | 0% | 6% | 188 |
| | Some college | 30% | 58% | 9% | 0% | 3% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 29% | 61% | 7% | 1% | 3% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 34% | 55% | 6% | 0% | 4% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 17% | 71% | 6% | 1% | 4% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 36% | 55% | 6% | 0% | 2% | 205 |
| Race | White | 27% | 61% | 7% | 0% | 4% | 569 |
| | Minority | 34% | 55% | 7% | 1% | 4% | 199 |
| Parent of VA college student | Yes | 27% | 57% | 10% | 0% | 6% | 318 |
| | No | 30% | 59% | 7% | 1% | 3% | 484 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 30% | 60% | 7% | 1% | 2% | 348 |
| | Republican | 30% | 62% | 6% | 0% | 3% | 305 |
| | Independent | 25% | 51% | 15% | 0% | 9% | 106 |

| | | Q21a. Thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Today's HIGH SCHOOL graduate is ready for the world of work | | | | | Number of cases |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know | |
| All adults | | 5% | 28% | 34% | 33% | 1% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 4% | 34% | 37% | 24% | 1% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 5% | 24% | 35% | 36% | 0% | 224 |
| | West | 4% | 39% | 30% | 24% | 3% | 140 |
| | South Central | 6% | 23% | 43% | 26% | 1% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 5% | 23% | 26% | 45% | 1% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 5% | 28% | 32% | 34% | 1% | 410 |
| | Women | 5% | 27% | 35% | 31% | 1% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 7% | 29% | 33% | 30% | 1% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 1% | 20% | 37% | 43% | 0% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 5% | 31% | 31% | 33% | 1% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 6% | 26% | 39% | 26% | 2% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 6% | 29% | 34% | 29% | 1% | 188 |
| | Some college | 8% | 31% | 33% | 27% | 1% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 2% | 23% | 35% | 40% | 1% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 6% | 35% | 32% | 26% | 2% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 3% | 24% | 36% | 36% | 1% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 4% | 20% | 36% | 40% | 0% | 205 |
| Race | White | 4% | 28% | 35% | 32% | 1% | 569 |
| | Minority | 8% | 27% | 31% | 33% | 0% | 199 |
| Parent of VA college student | Yes | 5% | 30% | 35% | 30% | 1% | 318 |
| | No | 5% | 26% | 33% | 34% | 1% | 484 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 3% | 26% | 35% | 35% | 1% | 348 |
| | Republican | 7% | 30% | 30% | 31% | 1% | 305 |
| | Independent | 7% | 24% | 40% | 28% | 2% | 106 |

| | | Q21b. Thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Today's HIGH SCHOOL graduate is ready for college | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know | Number of cases |
| All adults | | 12% | 51% | 24% | 11% | 2% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 11% | 51% | 28% | 9% | 1% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 15% | 58% | 19% | 6% | 2% | 224 |
| | West | 13% | 44% | 25% | 17% | 1% | 140 |
| | South Central | 12% | 51% | 18% | 19% | 1% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 8% | 50% | 32% | 8% | 2% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 13% | 48% | 26% | 11% | 2% | 410 |
| | Women | 11% | 55% | 22% | 11% | 1% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 16% | 54% | 20% | 8% | 2% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 7% | 54% | 30% | 7% | 1% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 12% | 49% | 24% | 13% | 1% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 10% | 47% | 25% | 15% | 3% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 15% | 44% | 26% | 14% | 2% | 188 |
| | Some college | 14% | 53% | 23% | 9% | 1% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 7% | 58% | 23% | 10% | 2% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 12% | 51% | 23% | 13% | 0% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 12% | 47% | 30% | 8% | 3% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 13% | 57% | 16% | 12% | 2% | 205 |
| Race | White | 11% | 53% | 25% | 9% | 2% | 569 |
| | Minority | 15% | 48% | 22% | 14% | 1% | 199 |
| Parent of VA college student | Yes | 12% | 54% | 21% | 12% | 1% | 318 |
| | No | 12% | 50% | 25% | 11% | 2% | 484 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 6% | 54% | 30% | 9% | 1% | 348 |
| | Republican | 19% | 48% | 22% | 10% | 0% | 305 |
| | Independent | 12% | 49% | 15% | 19% | 5% | 106 |

| | | Q21c. Thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Today's COLLEGE graduate is ready for the world of work | | | | | Number of cases |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know | |
| All adults | | 13% | 55% | 20% | 10% | 2% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 9% | 57% | 24% | 10% | 1% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 14% | 59% | 17% | 7% | 2% | 224 |
| | West | 15% | 56% | 17% | 12% | 1% | 140 |
| | South Central | 9% | 54% | 23% | 13% | 1% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 15% | 50% | 21% | 10% | 4% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 11% | 52% | 23% | 11% | 2% | 410 |
| | Women | 15% | 58% | 17% | 9% | 2% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 19% | 50% | 17% | 13% | 2% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 12% | 55% | 24% | 8% | 1% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 10% | 57% | 21% | 9% | 2% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 11% | 58% | 18% | 9% | 4% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 12% | 56% | 16% | 14% | 2% | 188 |
| | Some college | 16% | 52% | 24% | 6% | 2% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 11% | 57% | 20% | 10% | 2% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 17% | 53% | 20% | 10% | 1% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 8% | 54% | 22% | 12% | 4% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 13% | 57% | 18% | 9% | 3% | 205 |
| Race | White | 10% | 57% | 20% | 11% | 2% | 569 |
| | Minority | 20% | 51% | 19% | 7% | 2% | 199 |
| Parent of VA college student | Yes | 10% | 58% | 21% | 8% | 3% | 318 |
| | No | 14% | 54% | 19% | 11% | 2% | 484 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 12% | 56% | 22% | 8% | 1% | 348 |
| | Republican | 14% | 56% | 17% | 11% | 1% | 305 |
| | Independent | 14% | 45% | 23% | 12% | 6% | 106 |

| | | Q22a. From what you know, how would you rate the quality of education offered by the following? Internet-based college programs, in which courses are entirely online | | | | | Number of cases |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---|------|------|------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Don't know | |
| All adults | | 6% | 30% | 35% | 10% | 19% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 4% | 33% | 36% | 12% | 14% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 7% | 22% | 36% | 9% | 26% | 224 |
| | West | 11% | 37% | 24% | 12% | 16% | 140 |
| | South Central | 3% | 30% | 38% | 11% | 18% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 4% | 31% | 38% | 10% | 17% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 5% | 28% | 35% | 11% | 20% | 410 |
| | Women | 7% | 31% | 34% | 9% | 18% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 6% | 34% | 31% | 17% | 12% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 2% | 24% | 45% | 11% | 18% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 7% | 33% | 33% | 6% | 20% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 7% | 24% | 35% | 7% | 27% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 8% | 31% | 32% | 10% | 19% | 188 |
| | Some college | 4% | 41% | 33% | 8% | 15% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 6% | 19% | 40% | 13% | 23% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 5% | 40% | 32% | 11% | 12% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 5% | 29% | 35% | 7% | 23% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 8% | 18% | 40% | 13% | 20% | 205 |
| Race | White | 4% | 29% | 37% | 11% | 19% | 569 |
| | Minority | 10% | 33% | 31% | 7% | 19% | 199 |
| Parent of VA college student | Yes | 9% | 24% | 35% | 9% | 23% | 318 |
| | No | 5% | 33% | 35% | 11% | 17% | 484 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 7% | 30% | 38% | 10% | 15% | 348 |
| | Republican | 7% | 32% | 31% | 8% | 22% | 305 |
| | Independent | 2% | 24% | 33% | 18% | 23% | 106 |

| | | Q22b. From what you know, how would you rate the quality of education offered by the following? Four-year colleges or universities | | | | | Number of cases |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|------|------|------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Don't know | |
| All adults | | 23% | 56% | 15% | 2% | 4% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 20% | 54% | 17% | 6% | 3% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 31% | 52% | 10% | 1% | 6% | 224 |
| | West | 24% | 54% | 15% | 4% | 3% | 140 |
| | South Central | 18% | 66% | 11% | 0% | 4% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 18% | 56% | 21% | 1% | 4% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 22% | 57% | 14% | 2% | 5% | 410 |
| | Women | 24% | 55% | 15% | 2% | 4% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 31% | 54% | 9% | 2% | 4% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 20% | 59% | 12% | 0% | 10% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 22% | 56% | 18% | 3% | 2% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 17% | 56% | 20% | 2% | 5% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 19% | 50% | 22% | 3% | 7% | 188 |
| | Some college | 23% | 61% | 13% | 1% | 2% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 27% | 58% | 9% | 2% | 4% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 19% | 57% | 19% | 1% | 4% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 27% | 56% | 13% | 2% | 3% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 29% | 52% | 9% | 4% | 6% | 205 |
| Race | White | 24% | 57% | 13% | 2% | 3% | 569 |
| | Minority | 22% | 53% | 18% | 1% | 6% | 199 |
| Parent of VA college student | Yes | 22% | 56% | 17% | 3% | 1% | 318 |
| | No | 23% | 56% | 13% | 2% | 6% | 484 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 23% | 60% | 15% | 2% | 1% | 348 |
| | Republican | 23% | 57% | 12% | 2% | 6% | 305 |
| | Independent | 22% | 48% | 20% | 1% | 10% | 106 |

| | | Q22c. From what you know, how would you rate the quality of education offered by the following? Community colleges | | | | | Number of cases |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|------|------|------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Don't know | |
| All adults | | 20% | 57% | 19% | 1% | 4% | 803 |
| VA Region | Northwest | 23% | 59% | 14% | 2% | 2% | 114 |
| | Northern VA | 22% | 53% | 18% | 0% | 7% | 224 |
| | West | 21% | 55% | 21% | 1% | 2% | 140 |
| | South Central | 18% | 59% | 20% | 0% | 3% | 153 |
| | Tidewater | 16% | 58% | 20% | 2% | 4% | 172 |
| Gender | Men | 22% | 54% | 20% | 1% | 4% | 410 |
| | Women | 18% | 59% | 18% | 1% | 4% | 393 |
| Age | 18-34 | 21% | 51% | 23% | 0% | 5% | 117 |
| | 35-44 | 16% | 63% | 16% | 1% | 5% | 99 |
| | 45-64 | 22% | 57% | 17% | 2% | 2% | 332 |
| | 65 and older | 18% | 59% | 20% | 1% | 3% | 228 |
| Education | H.S. or less | 17% | 53% | 25% | 1% | 3% | 188 |
| | Some college | 24% | 58% | 16% | 0% | 2% | 235 |
| | College grad or more | 19% | 59% | 15% | 1% | 6% | 377 |
| Family Income | Under \$50,000 | 19% | 53% | 22% | 2% | 4% | 249 |
| | 50K to under \$100,000 | 20% | 63% | 15% | 0% | 2% | 214 |
| | \$100,000 or more | 21% | 54% | 19% | 2% | 4% | 205 |
| Race | White | 20% | 58% | 16% | 1% | 4% | 569 |
| | Minority | 20% | 53% | 24% | 2% | 2% | 199 |
| Parent of VA college student | Yes | 20% | 59% | 16% | 2% | 3% | 318 |
| | No | 20% | 55% | 20% | 1% | 5% | 484 |
| Party identification | Democrat | 18% | 58% | 21% | 1% | 2% | 348 |
| | Republican | 23% | 56% | 15% | 0% | 5% | 305 |
| | Independent | 19% | 54% | 19% | 4% | 5% | 106 |