

Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

A survey of Virginians conducted by the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute at Virginia Commonwealth University's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs

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Additionally, thanks to all the anonymous respondents who took the time to answer the questions contained in this poll and to you, the reader, for making use of the information.

Sincerely,

Robyn McDougale, Ph.D.
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Perspectives on K-12 Funding

Narrow Majority Willing to Pay Higher Taxes to Increase School Funding

Despite needing to close a significant funding gap, the governor's proposed budget amendments protect last year's approved increases in spending on K-12 education. The Commonwealth Education Poll shows this is in line with public opinion as a majority of the public not only supports keeping funding the same, but also would be willing to pay part of the bill out of their own pocket to increase funding for schools. Fifty-four percent of Virginians indicate a personal willingness to pay higher taxes in order to increase school funding, while 42 percent say they are not willing to do so. The proportion willing to pay higher taxes for this purpose is 2 percentage points lower than last year, but the difference is statistically insignificant.

Willingness to pay more in taxes to increase funding for schools varied significantly across a number of demographic and geographic categories. Women, younger respondents, respondents with college education or higher annual household income were all more likely to be willing to pay more in taxes than comparison categories. Specifically, those ages

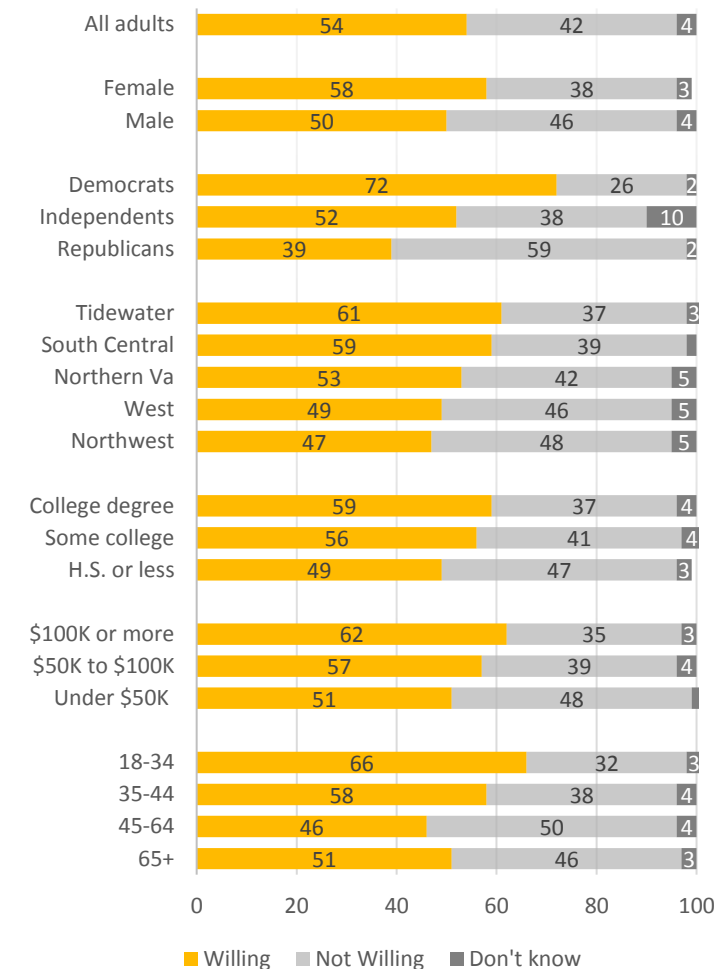
18-34 (66 percent willing) and 35-44 (58 percent willing) were clearly different than those ages 45-64 (46

Higher Taxes for Increased School Funding?

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

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Willing	54	56	53	59	60
Not willing	42	40	43	38	35
Don't know/Refused	4	4	4	3	5

Demographic Differences



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

percent willing) and those 65 and older (51 percent willing). At first glance, this difference could be driven by the greater likelihood of younger respondents being parents with children currently in the school system, but that is unlikely to be the entire explanation as parents of public school students are not significantly more likely to be willing to pay more in taxes (59 percent of parents vs. 53 percent of everyone else). Likewise, women (58 percent) were more likely than men (50 percent) to be willing to pay more in taxes for this purpose.

Similar to the steady progression across age categories, those with a college degree (59 percent) or some college (56 percent) more often said they were willing to pay more in taxes than did those with a high school degree or less in formal education (49 percent). The same can be said about household income levels, with 62 percent of the top category (more than \$100,000) saying they are willing to pay more in taxes, compared to 57 percent for those with household income between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and 51 percent for those with income below \$50,000.

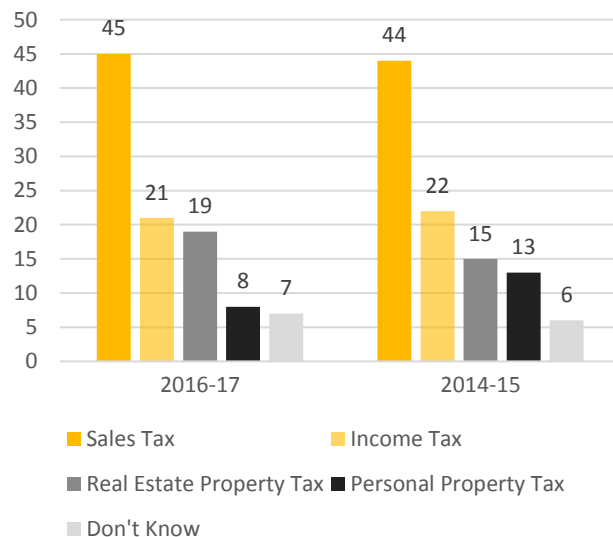
Given the well-known divide between the two dominant parties on the question of taxes, it is unsurprising that Democrats (72 percent) are more likely to be willing to pay higher taxes than are Republicans (39 percent) while Independents (52 percent) fall between the two. What is more interesting is that the gap between adherents of the two parties expanded 15 percentage points compared to 2015-16. This 33 percentage point gap is the second largest observed in 14 years that the question has been asked in the Commonwealth Education Poll. (The high-water mark was a 49 percentage point gap in the 2011-12 poll.)

Finally, regional differences are significant with 61 percent of Tidewater respondents and 59 percent of South Central respondents saying they would be willing to pay more in taxes. By comparison, support for the same is lower in the West (49 percent) and Northwest (47 percent).

Those who were willing to pay more in taxes were also asked what type of tax they thought would be best. A clear plurality (45 percent) selected an increase in the sales tax, while 21 percent favored income taxes and 19 percent real estate taxes. These levels were consistent with findings the last time the question was asked in 2014-15.

Preferred Type of Tax

[If willing to pay higher taxes] What kind of tax increase do you think would be best – sales tax, income tax, real estate property tax, or personal property tax?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

Two-Thirds Say Funding for Schools is Not Enough

As has been the case each of the 12 years that we have asked the question, a strong majority of Virginians feel that current funding for public schools is not enough to meet existing needs and that the amount of money spent on education affects the quality of education a great deal or quite a lot.

Two-thirds of Virginians (66 percent) say that public schools do not have enough funds to meet their needs, while only 26 percent say schools have enough funding. These levels are virtually unchanged from the previous year, despite the significant increase in funding approved for K-12 education by last year's General Assembly.

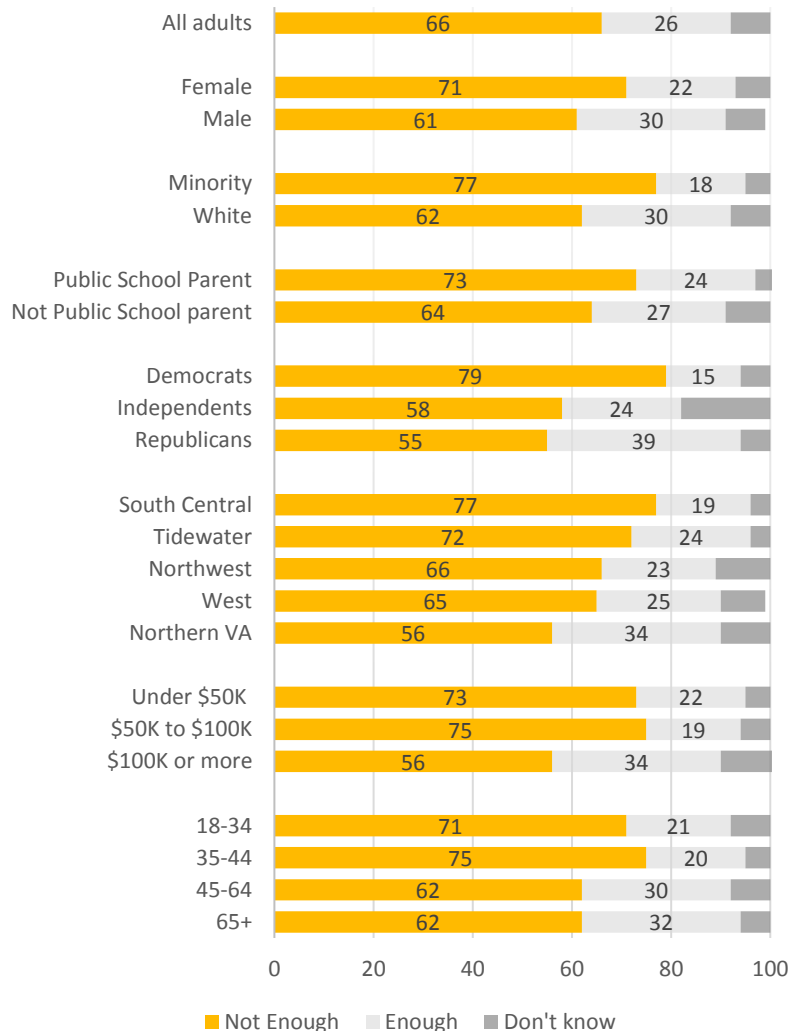
Certain demographic categories were more likely to think that schools don't currently have enough funding. Parents of public school students (73 percent) were significantly more likely than respondents without a child in the public school system (64 percent) to think schools were operating

below needed funding levels. Minority respondents (77 percent) were more likely to think funding for schools was not enough when compared to white respondents (62 percent). Likewise, Democrats (79 percent) more often said schools did not have enough compared to their Independent (58 percent) or Republican (55 percent) counterparts.

Differences based on age and household income were also present:

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?

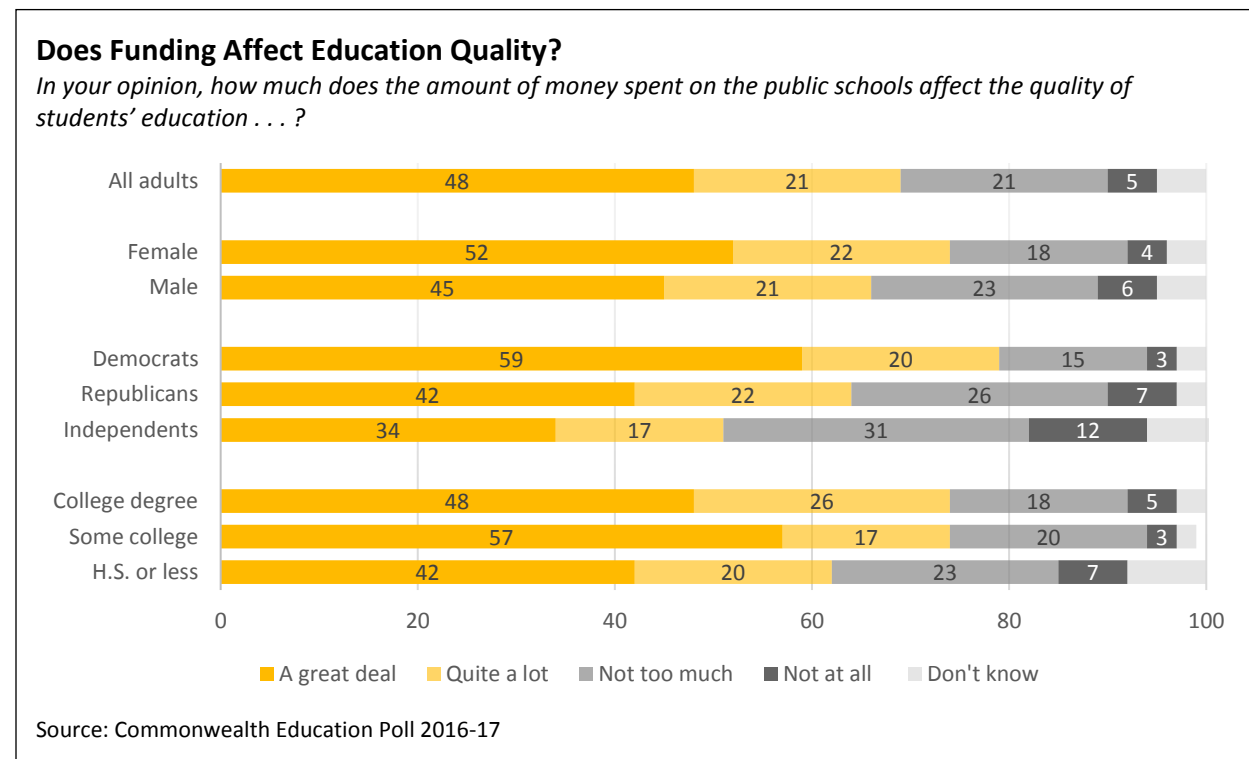


Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

- Respondents in the 35- to 44-year-old cohort (75 percent) and in the 18- to 34-year-old cohort (71 percent) were more likely than respondents in the two older cohorts (62 percent for both) to feel funding was insufficient.
- Respondents from the lower income bracket (\$50,000 or less in household income) and the middle bracket (between \$50,000 and \$100,000) were more likely at 73 percent and 75 percent, respectively, to feel that schools didn't have enough. This is compared to 56 percent of those with household incomes exceeding \$100,000 who said the same.

Likewise there was a difference between women (71 percent) and men (61 percent) and among the different geographic regions. Northern Virginia had the smallest portion of respondents (56 percent) who thought schools did not have enough funding, compared to 77 percent in South Central Virginia and 72 percent in the Tidewater area.

Perceptions about whether schools have enough funding matter because Virginians also see the amount of funding dedicated to public schools as affecting their quality. Similar to the previous year, close to seven in 10 respondents (69 percent) said that the amount of funding affects quality “a great deal” or “quite a lot.”



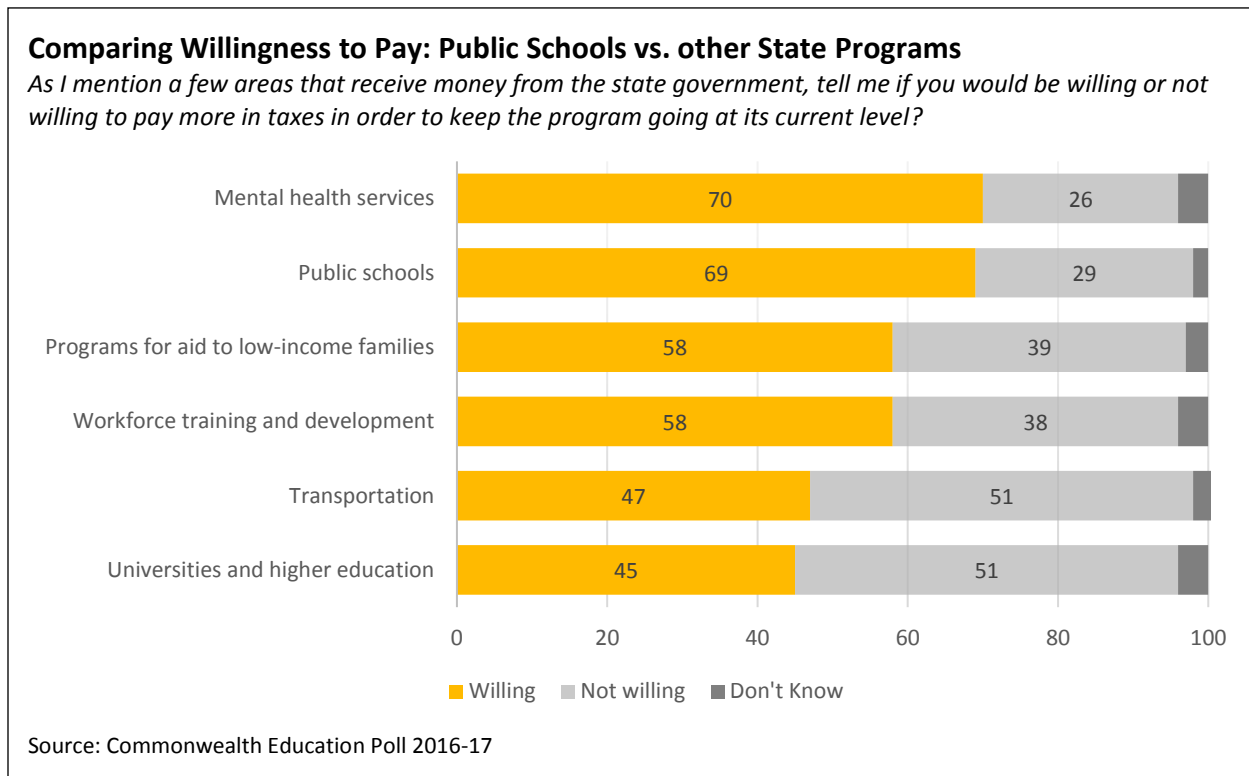
Similar to the demographic differences with regard to whether schools have enough funding to meet needs, women (74 percent chose either “a great deal” or “quite a lot”) were also more likely to see a causal connection between funding and educational quality than were men (66 percent). Democrats (at 79 percent combined) and Republicans (at 64 percent combined) more often said that the

amount of money spent on schools affects quality a great deal or quite a lot than did Independents (only 51 percent combined).

Though differences in formal education were not significantly different on the question of whether funding was enough, it was in the case of whether people believe funding impacts quality. Seventy-four percent of both respondents with college degrees and those with some college selected “a great deal” or “quite a lot” compared to only 62 percent of those with a high school degree or less who chose the same.

School Funding Ranks as Top Priority along with Funding for Mental Health

While only a narrow majority would pay more to increase school funding, almost seven in 10 respondents (69 percent) would be willing to see an increase in their own taxes in order to keep funding



for public schools the same. The breakdown in demographic differences is similar in pattern to those reported above for those willing to pay more to increase funding:

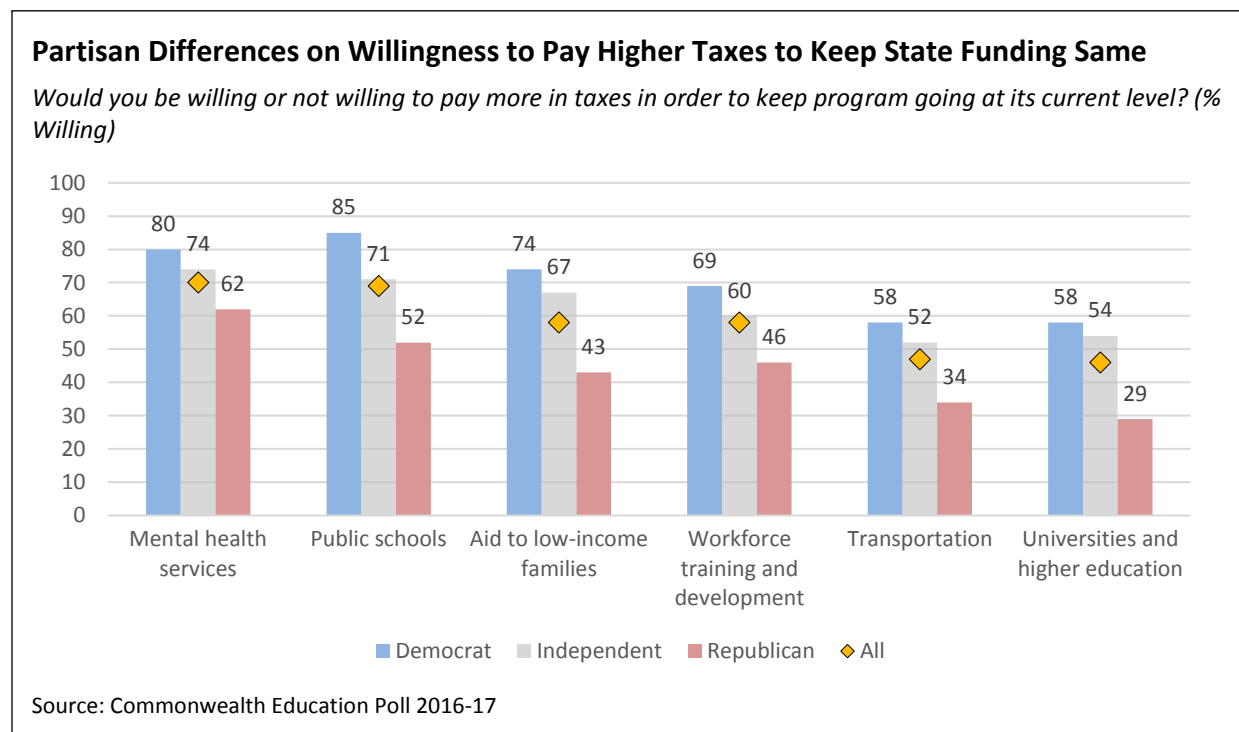
- A higher proportion of Democrats (85 percent) and Independents (71 percent) are ready to pay more for stable school funding than are Republicans (52 percent).
- Higher proportions of public school employees or retirees (76 percent) are willing to pay more to secure stable funding when compared to those who are not public school employees or retirees (67 percent).
- Respondents under 45 (both categories had more than 70 percent of respondents willing to pay more) were more frequently willing to pay increased taxes than were older respondents (ages 45 to 64, 63 percent willing; ages 65 and older, 61 percent willing.)
- A higher proportion of minority respondents (78 percent) are also willing to pay more in taxes than is the case among white respondents (66 percent).

Among broad state government budget categories, public schools was one of two clear priorities for the public. The second area is mental health, where a similarly high percentage (70 percent) are willing to see their taxes raised in order to keep funding the same.

When it came to mental health programs, Democrats (80 percent) and Independents (74 percent) were again more willing to pay more in taxes compared to Republicans (62 percent). Likewise, those with annual incomes above \$100,000 are more willing to pay (at 76 percent) than are those with household incomes under \$50,000 (69 percent) or between \$50,000 and \$100,000 (66 percent). The West region of Virginia shows less willingness (at 61 percent) to pay more to keep mental health funding the same than is the case in Tidewater or South Central (both of which had 75 percent of respondents willing to pay more in taxes.)

Other major state funding programs were lower on the priority list for the public. Fifty-eight percent of Virginians are willing to pay more in taxes for programs that provide aid to low-income families. The same portion of respondents (58 percent) are willing to pay more to keep workforce training and development programs at similar levels.

While majorities of the public are willing to support the previous four state funding areas, opinion is nearly equally divided when it comes to the areas of transportation and higher education. Only 47 percent of respondents were willing to pay more in taxes to keep transportation funding the same while 45 percent said the same for higher education (compared to 51 percent who are not willing to do so in each case).



Across each area of state program funding, Democrats are more likely to be willing to pay higher taxes than Republicans, with Independents falling in between (see chart on previous page.)

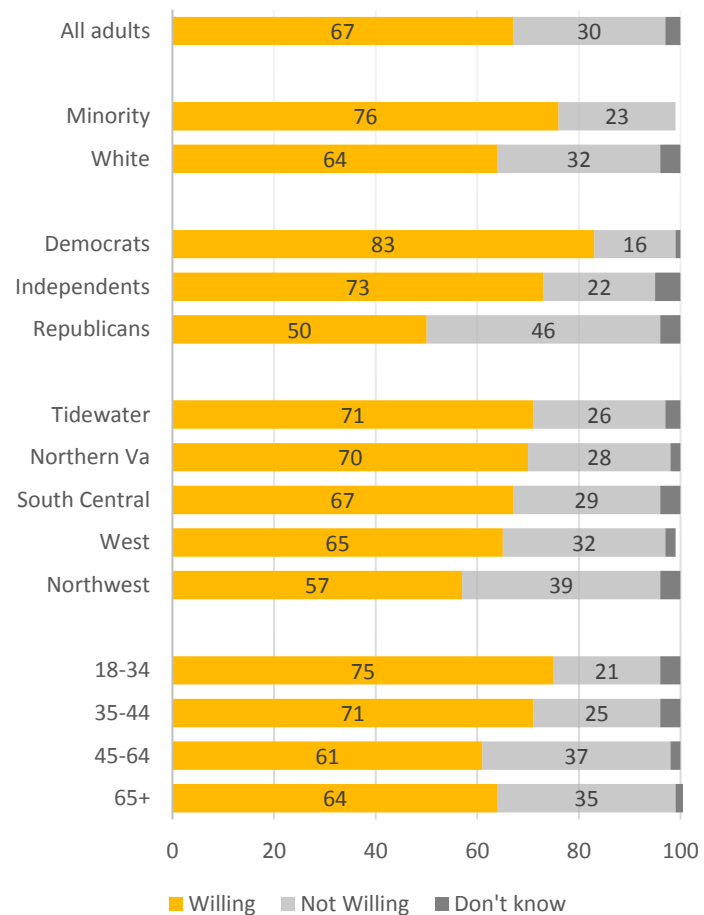
Majority Willing to Pay More to Help High-Poverty, Low-Performing Schools; Those Willing to Pay More Prefer Increased Teacher Pay as Best Use

One of the recurring questions in education circles is how to find funding for high-poverty, low-performing schools that are working to increase student performance. Poll responses show that a strong majority (67 percent) of respondents would be willing to pay more in taxes for that purpose.

There was significant variability, however, between different demographic groups. Younger respondents were more likely to support additional resources for high-poverty, low-performing schools. Among 18- to 34-year-olds, three-quarters (75 percent) were willing to pay more in taxes, while that proportion dropped to 71 percent among 35- to 44-year-olds; 61 percent among 45- to 64-year-olds; and 64 percent among those 65 or older. Likewise, minority respondents (76 percent) and Democrats (83 percent) were more likely than white respondents (64 percent) and Independents (73 percent) or Republicans (50 percent) to be willing to pay more in taxes to increase resources flowing to high-poverty, low-performing schools.

Willing to Pay Extra to Help Low-Performing Schools?

Would you be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to provide additional resources to high-poverty, low-performing schools that are working to increase student performance?

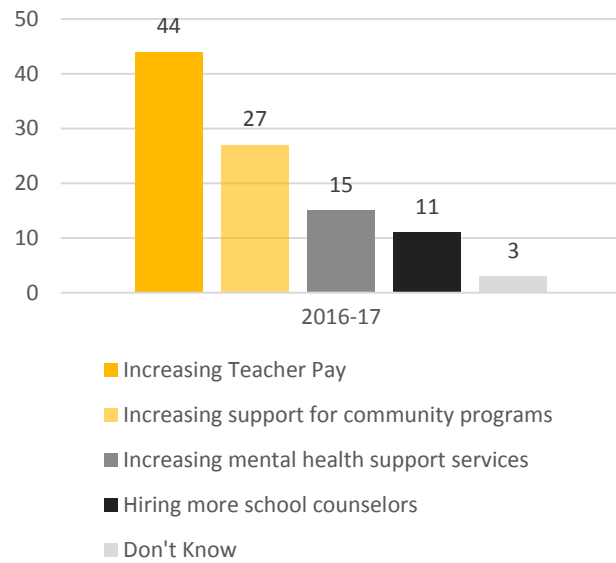


Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

Among those willing to pay more in taxes for this purpose, 44 percent believe the best use of increased resources in low-performing schools in high-poverty areas would be increasing teacher pay. A smaller share (27 percent) thought the best use would be “increasing support for community programs that share strategies with parents about improving student achievement” and 15 percent felt “increasing mental health support services for students” was the best use. Only 11 percent thought that “hiring more school counselors to provide support to students” was the best use for added funds.

Preferred Use of Additional Resources

[Of those willing to pay more – N=513] Which of the following would be the best use of the increased resources?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

Perspectives on K-12 Policy Issues

Charter Schools: Public Evenly Split on Changing Virginia Constitution to Give Charter Schools More Independence and Flexibility

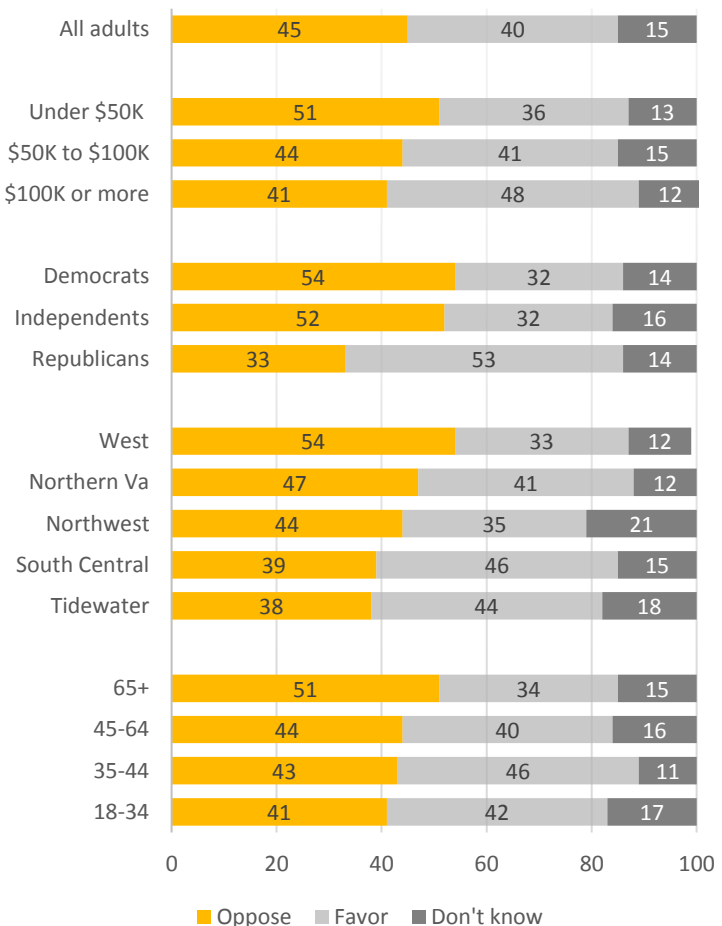
While many states in the United States have embraced charter schools in an attempt to provide greater choice to parents and students, the number of charter schools in Virginia remains small—less than a dozen in 2016-17—in part because of a requirement in the state constitution that any new charter school must be approved and overseen by the local school board in the locality where it will operate.

Periodic proposals to begin the process for changing the constitution have proven unsuccessful to date, but are again being floated in the current 2017 legislative session (specifically [HJ 629](#) and [SJ 240](#)). To change the constitution, a bill must pass two consecutive sessions of the General Assembly that bridge an election and then be put to a public referendum. Responses to the Commonwealth Education Poll show that such a referendum would likely face a stiff challenge as 45 percent opposed a

constitutional amendment “in order to give charter schools more independence from local school boards on decisions about hiring and firing teachers in charter schools” and only 40 percent favored such a change. Importantly, 15 percent of respondents didn’t know what they thought about the issue, so if such a bill succeeds in making it through the legislature, proponents and opponents will need to focus on educating the undecided portion about what they see as the pros and cons of the change.

Mixed View on Changing Virginia Constitution

Would you favor or oppose changing the Virginia constitution in order to give charter schools more independence from local school boards on decisions about hiring and firing teachers in charter schools?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

Certain demographic categories were more likely to oppose such a change. Those living in the western portion of the state (at 54 percent) more often opposed the change than did those in other regions: Northern Virginia (47 percent), Northwest (44 percent), South Central (39 percent) and Tidewater (38 percent). The Northwest (21 percent) and Tidewater (18 percent) had the highest number of respondents who said they did not know whether they supported such a change or not.

Likewise, older respondents and less wealthy respondents, as well as both Democrats and Independents, were more likely to oppose a change to the constitution:

- Fifty-one percent of those 65 and older opposed the measure, compared to rates in the low-40 percent range for other age cohorts;
- The same portion (51 percent) of those with household income under \$50,000 per year also opposed such a change, compared to 44 percent for those with incomes between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and 41 percent for those with incomes greater than \$100,000; and
- Democrats (at 54 percent) and Independents (at 52 percent) more frequently opposed the change than did Republicans (33 percent opposed such a change while 53 percent supported it).

Large Majority Prefer Equal Pay for Teachers in High- and Low-Performing Schools

In the U.S., pay rates for teachers are usually based on certain inputs (seniority, certifications or degrees, etc.) but teachers with similar experience and credentials are paid the same even though they may teach at different schools. Some reformers, noting that many other professions pay more for desired outcomes, have suggested paying teachers more if students in their classes or school perform well. Others, noting that teachers may face greater challenges in currently low-performing schools, argue that those willing to take on these added challenges should be incentivized to do so with a higher pay rate.

To gauge the public perspective on this debate, respondents to the Commonwealth Education Poll were asked whether they thought teachers at lower performing schools should be paid more, less, or about the same as those teachers working in fully accredited schools. Overwhelmingly, the public feels that teachers should be paid the same at both types of schools. Seventy-four percent selected “about the same” from the options provided, while only 13 percent said teachers in low-performing schools should be paid more and 9 percent said such teachers should be paid less.

There were several demographic differences in regards to this question. Political Independents were most likely to say “about the same” (82 percent) while only 76 percent of Democrats and 72 percent of Republicans said “about the same.” However, those Democrats and Republicans who did not

select the equal pay option differed in what they saw as the correct incentive.

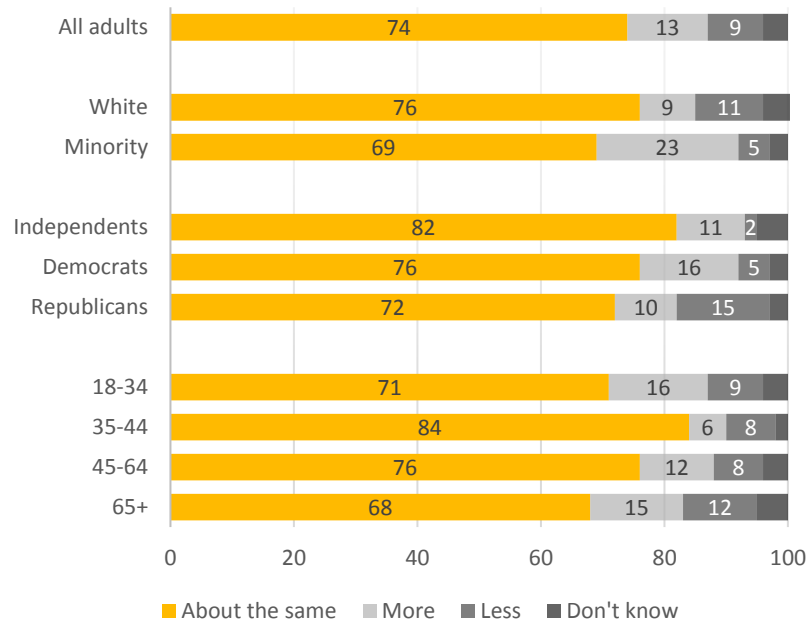
Sixteen percent of Democrats said teachers in low-performing schools should receive more pay compared to 5 percent who said they should receive less. For Republicans it was the opposite, with 15 percent suggesting that teachers in low-performing schools should be paid less and only 10 percent saying more.

White respondents were also more likely to argue that teachers should

be paid the same (76 percent) compared to only 69 percent of minority respondents. Minority respondents were more likely (at 23 percent) to see teachers at low-performing schools as deserving greater pay than were white respondents (only 9 percent selected the “more” option.) Likewise, younger respondents were more fond of the equal pay option—84 percent of those ages 35-44 said “about the same” compared to 76 percent for those ages 45-64; 71 percent for those ages 18-34; and 68 percent for those ages 65 or older.

Teacher Pay Across Differently Performing Schools

Do you think that teachers who are working in low-performing schools that do not meet Virginia’s accreditation standards should be paid (MORE) than teachers working in fully accredited schools, should be paid (LESS), or should be paid about the same?



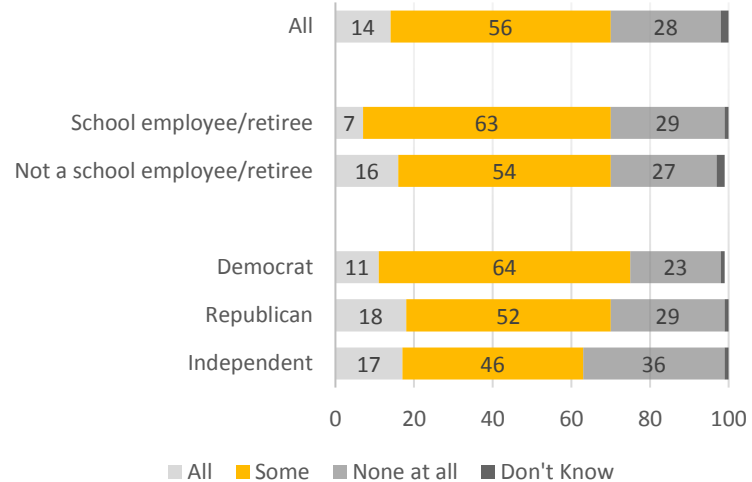
Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

Majority Would be Willing to Have Children Earn Some High School Credits Online

With the rapid evolution of communications technology, more and more options exist for students to learn through virtual or online platforms. Such virtual classrooms are receiving legislative attention with a proposal under consideration to establish a Board of the Virginia Virtual School to govern full-time virtual school programs. We asked respondents to our poll whether they would be willing to have their own child earn all, some or none of their high school credits online. A majority of respondents (56 percent) were willing to have their own child earn some of their high school credits online, while 28 percent would not want their children to earn any credits online. Only 14 percent of respondents would be

Earning High School Credits Online

Would you be willing to have your child earn all of their high school credits online, just some, or none at all?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

willing to have their child earn all of their high school credits online. Respondents who work for a public school or who retired from such a career were more likely to select some (at 63 percent) than those who were not school employees or retirees. This difference was largely due to school employees/retirees being less likely to be willing to have their child earning all credits via online courses.

Similarly, Democrats were more likely to be willing to have a child earn some credits online (64 percent) compared to Republicans (52 percent willing for some credits to be online) and Independents (46 percent some credits.) Independents, in turn, were most likely (at 36 percent) to want none of their child's credits to be earned online, compared to 29 percent for Republicans and 23 percent for Democrats who chose "none."

School Safety – Majority See Schools as Safe or Very Safe

While mass shootings continue to be an all too frequent part of news in the United States and abroad, a majority of Virginians feel the schools in their community are safe. Seventy-eight percent of respondents indicated feeling their community's schools were safe or very safe, with 27 percent saying they were very safe. Only 20 percent felt their schools were not very or not at all safe.

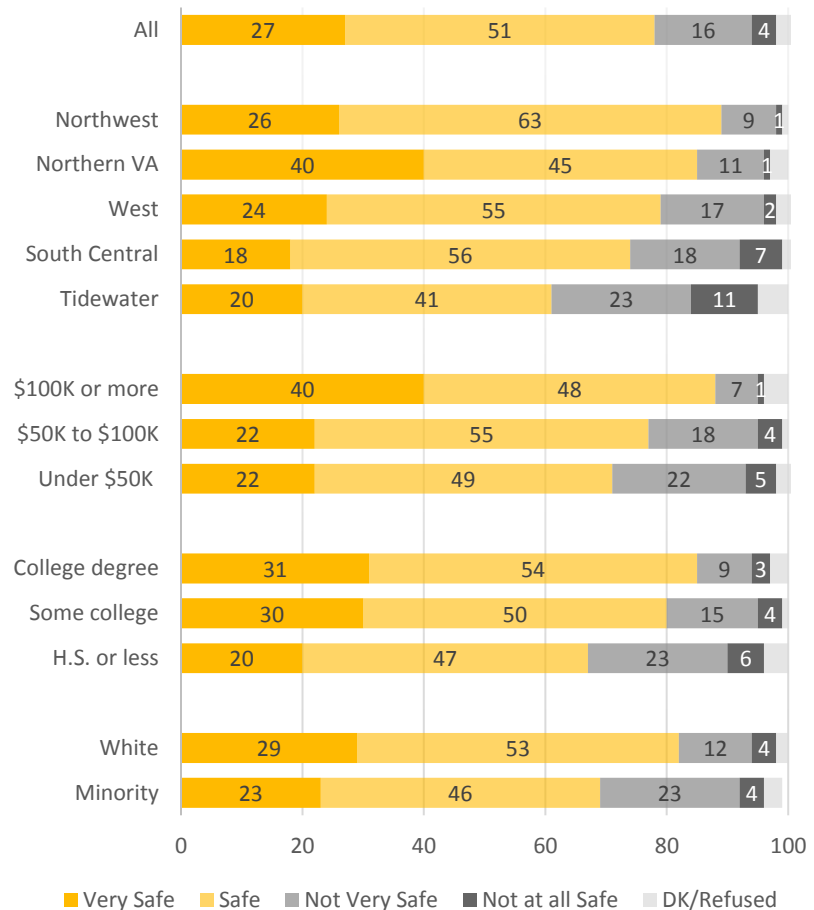
There were regional differences for those who felt their schools were safe or very safe. Respondents from Northern Virginia (40 percent) were more likely to say their schools were very safe. If responses of safe and very safe are combined, Northwest (89 percent) and Northern Virginia (85 percent) had the highest portion of respondents saying schools in their community are safe while respondents from Tidewater (34 percent) were more likely to say schools were not very safe or not at all safe.

Family income and education level also played a role in the safety perceptions of respondents. Those with annual household income above \$100,000 (40 percent) were more likely to say their schools are very safe, compared to 22 percent for those in lower earning categories. Likewise, those with a college degree (31 percent) or some college (30 percent) were more likely to say their schools are very safe, compared to only 20 percent of those with a high school degree or less in formal education who said the same.

Finally, white respondents were more likely (at a combined 82 percent) to say schools were safe or very safe, while only 69 percent of minority respondents said the same.

How Safe Are Public Schools?

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



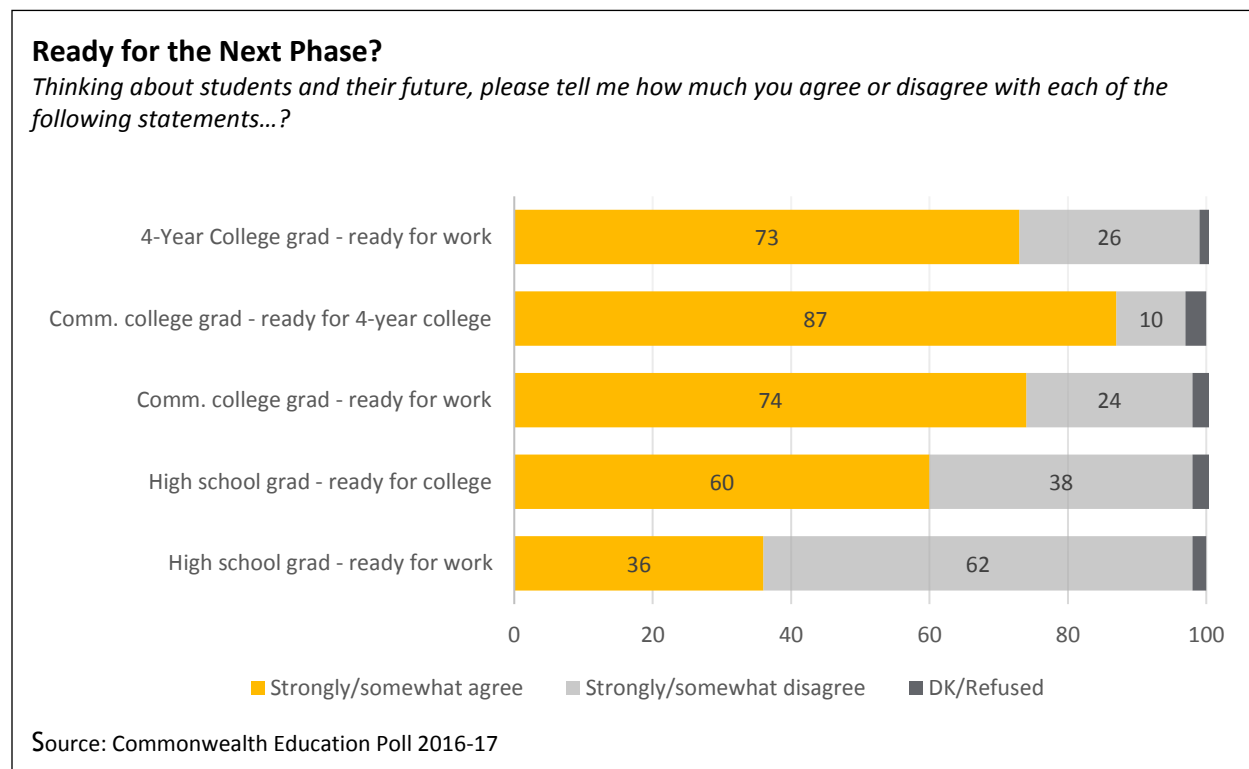
Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

Perspectives on Workforce Readiness and Development

Majority Don't See High School Graduates as Ready for Workforce; Community College and Four-Year College Graduates are Seen as Equally Ready

Workforce readiness is a key area for policymakers because of its connection to attracting business to the commonwealth and long-term economic growth. Workforce development, though often thought of in terms of higher education, is also a topic in K-12 discussions both in terms of immediate readiness to join the workforce and preparation to pursue further training in college. This year we again gauged public perception on whether graduates of high school, community college and four-year colleges are ready to move into the next potential phases.

The responses suggest that the public generally thinks high school graduates are not ready to join the workforce, but are prepared to go to college. College graduates, whether from a community college or a four-year institution, are perceived as ready for the working world. Additionally, community college graduates are almost unanimously perceived as being ready to continue their studies at a four-year college.



A strong majority (62 percent) think that high school graduates are not prepared for the workplace, strongly or somewhat disagreeing with the statement that high school graduates are ready for the world of work. Household income levels mark a difference of opinion on the question. Sixty-seven percent of those with an annual income of \$100,000 or more disagreed strongly or somewhat

with the suggestion that high school graduates were ready for the workforce. This compared to 55 percent among respondents with incomes below \$50,000. Males were also more likely to disagree strongly or somewhat (66 percent) with high school graduates being ready for the workforce than were females (57 percent). Likewise, white respondents were more likely to disagree (65 percent) than were minority respondents (55 percent).

Most Virginians (60 percent) believe that high school graduates are ready for college, which may indicate that the public thinks a high school education is geared more toward preparing students for college than it is toward preparing them for a specific career. As with their readiness for the workforce, women agreed strongly or somewhat with high school graduates being ready for college more frequently (65 percent) than did men (55 percent). Parents of public school students were also more likely to agree with the statement (at 67 percent) than were those who did not have a student in public schools.

The Virginia public continues to see community colleges as preparing their graduates for both the workforce and a four-year school. Based on the responses to the poll, almost three in four members of the public (74 percent) see community college graduates as ready to join the workforce, a percentage statistically no different than the 73 percent who said the same about graduates from a four-year college.

In addition to seeing community college graduates as workforce ready, the public overwhelmingly sees them as being “ready for a four-year college or university.” Eighty-seven percent agreed strongly or somewhat with that statement, with 38 percent agreeing strongly. The rate of agreement was 27 percentage points higher than what was registered for high school graduates in terms of college readiness, suggesting that community college is seen as a useful stepping stone to a four-year degree. Those with college experience or a degree (at 41 percent) were more likely to strongly agree than were those with a high school degree or less of formal education (32 percent).

As noted above, graduates of four-year colleges and universities were deemed ready for the workforce at essentially the same rate as community college graduates (73 percent to 74 percent, respectively). The rate of those who strongly agreed with the statement that graduates of a four-year college or university are ready for the world of work is slightly higher for four-year college graduates than for community college graduates (23 percent and 21 percent, respectively). That minor difference is mitigated, however, by the fact that a slightly higher portion of respondents disagreed that four-year graduates were ready for the workforce (26 percent) compared to the same about community college graduates (24 percent).

For four-year college graduates, women (77 percent) were again more likely to strongly or somewhat agree that graduates were ready for the workforce than were men (68 percent). Those with a college degree or more (78 percent) were more likely to judge four-year graduates workforce ready

than were those who have a high school degree or less of formal education (68 percent). Likewise, Democrats (at 80 percent) were more likely to see four-year graduates as ready for the world of work than were Republicans (68 percent) or Independents (64 percent).

Preparing for a Career in Secondary School

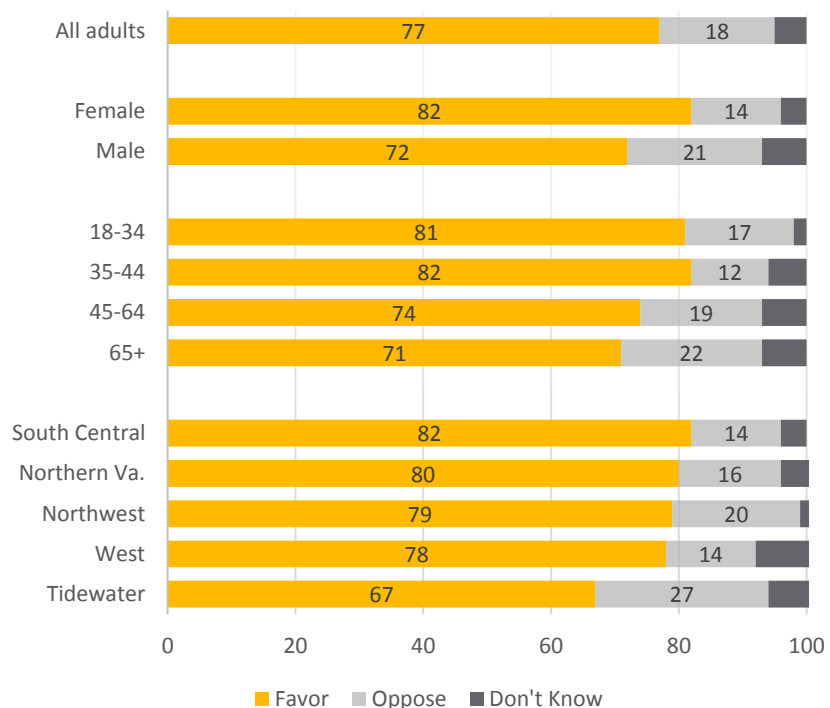
Recent work to develop a profile of Virginia high school graduates has considered whether a restructuring of the high school curriculum is necessary where early high school grades would focus on general skills and later grades would focus on skills needed for a desired career path. For the second year, we asked respondents about such a possible change and found there was continued broad support for such a restructuring of high school. More than three-quarters (77 percent) of respondents supported a transition from focusing on general skills in lower grades to a desired career focus in a student's final years. This marked a 5 percentage point increase in support from last year.¹

The age and sex of respondents showed differences in the level of support for such a reform, though a majority support it in all categories. Those ages 18-34 (81 percent) and 35-44 (82 percent)

were more likely to favor this proposal than those ages 45-64 (74 percent) and those 65 and older (71 percent). Likewise, 82 percent of females supported such a change, compared to 72 percent of males.

Restructure High School for Career Focus in Later Grades

Policymakers are considering various ways to align high school learning with the needs of employers. One proposal is to have students focus on general academic skills in early high school, and classes focused on their desired career in later grades. Would you favor or oppose organizing education in Virginia public high schools this way?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

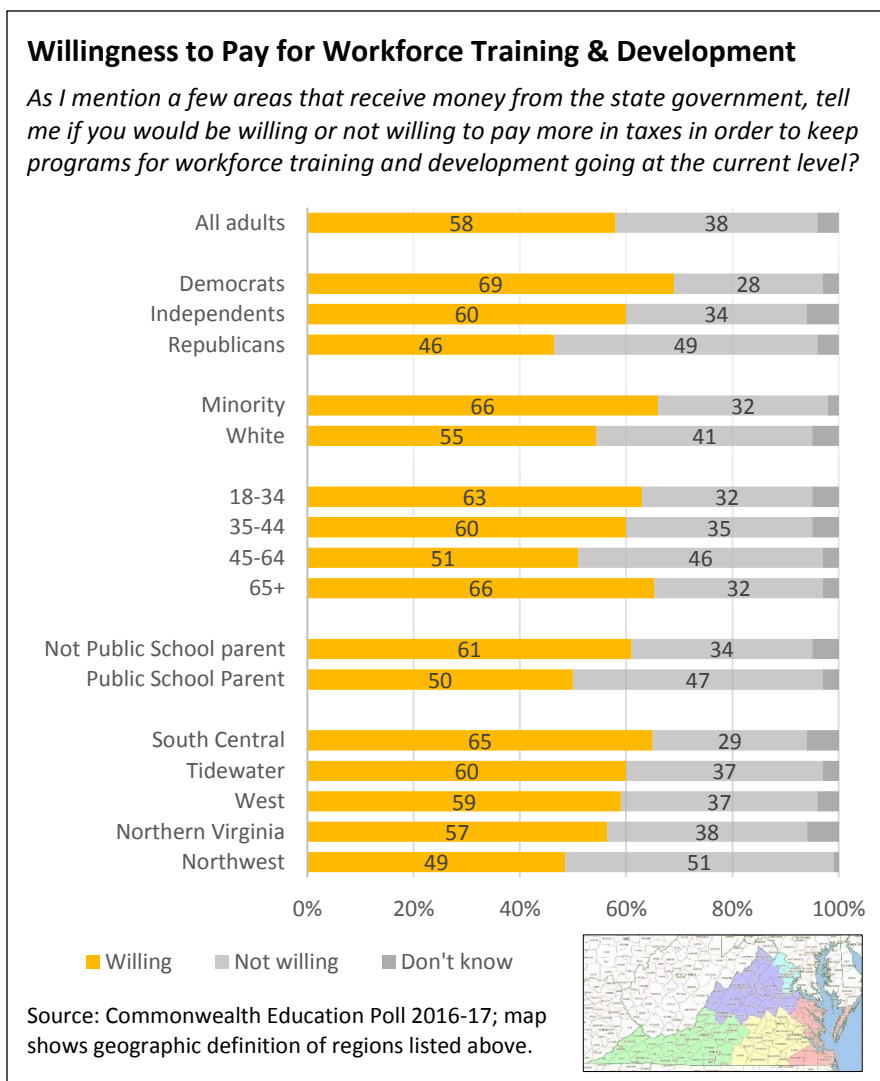
¹ In the 2015-16 poll, the wording of the question was slightly different, using "grades 9-10" in place of "lower grades" and "grades 11-12" in place of "later grades."

There were also significant regional differences in opinion on the idea of restructuring the high school experience. South Central (82 percent in favor), Northern Virginia (80 percent), Northwest (79 percent) and West (78 percent) were tightly clustered together as more likely to be supportive of the idea, in comparison to the Tidewater area, where only 67 percent are in favor.

Majority Willing to Pay More in Taxes to Keep Funding for Workforce Training and Development at Current Level

For the first time, the 2016-17 Commonwealth Education Poll asked respondents whether they would be willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep programs for workforce training and development going at the current level.

A clear majority (58 percent) of respondents said they would be willing. Several demographic factors showed significant differences in responses. Democrats (at 69 percent) were much more likely to be willing to pay more in taxes than Republicans (46 percent), with Independents (60 percent willing) roughly falling in the middle. A significantly greater portion of minority respondents (at 66 percent) said they were willing than was the case with white respondents (55 percent).



While most age categories had 60 percent or more of respondents say they would be willing to pay more in taxes to keep current funding levels for workforce training, only 51 percent of those ages 45-64 said they were willing. Those who did not report having a child in public school were also more willing to pay more in taxes (at 61 percent) than were parents of public school students.

In four geographic regions, a majority were willing to pay more in taxes for this area of state programs but respondents from the Northwest region were evenly split (49 percent willing, 51 percent not willing).

Almost Half of Virginians Want Expansion of Workforce Training and Education to Receive the Most Emphasis When Using State Economic Development Funds

Respondents to the poll were asked to say which one of the following three economic development strategies should receive the most emphasis with state economic development funds:

- Using financial incentives to recruit new businesses to Virginia;
- Retaining and expanding existing businesses in Virginia; or
- Expanding workforce training and education in Virginia.

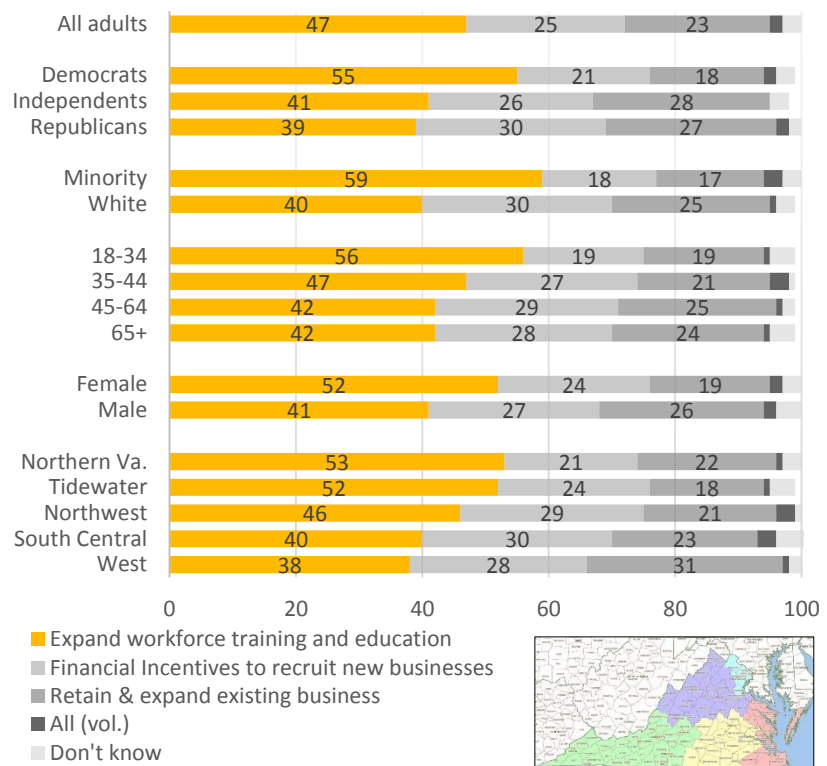
A clear plurality of Virginians (47 percent) selected expansion of workforce training and education as the strategy that should receive the most emphasis. However, there were key demographic and regional differences.

Democrats selected workforce training and education more frequently (55 percent) than did those who identified as Independents or Republicans. A similar pattern existed by age, with

those respondents ages 18-34 (at 56 percent) more frequently selecting workforce training and education than those who selected the same in age groups 35-44 (47 percent) and 45-64 and 65 and older (both at 42 percent). Minority respondents (59 percent compared to 40 percent of white respondents) and female respondents (52 percent compared to 41 percent of males) also more frequently identified workforce training and education as their top emphasis.

Where State Economic Development Funds Should Be Spent

When spending state funds on economic development, on which ONE of the following should the commonwealth place the MOST emphasis?



Fifty-three percent of respondents in Northern Virginia and 52 percent in the Tidewater region of the state selected workforce training and education, compared to only 46 percent in the Northwest, 40 percent in the South Central region and 38 percent in the West.

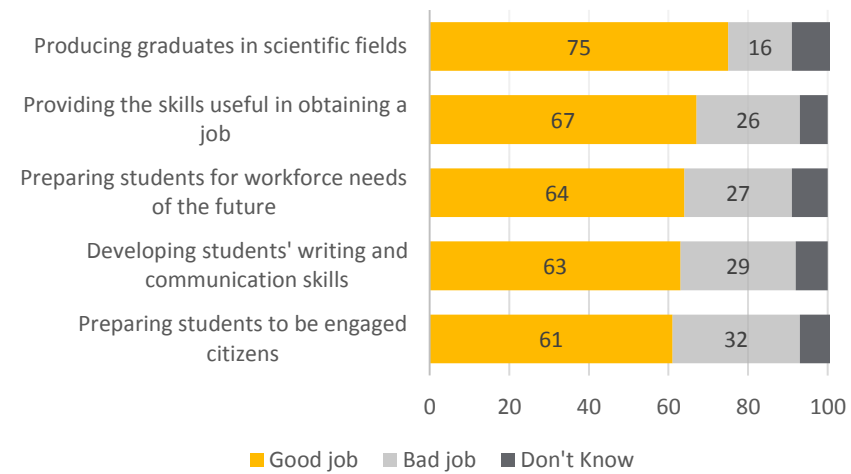
Perspectives on Higher Education

Evaluating the Performance of Higher Education

Higher education plays a key role in developing a competitive workforce and equipping students for success in a career. But society also looks to higher education to develop its students' broad general skills, such as writing and communication, as well as attitudes such as civic engagement. When it comes to specific outcomes across these areas, strong majorities say Virginia colleges and universities are doing a good job in five important areas. Seventy-five percent of Virginians say colleges and universities are doing a good job in producing graduates in scientific fields and 64 percent said the same about preparing students for the workforce needs for the future. Sixty-seven percent say the state schools do a good job providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job. A slightly smaller majority (63 percent) thinks they are doing a good job developing students' writing and communication skills while 61 percent feel that they are doing a good job of preparing students to be engaged citizens.²

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 2016-17

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? (Percent saying Good Job)

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Producing graduates in scientific fields	75	72	72	72	67
Preparing students for the workforce needs of the future	64	70	65	69	62
Providing the skills useful in obtaining a job	67	68	69	72	65
Developing students' writing and communication skills	63	65	62	63	59
Preparing students to be engaged citizens [new in 2017]	61	---	---	---	---

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

² The 2016-17 poll was the first time this question was asked.

Public opinion on these factors is largely steady (all variation is within the poll's margin of error). One possible exception is the category of producing graduates in scientific fields, which grew by 8 percentage points over the past five years and is right at the edge of the poll's margin of error. This may indicate that a sustained emphasis from political leaders and higher education administrators on producing graduates in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields is having an impact on public perceptions.

Different age groups evaluated higher education outcomes somewhat differently. Respondents in the 18- to 34-year-old group were significantly more positive about the performance of colleges and universities in the area of developing students' writing and communication skills (78 percent said colleges were doing a good job). Older age groups were less likely to say the same, where only 53 percent of the 65 or older group felt colleges were doing a good job in this area.

Relative to the same outcome area of communication/writing skills, there was also a difference along political party and racial/ethnic lines. Minority respondents (72 percent) and Democrats (68 percent) were more likely to see colleges and universities as doing a good job than were white respondents (60 percent) and either Republicans (59 percent) or Independents (56 percent).

In similar fashion to communication, those ages 18-34 were more likely (at 80 percent) to say colleges are doing a good job in turning out STEM graduates than were those older than 65 years (70 percent). Two other demographic delineations showed significant differences when asked about producing STEM graduates. Respondents from the West region and Northern Virginia (80 percent for each) were more likely to say colleges and universities were doing a good job in this area than were respondents from the South Central (67 percent) and Northwest regions (68 percent). Party affiliation also mattered, with Democrats and Republicans being more likely to say that universities were doing a good job (79 percent and 74 percent, respectively) than were Independents (66 percent).

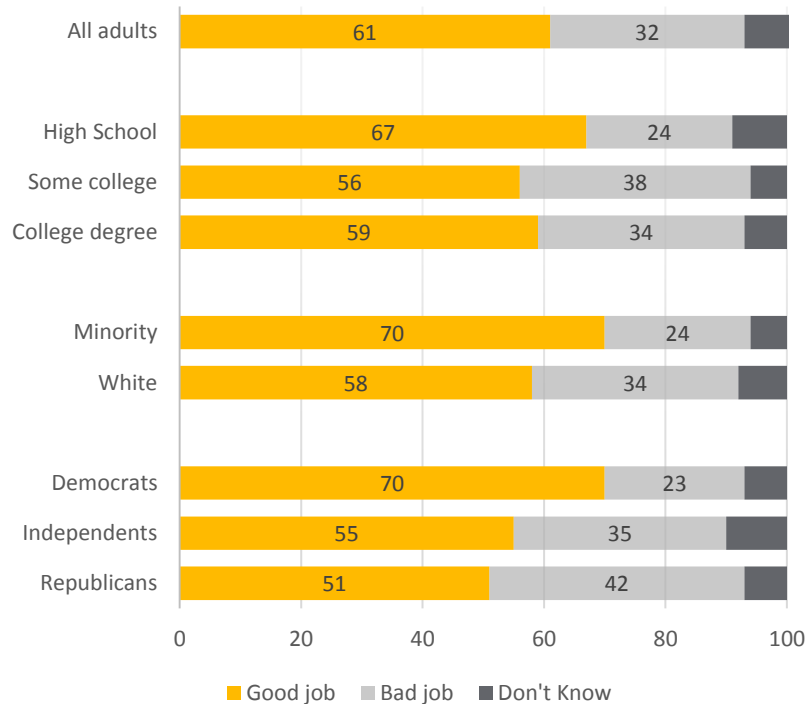
In the area of preparing students for the workforce needs of the future and in providing skills useful in obtaining a job, there was a significant difference in perspective based on income. Those making more than \$100,000 in annual household income were more likely to say colleges and universities were doing a good job in relation to workforce needs (73 percent) and in skills useful in obtaining a job (75 percent) compared to those in the middle income bracket (54 percent and 64 percent, respectively) and those in the lower income bracket (62 percent and 66 percent, respectively).

Finally, a number of demographic differences, including race, education level and political identity, existed in regards to whether respondents were more or less likely to say colleges and universities are doing a good job in preparing students to be engaged citizens. Those with a high school degree or less in formal schooling were most likely (67 percent) to see a good job being done in this area, compared to those with some college (56 percent) and those with a college degree (59 percent).

Minority respondents were also more likely (at 70 percent) than were whites (at 58 percent) to see colleges and universities doing a good job in preparing students to be engaged citizens. Finally, a significant gap existed on this question between Democrats (70 percent feel colleges and universities are doing a good job) and both Independents (55 percent said the same) and Republicans (51 percent said the same).

Evaluating Higher Education Outcomes

Overall, do you think the colleges and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job in preparing students to be engaged citizens?



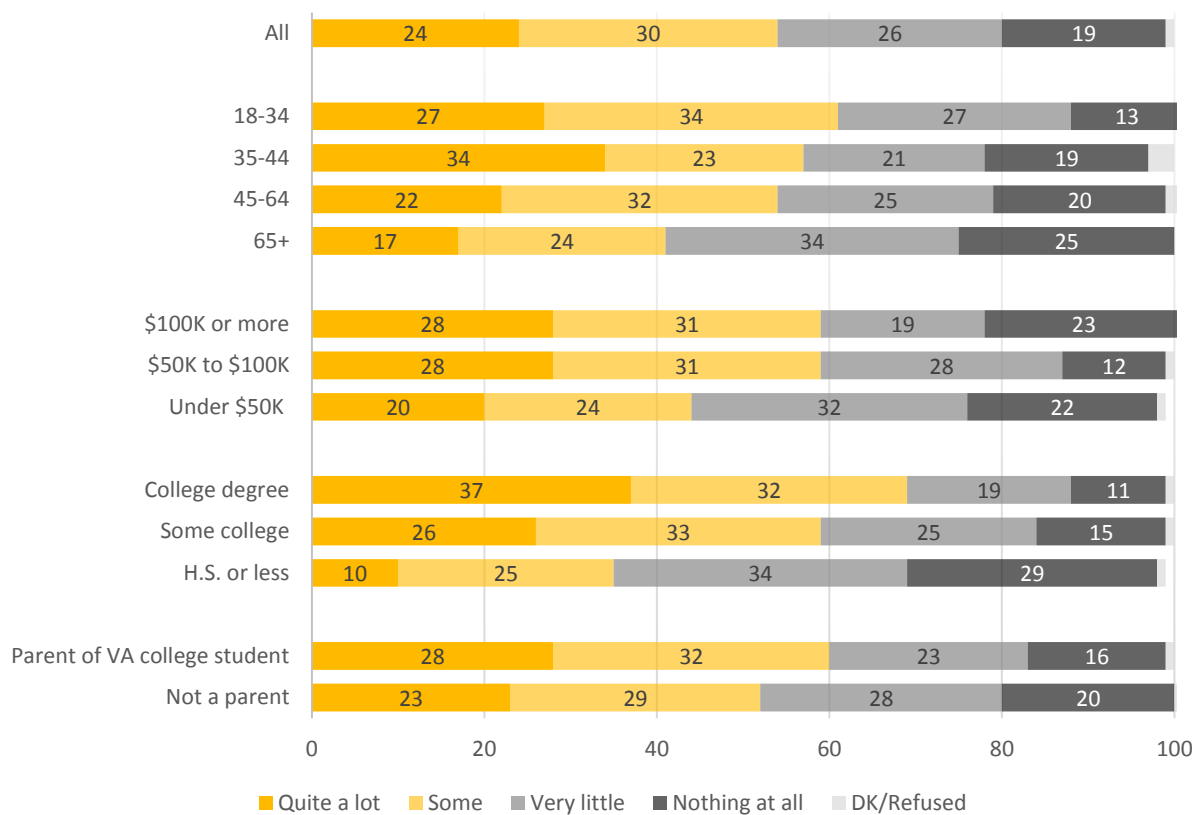
Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

Majority Have “Some” or “Quite a Lot” of Knowledge about the College Transfer Process; Of Those, 66% Say Process is Very or Somewhat Easy

Amid concerns about the affordability of college for the current generation of students, some have pointed out that students could potentially save money by spending their first year or two at a more affordable community college before transferring to a four-year school to finish their bachelor’s degree. Being able to do so presumes that students, their parents, or members of the community at large are knowledgeable about the transfer process. Responses to the Commonwealth Education Poll

College Transfer Process – Knowledge of Process

How much do you know about the process of transferring from a two-year to a four-year school—quite a lot, some, very little, or nothing at all?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

show that a majority (54 percent) of Virginians say they have “some” or “quite a lot” of knowledge about the transfer process. This is a 9 percentage point increase in the portion of the public that report this level of awareness compared to the findings of a 2013 Virginia Community Colleges survey.³

Younger respondents reported knowing more about the process than did older respondents. Sixty-one percent of 18- to 34-year-olds and 57 percent of 35- to 44-year-olds reported knowing “quite a

³ Perceptions of Community Colleges in VA, November 7-14, 2013. N=801 Virginia residents.

lot” or “some” about the process, compared with 54 percent for those ages 45-64 and 41 percent for those 65 or older.

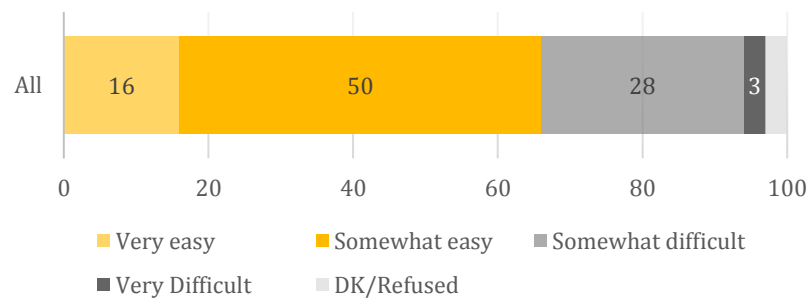
Unsurprisingly, those who have never gone to college know less about the process. Respondents with some college (at 59 percent) or with a college degree (69 percent) were more likely to report knowing “some” or “quite a lot” about the transfer process, compared to only 35 percent of those with a high school degree or less who said the same. Parents of Virginia college students were more likely, at 60 percent, to say they knew “some” or “quite a lot” about the process than were non-parents (52 percent).

Finally, those with lower incomes knew less about the process. Those reporting less than \$50,000 in annual household income said “some” or “quite a lot” only 44 percent of the time, compared with 59 percent for those with incomes above \$50,000.

Of those in the overall sample who reported knowing “some” or “quite a lot” about the transfer process, two-thirds (66 percent) reported that the process was very or somewhat easy. However, half (50 percent) said it was somewhat easy rather than very easy. Twenty-eight percent thought the process was somewhat difficult, while only 3 percent felt it was very difficult.

College Transfer Process – Ease of Process

[Of those with “a lot” or “some” knowledge or process – N=472] - How would you rate the process of transferring from a community college to a four-year college or university? Would you say it is very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult or very difficult?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

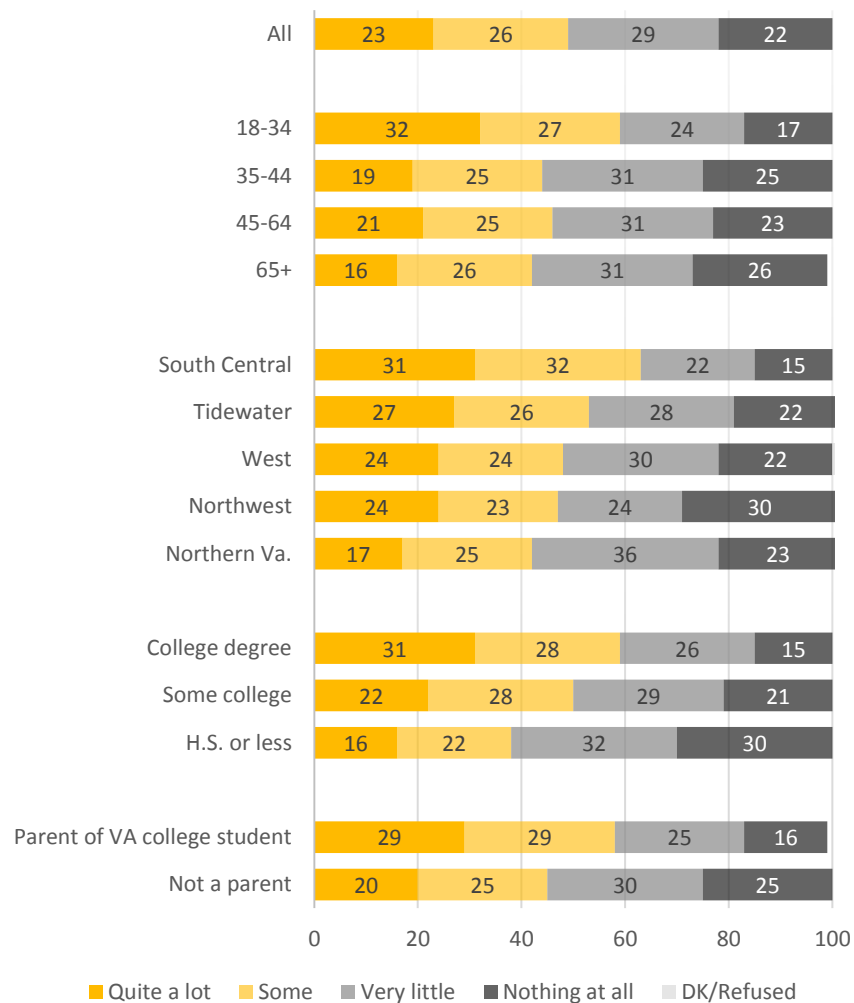
Public Equally Split on Knowledge about Dual Enrollment Opportunities

Another opportunity for students to reduce the cost of college is to take college courses while still in high school. Dual enrollment is a process where a student gets both college and high school credit for the same course, leaving students with fewer classes to take for a college degree.

A slightly smaller portion of the population (49 percent) report knowing “some” or “quite a lot” about dual enrollment opportunities and said the same about the college transfer process (54 percent). However, the age breakdown suggests that dual enrollment has its greatest awareness among the youngest cohort. Fifty-nine percent of those ages 18-34 reported

Knowledge about Dual Enrollment Opportunities

Virginia’s dual-enrollment program gives qualifies students the opportunity to complete courses for college credit while they are still in high school. How much do you know about Virginia’s dual-enrollment program? (Percentage saying each)



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

“some” or “quite a lot” of knowledge about dual enrollment, compared to 46 percent of 45- to 64-year-olds; 44 percent of 35- to 44-year-olds; and 42 percent of those 65 or older.

Similar to familiarity with the transfer process, those with a college degree (59 percent) and those who are parents of a Virginia college student (58 percent) were more likely to report “some” or “quite a lot” about the options for dual enrollment than were others (50 percent and 38 percent, respectively, for those with some college and a high school degree or less; 45 percent for non-parents).

There were also regional differences in reported knowledge about dual enrollment options. The South Central region (at 63 percent) had the greatest likelihood of respondents saying they knew some

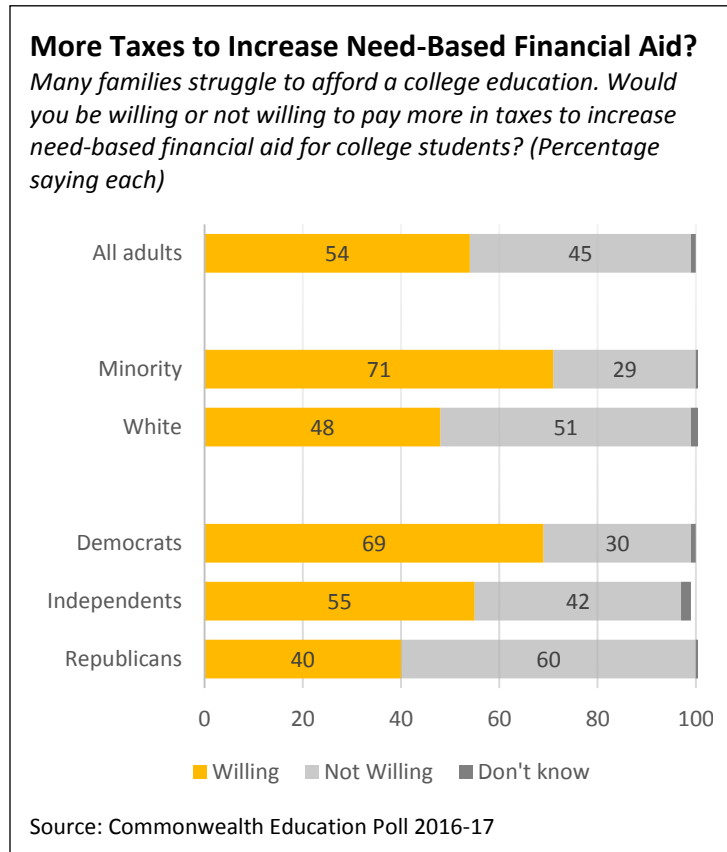
or quite a lot about such opportunities. This was followed by Tidewater (53 percent), the West and Northwest region (48 percent and 47 percent, respectively). Those in Northern Virginia (42 percent) were least likely to report a similar knowledge about dual enrollment opportunities.

Majority Willing to Pay More to Increase Need-Based Financial Aid

The affordability of college remains a significant concern to both policymakers and the public but budget constraints at the state have reduced public funding for state colleges and universities significantly over the past two decades. Facing a statewide budget shortfall, the governor recently proposed budget amendments that would cut previously authorized funding for most public colleges and universities by 5 percent. As noted above on page 9, only 45 percent of Virginians would be willing to pay increased taxes in order to keep university and higher education funding from the state at current levels (51 percent were not willing). To see whether Virginians are more willing to pay taxes for a focused priority within higher education that responds to concerns about affordability, we asked whether respondents would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes to increase need-based financial aid for college students.

A slight majority of respondents (54 percent) said they would be willing to pay more in taxes for this specific higher education focus, compared to 45 percent who said they would not be willing. As with other tax-related questions, the portion of respondents willing to pay more differed between

minority respondents (71 percent willing) and white respondents (48 percent willing). Political identity also created differences—Democrats (at 69 percent) were more often willing to pay more in taxes for increased need-based financial aid than were Independents (55 percent) and Republicans (40 percent).

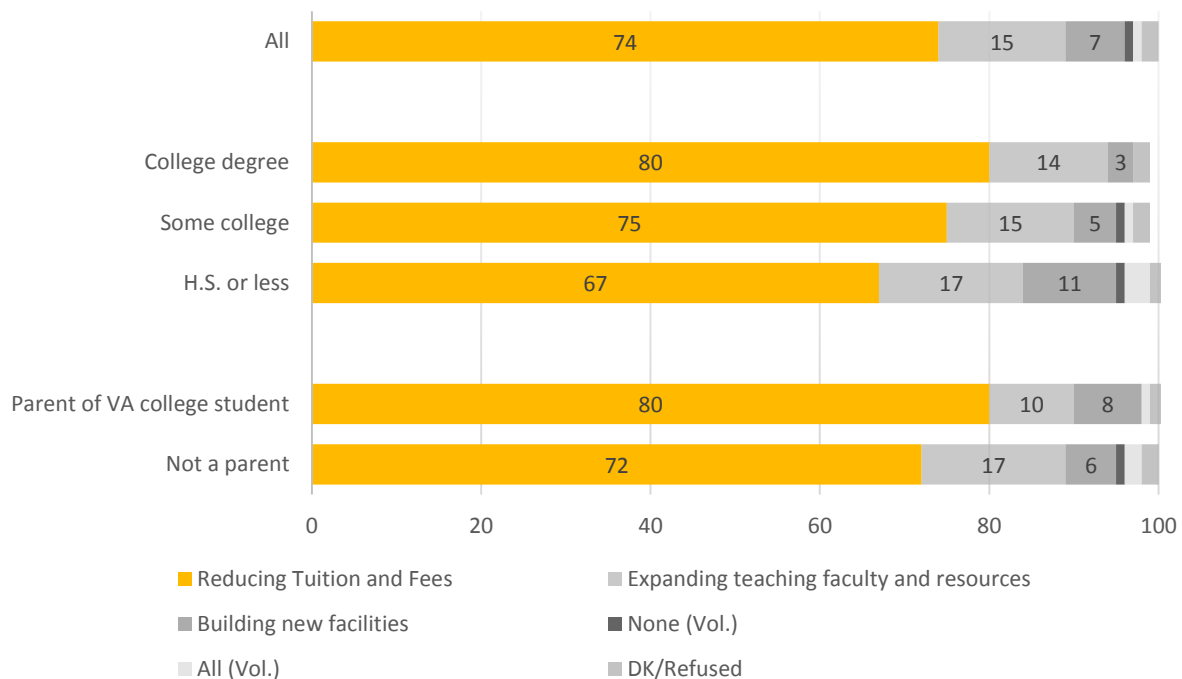


Public Wants Universities to Invest Non-Public Funds in Reducing Tuition

University administrators face difficult choices in directing available funds, often facing calls to make college more affordable, to increase the number of students admitted (which requires additional teaching and classroom resources) and to build new facilities that are attractive to high-quality prospective students. Public universities use both taxpayer money (on which legislators can set certain restrictions) and privately donated funds from alumni or other non-taxpayer sources to pursue all of these objectives, but private funds are less subject to public oversight. In order to get a sense of where the public would come down on this question that constantly faces administrators, we asked respondents to pick which area (affordability, access or attracting quality students) they think should receive the most emphasis.

On What Should Universities Spend Non-Public Funds?

If a public university has funds donated by alumni or other private, non-taxpayer sources, should the university place the most emphasis on (1) building new facilities to attract the highest quality students, (2) reducing the tuition rate and fees to make attendance more affordable for Virginia residents OR (3) expanding teaching faculty and classroom resources in order to admit a greater number of students? (Percentage saying each)



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

Almost three of every four respondents (74 percent) selected reducing tuition and fees to make college attendance more affordable for Virginians as their preferred emphasis. Placing a distant second was expansion of faculty and resources to admit a greater number of students (15 percent) while only 7 percent preferred an emphasis on building new facilities to attract the highest quality students.

Those respondents with a college degree (at 80 percent) were most likely to select the reduction of tuition and fees, while 75 percent of those with some college education and 67 percent of those with a high school degree or less said the same. Responses also diverged significantly if the respondent had a child who currently or in the past attended a college or university in Virginia—80 percent of parents of a Virginia college student favored reducing tuition, compared to 72 percent of those who were not.

Public Perception of Campus Safety Hits New High

Despite continued concerns about the possibility of mass shootings or other attacks on college campuses, a strong majority of Virginians (74 percent) believes that the state's college and university campuses are safe or very safe, with 16 percent saying very safe. This is up from 2016, when 67 percent judged campuses safe or very safe, and marks the highest perception of safety found in four years of asking this question. This year only 24 percent of respondents said that campuses are not very or not at all safe, down from 30 percent last year. Both shifts are just inside the statistical margin error, so examining the same question next year will be important for establishing whether the increase in those seeing campuses as safe is an actual change, or

How Safe are College Campuses?

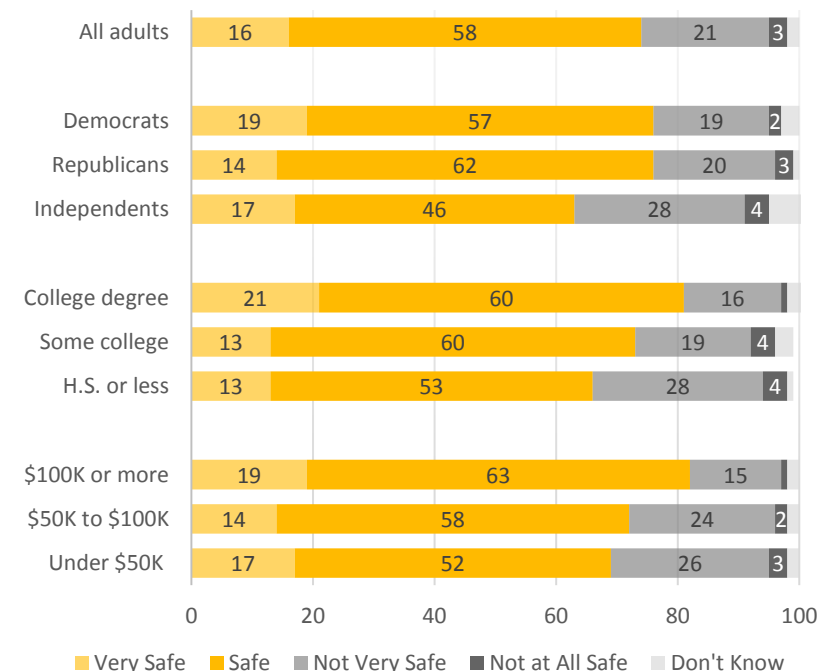
Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia?

	2017	2016	2015	2014
Very safe	16	14	11	12
Safe	58	53	55	58
Not very safe	21	27	28	22
Not safe at all	3	3	4	3
Don't know/Refused	2	3	2	4

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

How Safe are College Campuses? (Regional breakdown)

Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia? (Percentage saying each)



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17

whether it is simply statistical variation.

Perceptions of campus safety diverge somewhat based on partisan identity with Independents (at 63 percent) less likely to describe campuses as safe or very safe, compared to 76 percent for both Republicans and Democrats.

Additionally, those with personal experience on a college campus had a higher estimation of safety. Respondents with some college (73 percent) or a college degree or more (81 percent) were more likely to say campuses were safe or very safe, compared to those with a high school diploma or less (66 percent).

Respondents in the highest household income category (\$100,000 or more annual income) were significantly more positive about campus safety (82 percent said campuses are safe or very safe) than were those with household income in the \$50,000 to \$100,000 range (72 percent) or the under \$50,000 range (69 percent).

Methodology of the Commonwealth Education Poll

The Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17, sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), obtained telephone interviews with a representative sample of 806 adults, age 18 or older, living in Virginia. Telephone interviews were conducted by landline (400) and cell phone (406, including 197 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 November 8-17, 2016. Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is ± 4.3 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 4.3 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 4.3 percentage points above or below the figure that would be obtained by interviewing all Virginian residents with telephones. Where the answers of subgroups are reported, the sampling error would be higher. Because of non-response (refusals to participate, etc.), standard calculations of sampling error are apt to understate the actual extent to which survey results are at variance with the true population values. Surveys are also subject to errors from sources other than sampling. While every effort is made to identify such errors, they are often difficult or impossible to measure. Readers making use of the results are urged to be mindful of the limitations inherent in survey research.

Commonwealth Education Poll 2016-17Statewide survey of Virginians⁴

November 8-17, 2016

Number of Respondents: 806

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?

	16-17	15-16	14-15	13-14	12-13	11-12	10-11	09-10	08-09	03	02
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
A great deal	48	45	51	50	45	51	42	39	43	42	45
Quite a lot	21	26	27	25	22	20	26	30	27	31	26
Not much	21	19	15	16	23	16	20	18	20	18	19
Not at all	5	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	2	4
Don't Know/Refused	5	4	3	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?

	16-17	15-16	14-15	13-14	12-13	11-12	10-11	09-10	08-09
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Enough	26	25	26	27	25	29	31	27	28
Not enough	66	67	68	65	64	60	59	63	62
Don't know/Refused	8	9	6	8	11	11	10	11	10

Q2 Results continued

	05	04	03	02
	%	%	%	%
Enough	26	20	27	23
Not enough	64	69	64	67
Don't know/Refused	9	9	9	9

Q3. Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding could be increased?

	16-17	15-16	14-15	13-14	12-13	11-12	10-11	09-10	08-09	05	04	03	02	01
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Willing	54	56	53	59	60	61	55	53	55	55	57	61	60	57
Not willing	42	40	43	38	35	35	39	41	37	38	36	34	34	36
Don't know/Refused	4	4	4	3	5	5	7	6	8	6	7	5	6	7

⁴ 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 IF WILLING (Q3=1):

Q4. 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.)

	-----Among those willing to pay higher taxes-----												
	16- 17⁵	14- 15	13- 14	12- 13	11- 12	10- 11	09- 10	08- 09	05	04	03	02	01
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sales tax	45	44	44	45	40	48	49	48	49	58	54	58	47
Income tax	21	22	23	22	32	20	18	18	15	13	14	14	16
Real estate property tax	19	15	17	15	9	15	12	14	13	15	13	10	16
Personal property tax	8	13	11	10	10	9	12	10	14	7	10	11	13
Don't know/Refused	7	6	4	8	10	8	9	9	9	7	10	6	9

(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.)

⁵ Question not asked in 2015-16.

Q5. 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 %			Willing %	Not willing %	DK %
a. Public schools					d. Programs for workforce training and development⁶			
16-17	69	29	2		16-17	58	38	4
15-16	72	28	1					
14-15	70	28	2					
13-14	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					e. Programs for aid to low-income families			
16-17	70	26	4		16-17	58	39	3
15-16	76	23	2		15-16	62	35	3
14-15	72	26	2		14-15	56	41	3
13-14	69	29	2		13-14	62	35	3
12-13	70	23	7		12-13	60	35	5
11-12	68	27	5		11-12	63	34	3
10-11	60	34	6		10-11	60	35	5
09-10	61	34	5		09-10	59	36	4
08-09	62	31	8		08-09	61	33	7
c. Universities and higher education⁷					f. Transportation			
16-17	45	51	4		16-17	47	51	3
15-16	50	49	1		15-16	54	45	1
14-15	48	50	3		14-15	46	50	3
13-14	49	49	2		13-14	52	45	3
12-13	50	46	4		12-13	49	48	4
11-12	49	47	4		11-12	50	47	4
10-11	50	44	6		10-11	48	47	5
09-10	48	49	3		09-10	46	50	4
08-09	46	49	5		08-09	48	46	5

⁶ New in 2016-17.

⁷ "Public" was added to the 2010-2011 wording.

Q6. One of the ongoing policy challenges is low-performing schools. Would you be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to provide additional resources to high-poverty, low-performing schools that are working to increase student performance?

	16-17	15-16
	%	%
Willing	67	63
Not willing	30	35
Don't Know/Refused	3	2

ASK IF YES (Q6=1):

Q7. Which of the following would be the best use of the increased resources? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE] [IF R GIVES 'OTHER' RESPONSE, PROBE: I understand there are other possible uses for these increased resources. Of the following, which ONE do you think would be the best use? (RE-READ CATEGORIES IF NECESSARY)]**

	16-17
	%
Increasing teacher pay	44
Hiring more school counselors to provide support to students	11
Increasing mental health support services for students	15
Increasing support for community programs that share strategies with parents about improving student achievement	27
Don't Know/Refused	3

ASK ALL:

Q8. Would you favor or oppose changing the Virginia constitution in order to give charter schools more independence from local school boards on decisions about hiring and firing teachers in charter schools?

	16-17	12-13	09-10
	%	%	%
Favor	40	42	37
Oppose	45	41	44
Don't Know/Refused	15	18	19

Thinking about teacher pay...

Q9. Do you think that teachers who are working in low performing schools that do not meet Virginia's accreditation standards should be paid (MORE) than teachers working in fully accredited schools, should be paid (LESS), or should be paid about the same? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES]** **[READ IF NECESSARY: The Virginia Department of Education evaluates the educational performance of public schools and assigns each school a rating. Schools with a high enough rating are considered "accredited" by the state.]**

	16-17
	%
Should be paid more	13
Should be paid less	9
Should be paid about the same	74
Don't Know/Refused	4

Q10. There are increasing opportunities for students to earn high school credits online over the Internet. Even if you do not currently have kids, would you be willing to have your child earn ALL of their high school credits online, just some or none at all?

	16-17	15-16	14-15
	%	%	%
All	14	8	8
Some	56	57	58
None at all	28	33	33
Don't Know/Refused	2	1	1

Q11. Policymakers are considering various ways to align high school learning with the needs of employers. One proposal is to have students focus on general academic skills in early high school, and classes focused on their desired career in later grades. Would you favor or oppose organizing education in Virginia public high schools this way?⁸

	16-17	15-16
	%	%
Favor	77	72
Oppose	18	23
Don't Know/Refused	5	5

⁸ 2015-16 wording: "One proposal is to have students focus on general skills in grades 9 and 10, and classes focused on their desired career in grades 11 and 12."

Q12. 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?

	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	7	29	30	32	2
2015-16	10	26	30	33	2
2014-15	4	26	39	31	1
2013-14	5	28	34	33	1
b. Today's HIGH SCHOOL graduate is ready for college	14	46	24	14	3
2015-16	15	49	21	13	2
2014-15	11	53	23	11	2
2013-14	12	51	24	11	2
c. Today's COMMUNITY COLLEGE graduate is ready for the world of work (<i>new in 2015-16</i>)	21	53	17	7	3
2015-16	21	52	16	9	3
d. Today's COMMUNITY COLLEGE graduate is ready for a four-year college or university (<i>new in 2015-16</i>)	38	49	6	4	3
2015-16	38	50	5	3	4
e. Today's FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY graduate is ready for the world of work	23	50	17	9	1
2015-16	27	48	13	10	2
2014-15	10	54	25	10	1
2013-14	13	55	20	10	2

Q13. In general, do you feel the public schools in your community are very safe, safe, not very safe, not at all safe?

	16-17	15-16	14-15	13-14
	%	%	%	%
Very safe	27	25	20	29
Safe	51	54	59	51
Not very safe	16	14	14	13
Not at all safe	4	5	5	4
Don't Know/Refused	3	2	1	3

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

Q14. 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	67	26	7
15-16	68	22	10
14-15	69	22	10
13-14	72	18	10
12-13	65	18	16
11-12	68	19	13
b. In developing students' writing and communication skills	63	29	8
15-16	65	24	12
14-15	62	28	11
13-14	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	75	16	10
15-16	72	16	12
14-15	72	16	12
13-14	72	12	16
12-13	67	12	20
11-12	68	12	21
d. In preparing students for the workforce needs of the future	64	27	9
15-16	70	20	10
14-15	65	26	9
13-14	69	21	11
12-13	62	21	16
11-12	66	20	14
e. In preparing students to be engaged citizens ⁹	61	32	8

⁹ New in 2016-17.

Q15. How much do you know about the process of transferring from a two-year to a four-year school—quite a lot, some, very little, or nothing at all?

	16-17	VCCS 2013¹⁰
	%	%
Quite a lot	24	15
Some	30	29
Very little	26	31
Nothing at all	19	23
Don't Know/Refused	1	1

ASK IF Q15=1, 2

Q16. How would you rate the process of transferring from a community college to a four-year college or university? Would you say it is very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult or very difficult?

	16-17	VCCS 2013¹¹
	%	%
Very easy	16	18
Somewhat easy	50	53
Somewhat difficult	28	18
Very difficult	3	0
Don't Know/Refused	3	10

On another topic...

Q17. Virginia's dual enrollment program gives qualifies students the opportunity to complete courses for college credit while they are still in high school. How much do you know about Virginia's dual enrollment program?

	16-17
	%
Quite a lot	23
Some	26
Very little	29
Nothing at all	22
Don't Know/Refused	0

Q18. Many families struggle to afford a college education. Would you be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes to increase need-based financial aid for college students?

	16-17
	%
Willing	54
Not willing	45
Don't Know/Refused	1

¹⁰ Perceptions of Community Colleges in VA, November 7-14, 2013. N=801 Virginia residents.

¹¹ Perceptions of Community Colleges in VA, November 7-14, 2013. N=801 Virginia residents.

Q19. If a public university has funds donated by alumni or other private, non-taxpayer sources, should the university place the most emphasis on **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

	16-17
	%
Building new facilities to attract the highest quality students	7
Reducing the tuition rate and fees to make attendance more affordable for Virginia residents	74
Expanding teaching faculty and classroom resources in order to admit a greater number of students	15
None of these (Volunteered)	1
All of these (Volunteered)	1
Don't Know/Refused	2

Q20. Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia?

	16-17	15-16	14-15	13-14	12-13*	11-12*
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very safe	16	14	11	12	22	25
Safe	58	53	55	58	58	53
Not very safe	21	27	28	22	12	13
Not at all safe	3	3	4	3	4	4
Don't Know/Refused	2	3	2	4	4	5

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

Switching gears...

Q21. When it comes to attracting new businesses to the Commonwealth, do you think that Virginia does an excellent, good, only fair or poor job in this area?

	16-17
	%
Excellent	8
Good	39
Fair	35
Poor	12
Don't Know/Refused	6

Q22. Next, when spending state funds on economic development, on which ONE of the following should the Commonwealth place the MOST emphasis? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

	16-17
	%
Using financial incentives to recruit new businesses to Virginia	25
Retaining and expanding existing businesses in Virginia	23
Expanding workforce training and education in Virginia	47
None of these (Volunteered)	0
All of these (Volunteered)	2
Don't Know/Refused	3

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		48%	21%	21%	5%	5%	806
VA Region	Northwest	47%	19%	22%	6%	7%	112
	Northern VA	47%	25%	19%	4%	6%	229
	West	44%	25%	23%	5%	4%	141
	South Central	48%	19%	23%	9%	2%	151
	Tidewater	56%	17%	17%	4%	6%	173
Gender	Men	45%	21%	23%	6%	5%	441
	Women	52%	22%	18%	4%	4%	365
Age	18-34	52%	19%	22%	2%	4%	130
	35-44	56%	21%	12%	6%	4%	80
	45-64	45%	21%	24%	5%	5%	314
	65 and older	43%	25%	19%	8%	5%	249
Education	H.S. or less	42%	20%	23%	7%	8%	180
	Some college	57%	17%	20%	3%	2%	197
	College grad or more	48%	26%	18%	5%	3%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	47%	19%	24%	6%	4%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	51%	20%	23%	3%	3%	205
	\$100,000 or more	50%	25%	16%	5%	3%	244
Race	White	46%	25%	20%	5%	4%	560
	Minority ¹²	54%	15%	21%	4%	6%	195
School employee or retiree?	Yes	57%	13%	20%	5%	5%	179
	No	46%	23%	21%	5%	5%	624
Parent of public school student?	Yes	51%	21%	18%	6%	3%	171
	No	47%	21%	21%	5%	5%	635
Party identification	Democrat	59%	20%	15%	3%	3%	339
	Republican	42%	22%	26%	7%	3%	320
	Independent	34%	17%	31%	12%	7%	79

¹² Minority includes all non-white respondents as well as Hispanics of any racial identification.

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		26%	66%	8%	806
VA Region	Northwest	23%	66%	11%	112
	Northern VA	34%	56%	10%	229
	West	25%	65%	9%	141
	South Central	19%	77%	4%	151
	Tidewater	24%	72%	4%	173
Gender	Men	30%	61%	8%	441
	Women	22%	71%	7%	365
Age	18-34	21%	71%	8%	130
	35-44	20%	75%	5%	80
	45-64	30%	62%	8%	314
	65 and older	32%	62%	6%	249
Education	H.S. or less	25%	67%	8%	180
	Some college	24%	69%	7%	197
	College grad or more	28%	64%	8%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	22%	73%	5%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	19%	75%	6%	205
	\$100,000 or more	34%	56%	11%	244
Race	White	30%	62%	8%	560
	Minority	18%	77%	5%	195
School employee or retiree?	Yes	24%	71%	4%	179
	No	27%	65%	8%	624
Parent of public school student?	Yes	24%	73%	3%	171
	No	27%	64%	9%	635
Party identification	Democrat	15%	79%	6%	339
	Republican	39%	55%	6%	320
	Independent	24%	58%	18%	79

		Q3. 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		54%	42%	4%	806
VA Region	Northwest	47%	48%	5%	112
	Northern VA	53%	42%	5%	229
	West	49%	46%	5%	141
	South Central	59%	39%	2%	151
	Tidewater	61%	37%	3%	173
Gender	Men	50%	46%	4%	441
	Women	58%	38%	3%	365
Age	18-34	66%	32%	3%	130
	35-44	58%	38%	4%	80
	45-64	46%	50%	4%	314
	65 and older	51%	46%	3%	249
Education	H.S. or less	49%	47%	3%	180
	Some college	56%	41%	4%	197
	College grad or more	59%	37%	4%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	51%	48%	2%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	57%	39%	4%	205
	\$100,000 or more	62%	35%	3%	244
Race	White	54%	41%	5%	560
	Minority	57%	41%	2%	195
School employee or retiree?	Yes	57%	37%	6%	179
	No	54%	43%	3%	624
Parent of public school student?	Yes	59%	39%	2%	171
	No	53%	43%	4%	635
Party identification	Democrat	72%	26%	2%	339
	Republican	39%	59%	2%	320
	Independent	52%	38%	10%	79

		Q5a. 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		69%	29%	2%	806
VA Region	Northwest	63%	37%	0%	112
	Northern VA	68%	30%	2%	229
	West	65%	33%	2%	141
	South Central	74%	25%	1%	151
	Tidewater	76%	23%	2%	173
Gender	Men	66%	31%	3%	441
	Women	72%	27%	1%	365
Age	18-34	79%	19%	2%	130
	35-44	73%	23%	3%	80
	45-64	63%	36%	1%	314
	65 and older	61%	38%	1%	249
Education	H.S. or less	67%	31%	2%	180
	Some college	73%	27%	0%	197
	College grad or more	69%	29%	2%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	70%	28%	2%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	67%	32%	1%	205
	\$100,000 or more	74%	25%	1%	244
Race	White	66%	32%	2%	560
	Minority	78%	22%	1%	195
School employee or retiree?	Yes	76%	23%	1%	179
	No	67%	31%	2%	624
Parent of public school student?	Yes	72%	28%	1%	171
	No	68%	30%	2%	635
Party identification	Democrat	85%	14%	0%	339
	Republican	52%	45%	2%	320
	Independent	71%	26%	3%	79

		Q5b. 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		70%	26%	4%	806
VA Region	Northwest	68%	31%	1%	112
	Northern VA	70%	25%	4%	229
	West	61%	31%	8%	141
	South Central	75%	22%	3%	151
	Tidewater	75%	23%	2%	173
Gender	Men	67%	29%	4%	441
	Women	73%	23%	4%	365
Age	18-34	76%	22%	2%	130
	35-44	66%	27%	7%	80
	45-64	68%	29%	4%	314
	65 and older	71%	26%	3%	249
Education	H.S. or less	68%	28%	5%	180
	Some college	74%	25%	2%	197
	College grad or more	71%	25%	5%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	69%	26%	4%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	66%	31%	3%	205
	\$100,000 or more	76%	20%	3%	244
Race	White	70%	26%	4%	560
	Minority	72%	26%	2%	195
School employee or retiree?	Yes	72%	27%	1%	179
	No	70%	26%	4%	624
Parent of public school student?	Yes	69%	26%	6%	171
	No	71%	26%	3%	635
Party identification	Democrat	80%	18%	2%	339
	Republican	62%	35%	3%	320
	Independent	74%	19%	7%	79

		Q5c. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the – universities and higher education - program going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		45%	51%	4%	806
VA Region	Northwest	40%	57%	3%	112
	Northern VA	51%	46%	3%	229
	West	40%	54%	6%	141
	South Central	46%	52%	2%	151
	Tidewater	44%	52%	4%	173
Gender	Men	44%	53%	3%	441
	Women	46%	49%	4%	365
Age	18-34	54%	43%	2%	130
	35-44	51%	43%	6%	80
	45-64	37%	59%	4%	314
	65 and older	43%	56%	2%	249
Education	H.S. or less	47%	49%	4%	180
	Some college	41%	56%	3%	197
	College grad or more	48%	49%	3%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	42%	54%	4%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	47%	49%	4%	205
	\$100,000 or more	51%	48%	2%	244
Race	White	41%	55%	4%	560
	Minority	56%	42%	2%	195
School employee or retiree?	Yes	49%	46%	5%	179
	No	44%	53%	3%	624
Parent of public school student?	Yes	46%	52%	3%	171
	No	45%	51%	4%	635
Party identification	Democrat	58%	39%	3%	339
	Republican	29%	67%	4%	320
	Independent	54%	40%	6%	79

		Q5d. 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 workforce training and development - program going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		58%	38%	4%	806
VA Region	Northwest	49%	51%	1%	112
	Northern VA	57%	38%	6%	229
	West	59%	37%	4%	141
	South Central	65%	29%	6%	151
	Tidewater	60%	37%	3%	173
Gender	Men	58%	39%	4%	441
	Women	59%	37%	4%	365
Age	18-34	63%	32%	5%	130
	35-44	60%	35%	5%	80
	45-64	51%	46%	3%	314
	65 and older	66%	32%	3%	249
Education	H.S. or less	59%	38%	3%	180
	Some college	57%	39%	4%	197
	College grad or more	59%	36%	6%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	61%	37%	2%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	57%	38%	4%	205
	\$100,000 or more	59%	37%	3%	244
Race	White	55%	41%	5%	560
	Minority	66%	32%	2%	195
School employee or retiree?	Yes	61%	34%	5%	179
	No	57%	39%	4%	624
Parent of public school student?	Yes	50%	47%	3%	171
	No	61%	34%	5%	635
Party identification	Democrat	69%	28%	3%	339
	Republican	46%	49%	4%	320
	Independent	60%	34%	6%	79

		Q5e. 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		58%	39%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	52%	45%	3%	112
	Northern VA	64%	34%	2%	229
	West	56%	40%	4%	141
	South Central	59%	38%	2%	151
	Tidewater	55%	39%	6%	173
Gender	Men	58%	39%	3%	441
	Women	59%	38%	4%	365
Age	18-34	62%	34%	4%	130
	35-44	59%	38%	3%	80
	45-64	53%	45%	2%	314
	65 and older	62%	34%	4%	249
Education	H.S. or less	57%	40%	3%	180
	Some college	57%	40%	3%	197
	College grad or more	61%	35%	4%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	64%	35%	1%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	55%	42%	2%	205
	\$100,000 or more	62%	36%	2%	244
Race	White	55%	41%	4%	560
	Minority	67%	33%	1%	195
School employee or retiree?	Yes	59%	39%	2%	179
	No	58%	38%	4%	624
Parent of public school student?	Yes	54%	42%	4%	171
	No	60%	37%	3%	635
Party identification	Democrat	74%	25%	1%	339
	Republican	43%	55%	2%	320
	Independent	67%	30%	3%	79

		Q5f. 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		47%	51%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	35%	61%	4%	112
	Northern VA	52%	47%	1%	229
	West	47%	49%	4%	141
	South Central	50%	47%	3%	151
	Tidewater	43%	55%	2%	173
Gender	Men	48%	49%	2%	441
	Women	45%	53%	3%	365
Age	18-34	53%	46%	2%	130
	35-44	46%	51%	3%	80
	45-64	41%	57%	2%	314
	65 and older	48%	47%	5%	249
Education	H.S. or less	47%	51%	2%	180
	Some college	42%	56%	2%	197
	College grad or more	50%	47%	3%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	50%	48%	2%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	40%	58%	2%	205
	\$100,000 or more	52%	46%	2%	244
Race	White	43%	54%	3%	560
	Minority	57%	42%	1%	195
School employee or retiree?	Yes	54%	44%	2%	179
	No	45%	53%	3%	624
Parent of public school student?	Yes	42%	56%	2%	171
	No	48%	49%	3%	635
Party identification	Democrat	58%	40%	2%	339
	Republican	34%	63%	3%	320
	Independent	52%	44%	4%	79

		Q6. One of the ongoing policy challenges is low-performing schools. Would you be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to provide additional resources to high-poverty, low-performing schools that are working to increase student performance?			Number of cases
		Willing	Not Willing	Don't know	
All adults		67%	30%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	57%	39%	4%	112
	Northern VA	70%	28%	2%	229
	West	65%	32%	2%	141
	South Central	67%	29%	4%	151
	Tidewater	71%	26%	3%	173
Gender	Men	65%	32%	3%	441
	Women	69%	28%	3%	365
Age	18-34	75%	21%	4%	130
	35-44	71%	25%	4%	80
	45-64	61%	37%	2%	314
	65 and older	64%	35%	2%	249
Education	H.S. or less	65%	31%	4%	180
	Some college	69%	29%	2%	197
	College grad or more	68%	30%	2%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	67%	30%	4%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	67%	31%	2%	205
	\$100,000 or more	73%	26%	1%	244
Race	White	64%	32%	4%	560
	Minority	76%	23%	0%	195
School employee or retiree?	Yes	68%	29%	3%	179
	No	67%	31%	3%	624
Parent of public school student?	Yes	68%	28%	4%	171
	No	67%	31%	2%	635
Party identification	Democrat	83%	16%	1%	339
	Republican	50%	46%	4%	320
	Independent	73%	22%	5%	79

		Q8. Would you favor or oppose changing the Virginia constitution in order to give charter schools more independence from local school boards on decisions about hiring and firing teachers in charter schools?			Number of cases
		Favor	Oppose	Don't know	
All adults		40%	45%	15%	806
VA Region	Northwest	35%	44%	21%	112
	Northern VA	41%	47%	12%	229
	West	33%	54%	12%	141
	South Central	46%	39%	15%	151
	Tidewater	44%	38%	18%	173
Gender	Men	46%	42%	12%	441
	Women	35%	47%	19%	365
Age	18-34	42%	41%	17%	130
	35-44	46%	43%	11%	80
	45-64	40%	44%	16%	314
	65 and older	34%	51%	15%	249
Education	H.S. or less	37%	48%	16%	180
	Some college	42%	41%	16%	197
	College grad or more	42%	44%	14%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	36%	51%	13%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	41%	44%	15%	205
	\$100,000 or more	48%	41%	12%	244
Race	White	42%	43%	15%	560
	Minority	36%	49%	15%	195
School employee or retiree?	Yes	39%	43%	19%	179
	No	41%	45%	14%	624
Parent of public school student?	Yes	46%	39%	15%	171
	No	38%	47%	15%	635
Party identification	Democrat	32%	54%	14%	339
	Republican	53%	33%	14%	320
	Independent	32%	52%	16%	79

		Q9. Do you think that teachers who are working in low performing schools that do not meet Virginia's accreditation standards should be paid (MORE) than teachers working in fully accredited schools, should be paid (LESS), or should be paid about the same?				
		More	About the Same	Less	Don't Know	Number of cases
All adults		13%	74%	9%	4%	806
VA Region	Northwest	10%	79%	6%	5%	112
	Northern VA	16%	69%	9%	6%	229
	West	9%	77%	13%	2%	141
	South Central	15%	72%	10%	3%	151
	Tidewater	13%	79%	5%	3%	173
Gender	Men	14%	71%	9%	6%	441
	Women	12%	78%	8%	2%	365
Age	18-34	16%	71%	9%	4%	130
	35-44	6%	84%	8%	2%	80
	45-64	12%	76%	8%	4%	314
	65 and older	15%	68%	12%	5%	249
Education	H.S. or less	14%	74%	9%	3%	180
	Some college	7%	80%	10%	3%	197
	College grad or more	18%	70%	7%	6%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	12%	75%	12%	2%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	12%	75%	7%	5%	205
	\$100,000 or more	12%	76%	7%	5%	244
Race	White	9%	76%	11%	5%	560
	Minority	23%	69%	5%	3%	195
School employee or retiree?	Yes	17%	72%	7%	3%	179
	No	12%	75%	9%	4%	624
Parent of public school student?	Yes	13%	77%	7%	2%	171
	No	13%	73%	9%	5%	635
Party identification	Democrat	16%	76%	5%	3%	339
	Republican	10%	72%	15%	3%	320
	Independent	11%	82%	2%	5%	79

		Q10. There are increasing opportunities for students to earn high school credits online over the Internet. Even if you do not currently have kids, would you be willing to have your child earn ALL of their high school credits online, just some or none at all?				
		All	Some	None at all	Don't Know	Number of cases
All adults		14%	56%	28%	2%	806
VA Region	Northwest	14%	55%	28%	2%	112
	Northern VA	15%	52%	29%	3%	229
	West	15%	60%	23%	2%	141
	South Central	14%	53%	31%	2%	151
	Tidewater	13%	60%	27%	0%	173
Gender	Men	14%	53%	30%	2%	441
	Women	14%	59%	25%	2%	365
Age	18-34	14%	59%	25%	2%	130
	35-44	21%	56%	19%	3%	80
	45-64	12%	56%	30%	2%	314
	65 and older	10%	54%	35%	0%	249
Education	H.S. or less	17%	52%	29%	2%	180
	Some college	12%	58%	28%	2%	197
	College grad or more	13%	58%	27%	2%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	18%	54%	25%	2%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	13%	58%	28%	1%	205
	\$100,000 or more	14%	59%	25%	2%	244
Race	White	13%	59%	26%	2%	560
	Minority	18%	53%	26%	3%	195
School employee or retiree?	Yes	7%	63%	29%	1%	179
	No	16%	54%	27%	2%	624
Parent of public school student?	Yes	17%	55%	25%	3%	171
	No	13%	56%	29%	2%	635
Party identification	Democrat	11%	64%	23%	1%	339
	Republican	18%	52%	29%	1%	320
	Independent	17%	46%	36%	1%	79

		Q11. Policymakers are considering various ways to align high school learning with the needs of employers. One proposal is to have students focus on general academic skills in early high school, and classes focused on their desired career in later grades. Would you favor or oppose organizing education in Virginia public high schools this way?			
		Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		77%	18%	5%	806
VA Region	Northwest	79%	20%	2%	112
	Northern VA	80%	16%	5%	229
	West	78%	14%	9%	141
	South Central	82%	14%	4%	151
	Tidewater	67%	27%	7%	173
Gender	Men	72%	21%	7%	441
	Women	82%	14%	4%	365
Age	18-34	81%	17%	2%	130
	35-44	82%	12%	6%	80
	45-64	74%	19%	7%	314
	65 and older	71%	22%	7%	249
Education	H.S. or less	73%	21%	5%	180
	Some college	80%	16%	4%	197
	College grad or more	78%	16%	6%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	73%	22%	5%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	79%	17%	4%	205
	\$100,000 or more	80%	14%	6%	244
Race	White	79%	16%	5%	560
	Minority	75%	21%	4%	195
School employee or retiree?	Yes	77%	20%	3%	179
	No	77%	17%	6%	624
Parent of public school student?	Yes	74%	21%	5%	171
	No	78%	17%	5%	635
Party identification	Democrat	77%	17%	6%	339
	Republican	77%	18%	5%	320
	Independent	69%	25%	6%	79

		Q12a. 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		7%	29%	30%	32%	2%	806
VA Region	Northwest	8%	26%	31%	31%	3%	112
	Northern VA	6%	34%	27%	30%	3%	229
	West	11%	31%	25%	31%	3%	141
	South Central	2%	23%	32%	41%	1%	151
	Tidewater	10%	27%	35%	27%	0%	173
Gender	Men	5%	28%	31%	35%	2%	441
	Women	10%	30%	29%	28%	2%	365
Age	18-34	8%	28%	37%	27%	0%	130
	35-44	6%	33%	28%	30%	3%	80
	45-64	8%	28%	29%	34%	1%	314
	65 and older	8%	29%	25%	34%	4%	249
Education	H.S. or less	16%	25%	27%	30%	2%	180
	Some college	4%	32%	27%	36%	1%	197
	College grad or more	2%	31%	36%	30%	2%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	13%	30%	26%	29%	2%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	1%	34%	34%	31%	0%	205
	\$100,000 or more	5%	26%	33%	34%	2%	244
Race	White	6%	27%	35%	30%	2%	560
	Minority	11%	32%	22%	33%	1%	195
Parent of public school student?	Yes	9%	33%	27%	30%	9%	171
	No	7%	28%	31%	32%	7%	635
Parent of VA college student?	Yes	6%	29%	28%	35%	6%	320
	No	8%	29%	31%	30%	8%	486
Party identification	Democrat	7%	32%	33%	27%	1%	339
	Republican	6%	29%	26%	37%	2%	320
	Independent	10%	21%	40%	26%	4%	79

		Q12b. 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					Number of cases
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	
All adults		14%	46%	24%	14%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	15%	45%	30%	8%	3%	112
	Northern VA	16%	52%	18%	11%	4%	229
	West	15%	46%	19%	18%	2%	141
	South Central	11%	34%	33%	18%	4%	151
	Tidewater	12%	49%	23%	14%	1%	173
Gender	Men	13%	42%	26%	16%	3%	441
	Women	15%	50%	21%	11%	3%	365
Age	18-34	14%	42%	29%	14%	1%	130
	35-44	17%	46%	20%	14%	3%	80
	45-64	14%	51%	23%	10%	2%	314
	65 and older	12%	44%	19%	19%	6%	249
Education	H.S. or less	15%	45%	23%	15%	3%	180
	Some college	16%	46%	23%	13%	3%	197
	College grad or more	11%	48%	25%	13%	3%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	18%	43%	24%	14%	2%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	12%	46%	26%	15%	1%	205
	\$100,000 or more	14%	50%	22%	12%	3%	244
Race	White	13%	45%	28%	12%	2%	560
	Minority	18%	48%	15%	17%	2%	195
Parent of public school student?	Yes	15%	52%	19%	11%	3%	171
	No	14%	44%	25%	14%	3%	635
Parent of VA college student?	Yes	12%	54%	20%	11%	2%	320
	No	15%	43%	25%	14%	3%	486
Party identification	Democrat	15%	50%	24%	8%	3%	339
	Republican	13%	44%	22%	19%	2%	320
	Independent	21%	38%	24%	16%	0%	79

		Q12c. Thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Today's COMMUNITY 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		21%	53%	17%	7%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	21%	56%	12%	8%	4%	112
	Northern VA	19%	56%	16%	4%	5%	229
	West	19%	58%	17%	7%	0%	141
	South Central	12%	56%	20%	11%	1%	151
	Tidewater	32%	41%	19%	6%	2%	173
Gender	Men	23%	49%	16%	10%	3%	441
	Women	18%	57%	18%	4%	3%	365
Age	18-34	21%	56%	18%	3%	3%	130
	35-44	25%	47%	19%	7%	2%	80
	45-64	18%	55%	16%	9%	2%	314
	65 and older	22%	50%	15%	8%	4%	249
Education	H.S. or less	25%	47%	16%	9%	3%	180
	Some college	21%	57%	18%	4%	0%	197
	College grad or more	16%	57%	17%	7%	4%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	25%	50%	15%	8%	2%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	19%	55%	18%	8%	1%	205
	\$100,000 or more	20%	54%	19%	5%	2%	244
Race	White	19%	55%	16%	7%	4%	560
	Minority	24%	52%	19%	5%	0%	195
Parent of public school student?	Yes	20%	57%	16%	6%	2%	171
	No	21%	52%	17%	7%	3%	635
Parent of VA college student?	Yes	23%	52%	15%	8%	2%	320
	No	19%	54%	18%	6%	3%	486
Party identification	Democrat	21%	55%	18%	4%	2%	339
	Republican	19%	57%	15%	7%	2%	320
	Independent	25%	41%	21%	12%	1%	79

		Q12d. Thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Today's COMMUNITY COLLEGE graduate is ready for a four-year college or university					
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		38%	49%	6%	4%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	35%	50%	10%	2%	3%	112
	Northern VA	39%	48%	3%	3%	7%	229
	West	38%	46%	10%	5%	1%	141
	South Central	32%	55%	9%	3%	2%	151
	Tidewater	44%	47%	4%	5%	1%	173
Gender	Men	38%	47%	6%	6%	4%	441
	Women	39%	51%	7%	1%	2%	365
Age	18-34	46%	44%	5%	3%	3%	130
	35-44	39%	53%	1%	3%	4%	80
	45-64	36%	51%	9%	3%	2%	314
	65 and older	30%	49%	9%	7%	5%	249
Education	H.S. or less	32%	51%	8%	5%	4%	180
	Some college	41%	51%	5%	2%	1%	197
	College grad or more	41%	45%	6%	4%	3%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	37%	52%	5%	4%	2%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	39%	47%	11%	2%	2%	205
	\$100,000 or more	43%	46%	3%	4%	4%	244
Race	White	39%	48%	7%	2%	4%	560
	Minority	40%	49%	4%	6%	1%	195
Parent of public school student?	Yes	39%	54%	3%	2%	2%	171
	No	38%	47%	8%	4%	4%	635
Parent of VA college student?	Yes	39%	48%	8%	4%	2%	320
	No	38%	49%	6%	4%	4%	486
Party identification	Democrat	41%	49%	4%	4%	3%	339
	Republican	37%	50%	8%	2%	2%	320
	Independent	32%	50%	10%	6%	1%	79

		Q12e. Thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Today's FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE OF UNIVERSITY graduate is ready for the world of work					
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		23%	50%	17%	9%	1%	806
VA Region	Northwest	27%	43%	17%	10%	4%	112
	Northern VA	28%	45%	20%	5%	2%	229
	West	25%	53%	12%	9%	0%	141
	South Central	12%	58%	15%	14%	1%	151
	Tidewater	22%	51%	17%	9%	0%	173
Gender	Men	20%	48%	18%	12%	1%	441
	Women	26%	51%	15%	6%	2%	365
Age	18-34	30%	43%	22%	5%	0%	130
	35-44	19%	60%	11%	11%	0%	80
	45-64	21%	52%	16%	10%	1%	314
	65 and older	23%	48%	14%	11%	4%	249
Education	H.S. or less	25%	43%	18%	11%	2%	180
	Some college	23%	48%	17%	11%	1%	197
	College grad or more	21%	57%	14%	6%	1%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	27%	45%	16%	10%	1%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	15%	58%	18%	9%	0%	205
	\$100,000 or more	24%	53%	16%	7%	0%	244
Race	White	19%	51%	18%	10%	2%	560
	Minority	32%	48%	14%	6%	0%	195
Parent of public school student?	Yes	28%	51%	14%	7%	1%	171
	No	22%	49%	18%	10%	2%	635
Parent of VA college student?	Yes	22%	54%	17%	7%	0%	320
	No	24%	48%	16%	10%	2%	486
Party identification	Democrat	29%	51%	14%	6%	0%	339
	Republican	18%	50%	18%	12%	1%	320
	Independent	24%	40%	21%	10%	4%	79

		Q13. 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		27%	51%	16%	4%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	26%	63%	9%	1%	1%	112
	Northern VA	40%	45%	11%	1%	3%	229
	West	24%	55%	17%	2%	3%	141
	South Central	18%	56%	18%	7%	2%	151
	Tidewater	20%	41%	23%	11%	5%	173
Gender	Men	30%	49%	12%	5%	4%	441
	Women	24%	52%	19%	4%	1%	365
Age	18-34	24%	47%	23%	4%	2%	130
	35-44	24%	59%	9%	5%	3%	80
	45-64	32%	47%	13%	4%	3%	314
	65 and older	24%	54%	15%	4%	3%	249
Education	H.S. or less	20%	47%	23%	6%	4%	180
	Some college	30%	50%	15%	4%	1%	197
	College grad or more	31%	54%	9%	3%	3%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	22%	49%	22%	5%	3%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	22%	55%	18%	4%	1%	205
	\$100,000 or more	40%	48%	7%	1%	4%	244
Race	White	29%	53%	12%	4%	2%	560
	Minority	23%	46%	23%	4%	3%	195
School employee or retiree?	Yes	29%	44%	19%	5%	2%	179
	No	26%	52%	15%	4%	3%	624
Parent of public school student?	Yes	30%	50%	11%	7%	2%	171
	No	26%	51%	17%	3%	3%	635
Party identification	Democrat	28%	49%	15%	2%	5%	339
	Republican	29%	51%	15%	4%	1%	320
	Independent	21%	48%	19%	10%	2%	79

Q14a. 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		67%	26%	7%	806
VA Region	Northwest	70%	19%	11%	112
	Northern VA	69%	25%	6%	229
	West	67%	24%	10%	141
	South Central	60%	35%	5%	151
	Tidewater	71%	25%	4%	173
Gender	Men	65%	27%	7%	441
	Women	69%	24%	6%	365
Age	18-34	69%	27%	3%	130
	35-44	64%	29%	7%	80
	45-64	68%	24%	8%	314
	65 and older	71%	20%	9%	249
Education	H.S. or less	70%	23%	7%	180
	Some college	67%	27%	6%	197
	College grad or more	66%	27%	7%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	66%	28%	6%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	64%	30%	6%	205
	\$100,000 or more	75%	20%	5%	244
Race	White	68%	22%	10%	560
	Minority	71%	27%	1%	195
Parent of VA college student	Yes	68%	25%	7%	320
	No	67%	26%	7%	486
Party identification	Democrat	70%	25%	5%	339
	Republican	68%	26%	6%	320
	Independent	65%	24%	11%	79

		Q14b. 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?			Number of cases
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	
All adults		63%	29%	8%	806
VA Region	Northwest	71%	25%	4%	112
	Northern VA	59%	30%	11%	229
	West	66%	25%	8%	141
	South Central	64%	30%	6%	151
	Tidewater	59%	33%	8%	173
Gender	Men	62%	29%	8%	441
	Women	64%	29%	8%	365
Age	18-34	78%	17%	5%	130
	35-44	56%	33%	12%	80
	45-64	61%	34%	6%	314
	65 and older	53%	34%	13%	249
Education	H.S. or less	66%	25%	10%	180
	Some college	64%	31%	5%	197
	College grad or more	59%	32%	9%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	68%	24%	8%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	57%	36%	6%	205
	\$100,000 or more	64%	27%	10%	244
Race	White	60%	32%	8%	560
	Minority	72%	19%	9%	195
Parent of VA college student	Yes	62%	32%	6%	320
	No	63%	28%	9%	486
Party identification	Democrat	68%	24%	8%	339
	Republican	59%	33%	8%	320
	Independent	56%	40%	4%	79

		Q14c. Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in producing graduates in scientific fields, such as engineering, math and technology?			
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		75%	16%	10%	806
VA Region	Northwest	68%	22%	10%	112
	Northern VA	80%	11%	10%	229
	West	80%	11%	9%	141
	South Central	67%	22%	11%	151
	Tidewater	75%	15%	10%	173
Gender	Men	71%	20%	9%	441
	Women	78%	11%	10%	365
Age	18-34	80%	15%	4%	130
	35-44	72%	16%	12%	80
	45-64	74%	15%	11%	314
	65 and older	70%	16%	13%	249
Education	H.S. or less	74%	16%	10%	180
	Some college	75%	17%	9%	197
	College grad or more	76%	14%	11%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	75%	17%	8%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	69%	21%	10%	205
	\$100,000 or more	77%	12%	11%	244
Race	White	75%	14%	11%	560
	Minority	76%	16%	9%	195
Parent of VA college student	Yes	73%	18%	9%	320
	No	76%	14%	10%	486
Party identification	Democrat	79%	14%	7%	339
	Republican	74%	16%	10%	320
	Independent	66%	13%	21%	79

		Q14d. 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?			Number of cases
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	
All adults		64%	27%	9%	806
VA Region	Northwest	55%	33%	12%	112
	Northern VA	68%	23%	10%	229
	West	65%	27%	8%	141
	South Central	63%	30%	6%	151
	Tidewater	63%	27%	9%	173
Gender	Men	60%	31%	10%	441
	Women	68%	24%	8%	365
Age	18-34	67%	28%	4%	130
	35-44	59%	27%	14%	80
	45-64	66%	25%	9%	314
	65 and older	62%	29%	9%	249
Education	H.S. or less	62%	29%	9%	180
	Some college	65%	27%	8%	197
	College grad or more	66%	26%	9%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	62%	30%	8%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	54%	37%	9%	205
	\$100,000 or more	73%	19%	7%	244
Race	White	64%	26%	10%	560
	Minority	66%	27%	7%	195
Parent of VA college student	Yes	66%	27%	8%	320
	No	63%	28%	9%	486
Party identification	Democrat	66%	26%	7%	339
	Republican	64%	29%	7%	320
	Independent	58%	22%	20%	79

		Q14e.Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in preparing students to be engaged citizens?			
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		61%	32%	8%	806
VA Region	Northwest	65%	31%	4%	112
	Northern VA	60%	28%	12%	229
	West	64%	30%	6%	141
	South Central	53%	41%	6%	151
	Tidewater	63%	30%	7%	173
Gender	Men	59%	33%	8%	441
	Women	63%	30%	7%	365
Age	18-34	63%	33%	4%	130
	35-44	59%	33%	8%	80
	45-64	62%	29%	9%	314
	65 and older	60%	31%	9%	249
Education	H.S. or less	67%	24%	9%	180
	Some college	56%	38%	6%	197
	College grad or more	59%	34%	7%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	64%	29%	7%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	56%	39%	5%	205
	\$100,000 or more	61%	29%	10%	244
Race	White	58%	34%	8%	560
	Minority	70%	24%	6%	195
Parent of VA college student	Yes	58%	36%	6%	320
	No	62%	30%	9%	486
Party identification	Democrat	70%	23%	7%	339
	Republican	51%	42%	7%	320
	Independent	55%	35%	10%	79

		Q15. How much do you know about the process of transferring from a two-year to a four-year school—quite a lot, some, very little, or nothing at all?					Number of cases
		Quite a lot	Some	Very Little	Nothing At All	Don't know	
All adults		24%	30%	26%	19%	1%	806
VA Region	Northwest	19%	24%	36%	21%	0%	112
	Northern VA	23%	31%	25%	19%	2%	229
	West	20%	28%	27%	23%	2%	141
	South Central	33%	32%	20%	16%	0%	151
	Tidewater	26%	31%	27%	15%	1%	173
Gender	Men	21%	31%	31%	15%	1%	441
	Women	27%	28%	22%	22%	1%	365
Age	18-34	27%	34%	27%	13%	0%	130
	35-44	34%	23%	21%	19%	3%	80
	45-64	22%	32%	25%	20%	2%	314
	65 and older	17%	24%	34%	25%	0%	249
Education	H.S. or less	10%	25%	34%	29%	1%	180
	Some college	26%	33%	25%	15%	1%	197
	College grad or more	37%	32%	19%	11%	1%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	20%	24%	32%	22%	1%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	28%	31%	28%	12%	1%	205
	\$100,000 or more	28%	31%	19%	23%	0%	244
Race	White	23%	29%	26%	21%	1%	560
	Minority	27%	30%	27%	15%	1%	195
Parent of VA college student	Yes	28%	32%	23%	16%	1%	320
	No	23%	29%	28%	20%	1%	486
Party identification	Democrat	24%	28%	29%	18%	1%	339
	Republican	24%	35%	24%	17%	1%	320
	Independent	27%	21%	24%	28%	0%	79

		Q17. Virginia's dual enrollment program gives qualifies students the opportunity to complete courses for college credit while they are still in high school. How much do you know about Virginia's dual enrollment program?					Number of cases
		Quite a lot	Some	Very Little	Nothing At All	Don't know	
All adults		23%	26%	29%	22%	0%	806
VA Region	Northwest	24%	23%	24%	30%	0%	112
	Northern VA	17%	25%	36%	23%	0%	229
	West	24%	24%	30%	22%	1%	141
	South Central	31%	32%	22%	15%	0%	151
	Tidewater	27%	26%	28%	22%	0%	173
Gender	Men	21%	25%	28%	26%	0%	441
	Women	25%	27%	29%	19%	0%	365
Age	18-34	32%	27%	24%	17%	0%	130
	35-44	19%	25%	31%	25%	0%	80
	45-64	21%	25%	31%	23%	0%	314
	65 and older	16%	26%	31%	26%	0%	249
Education	H.S. or less	16%	22%	32%	30%	0%	180
	Some college	22%	28%	29%	21%	0%	197
	College grad or more	31%	28%	26%	15%	0%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	18%	20%	35%	27%	0%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	23%	31%	30%	16%	0%	205
	\$100,000 or more	28%	29%	22%	21%	0%	244
Race	White	21%	27%	29%	22%	0%	560
	Minority	27%	24%	26%	22%	0%	195
Parent of VA college student	Yes	29%	29%	25%	16%	0%	320
	No	20%	25%	30%	25%	0%	486
Party identification	Democrat	23%	26%	28%	23%	0%	339
	Republican	24%	28%	28%	20%	0%	320
	Independent	15%	17%	36%	31%	0%	79

Q18. Many families struggle to afford a college education. Would you be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes to increase need-based financial aid for college students?

		Willing	Not Willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		54%	45%	1%	806
VA Region	Northwest	55%	45%	0%	112
	Northern VA	56%	43%	1%	229
	West	52%	45%	3%	141
	South Central	55%	43%	1%	151
	Tidewater	53%	47%	1%	173
Gender	Men	53%	45%	2%	441
	Women	55%	44%	1%	365
Age	18-34	64%	35%	1%	130
	35-44	64%	34%	2%	80
	45-64	44%	56%	1%	314
	65 and older	53%	45%	2%	249
Education	H.S. or less	55%	44%	1%	180
	Some college	56%	43%	1%	197
	College grad or more	52%	46%	2%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	62%	38%	0%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	52%	47%	1%	205
	\$100,000 or more	52%	48%	0%	244
Race	White	48%	51%	2%	560
	Minority	71%	29%	1%	195
Parent of VA college student	Yes	52%	47%	1%	320
	No	55%	44%	2%	486
Party identification	Democrat	69%	30%	1%	339
	Republican	40%	60%	1%	320
	Independent	55%	42%	2%	79

		Q19. If a public university has funds donated by alumni or other private, non-taxpayer sources, should the university place the most emphasis on . . . ?						
		Building new facilities	Reducing tuition and fees	Expanding teaching faculty and resources	None of these (Vol.)	All of these (Vol.)	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		7%	74%	15%	1%	1%	2%	806
VA Region	Northwest	5%	73%	16%	1%	3%	1%	112
	Northern VA	7%	72%	18%	1%	1%	1%	229
	West	5%	76%	9%	2%	1%	6%	141
	South Central	11%	71%	15%	1%	2%	1%	151
	Tidewater	4%	78%	17%	0%	0%	1%	173
Gender	Men	9%	71%	16%	1%	1%	2%	441
	Women	4%	77%	14%	1%	2%	2%	365
Age	18-34	4%	73%	20%	1%	2%	0%	130
	35-44	5%	66%	20%	2%	3%	4%	80
	45-64	7%	79%	12%	1%	1%	1%	314
	65 and older	10%	75%	10%	1%	0%	4%	249
Education	H.S. or less	11%	67%	17%	1%	3%	2%	180
	Some college	5%	75%	15%	1%	1%	2%	197
	College grad or more	3%	80%	14%	0%	0%	2%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	7%	75%	14%	0%	2%	2%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	6%	77%	13%	1%	1%	1%	205
	\$100,000 or more	7%	73%	15%	2%	2%	1%	244
Race	White	6%	77%	13%	1%	2%	2%	560
	Minority	7%	72%	18%	0%	1%	2%	195
Parent of VA college student	Yes	8%	80%	10%	0%	1%	2%	320
	No	6%	72%	17%	1%	2%	2%	486
Party identification	Democrat	7%	72%	17%	0%	1%	2%	339
	Republican	7%	75%	13%	2%	3%	1%	320
	Independent	1%	77%	16%	3%	0%	2%	79

		Q20. Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia?					
		Very Safe	Safe	Not Very Safe	Not At All Safe	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		16%	58%	21%	3%	2%	806
VA Region	Northwest	16%	58%	20%	4%	2%	112
	Northern VA	18%	62%	16%	1%	4%	229
	West	14%	57%	23%	2%	4%	141
	South Central	18%	52%	25%	5%	0%	151
	Tidewater	14%	56%	24%	4%	1%	173
Gender	Men	21%	51%	20%	4%	3%	441
	Women	11%	64%	22%	2%	2%	365
Age	18-34	15%	62%	19%	3%	0%	130
	35-44	18%	59%	18%	0%	5%	80
	45-64	17%	57%	21%	3%	2%	314
	65 and older	15%	52%	26%	4%	3%	249
Education	H.S. or less	13%	53%	28%	4%	1%	180
	Some college	13%	60%	19%	4%	3%	197
	College grad or more	21%	60%	16%	1%	3%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	17%	52%	26%	3%	2%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	14%	58%	24%	2%	2%	205
	\$100,000 or more	19%	63%	15%	1%	2%	244
Race	White	17%	57%	20%	2%	3%	560
	Minority	14%	60%	22%	3%	1%	195
Parent of VA college student	Yes	13%	61%	21%	3%	2%	320
	No	17%	56%	21%	3%	2%	486
Party identification	Democrat	19%	57%	19%	2%	3%	339
	Republican	14%	62%	20%	3%	1%	320
	Independent	17%	46%	28%	4%	6%	79

		Q21. When it comes to attracting new businesses to the Commonwealth, do you think that Virginia does an excellent, good, only fair or poor job in this area?					
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		8%	39%	35%	12%	6%	806
VA Region	Northwest	5%	39%	37%	11%	7%	112
	Northern VA	14%	42%	27%	9%	8%	229
	West	4%	32%	40%	21%	2%	141
	South Central	8%	44%	36%	6%	7%	151
	Tidewater	4%	36%	38%	16%	6%	173
Gender	Men	9%	39%	32%	13%	6%	441
	Women	6%	39%	38%	11%	6%	365
Age	18-34	9%	43%	35%	8%	5%	130
	35-44	4%	38%	37%	14%	8%	80
	45-64	9%	34%	38%	13%	6%	314
	65 and older	8%	43%	28%	16%	5%	249
Education	H.S. or less	6%	33%	35%	20%	5%	180
	Some college	6%	40%	39%	11%	4%	197
	College grad or more	11%	43%	32%	5%	9%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	3%	38%	38%	15%	6%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	11%	30%	42%	12%	5%	205
	\$100,000 or more	11%	48%	28%	8%	6%	244
Race	White	10%	38%	36%	11%	5%	560
	Minority	4%	45%	30%	14%	7%	195
Party identification	Democrat	9%	43%	33%	9%	7%	339
	Republican	7%	37%	41%	11%	4%	320
	Independent	8%	33%	36%	15%	8%	79

		Q22. Next, when spending state funds on economic development, on which ONE of the following should the Commonwealth place the MOST emphasis on . . . ?						
		Financial incentives to recruit new businesses	Retain & expand existing business	Expand workforce training & education	None of these (Vol.)	All of these (Vol.)	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		25%	23%	47%	0%	2%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	29%	21%	46%	0%	3%	1%	112
	Northern VA	21%	22%	53%	0%	1%	3%	229
	West	28%	31%	38%	0%	1%	2%	141
	South Central	30%	23%	40%	0%	3%	5%	151
	Tidewater	24%	18%	52%	0%	1%	4%	173
Gender	Men	27%	26%	41%	0%	2%	4%	441
	Women	24%	19%	52%	0%	2%	3%	365
Age	18-34	19%	19%	56%	0%	1%	4%	130
	35-44	27%	21%	47%	0%	3%	1%	80
	45-64	29%	25%	42%	0%	1%	2%	314
	65 and older	28%	24%	42%	0%	1%	4%	249
Education	H.S. or less	26%	23%	45%	0%	1%	4%	180
	Some college	26%	22%	48%	0%	3%	1%	197
	College grad or more	24%	22%	48%	0%	1%	4%	421
Family Income	Under \$50,000	23%	22%	50%	0%	2%	3%	222
	50K to under \$100,000	25%	21%	50%	0%	1%	3%	205
	\$100,000 or more	25%	26%	46%	0%	1%	2%	244
Race	White	30%	25%	40%	0%	1%	3%	560
	Minority	18%	17%	59%	0%	3%	3%	195
Party identification	Democrat	21%	18%	55%	0%	2%	3%	339
	Republican	30%	27%	39%	0%	2%	2%	320
	Independent	26%	28%	41%	0%	0%	3%	79



L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs

Embargoed until 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 24, 2017

COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL 2016-17

A survey of Virginians conducted by the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute at Virginia Commonwealth University's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs

cepi.vcu.edu

Contact:

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[Release 1] Majority in Poll (77 %) Support Restructuring High School to Focus on Workforce Skills

As the General Assembly makes critical decisions about education policy in the state, a recent poll by the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute shows that Virginians from all geographic regions overwhelmingly support the redesign of Virginia's high schools.

"Last year, Governor McAuliffe worked in a bipartisan manner with members of the General Assembly to pass legislation that would redesign high school to focus more on workforce skills and provide a variety of rigorous pathways to graduation," said Virginia Secretary of Education Dietra Trent. "And this poll clearly shows that the citizens of the commonwealth overwhelmingly support this approach to bring education into the 21st century."

For the second year, the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute asked respondents about changing the high school curriculum to focus on general skills in early years with later grades focusing on skills needed for a desired career path. The poll found continued broad support for such a restructuring, with more than three-quarters of respondents (77 percent) in favor of this transition.

Additionally, a strong majority of Virginians (69 percent) would be willing to contribute more in taxes to keep state funding for public schools at the current level. A smaller majority (54 percent) would willingly pay more in taxes if policymakers chose to increase funding for public schools. The state is currently working to balance a projected \$1.2 billion deficit.

A willingness to pay more in taxes for increased funding grows to 67 percent if the additional funding would be targeted to high-poverty, low-performing schools that are working to increase student

performance. A plurality of those respondents (44 percent) said the preferred use for added funds would be increasing teacher pay.

“Over the past three years, Governor McAuliffe has made supporting our teachers and improving our challenged schools high priorities,” Trent said. “This poll proves that the citizens of the commonwealth support this crucial work, and are eager to see our teachers receive the compensation they deserve for the life-changing work they do.”

Two-thirds of Virginians (66 percent) say that Virginia schools do not have enough funds to meet their needs, while only 26 percent say schools have enough funding now. Close to seven in 10 respondents (69 percent) said that the amount of funding affects education quality a great deal or quite a lot.

The proportion willing to pay higher taxes to keep public school funding at current levels is above 50 percent for all partisan groups, but a significant 33 percentage point gap exists between Democrats and Republicans. A partisan breakdown shows 85 percent of Democrats are willing to see taxes increased if it meant level funding for public schools, compared to 71 percent of independents and only 52 percent of Republicans.

A similar 33 percentage point gap exists between partisans on their willingness to pay more in taxes to see funding increased with 72 percent of Democrats being willing, compared to 39 percent of Republicans. This gap is the second highest recorded in the 14 years the question has been asked in the Commonwealth Education Poll.

“Most Virginians appear to want policymakers to look somewhere other than schools to make budget cuts” said Robyn McDougle, Ph.D., interim executive director of the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute and associate professor at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University.

“While the governor’s proposed budget amendments, which protect public school funding increases made last year, have strong public backing, the partisan breakdown shows that legislators from heavily Republican districts are hearing a much different public voice than the one heard by legislators in heavily Democratic districts.”

Public opinion also favors keeping funding for mental health services at the same level. According to the poll, that area of state government is the only one that Virginians see as a higher priority than public school funding. Seventy percent of respondents would willingly pay more in taxes to keep funding the same for mental health services. This compared to 58 percent who said the same about aid to low-income families and workforce training and development. Willingness to support transportation (47 percent) and universities and higher education (46 percent) was lower.

The poll also found that, among those willing to pay more in taxes to increase spending on schools, 45 percent favored a sales tax as the preferred mechanism while only 21 percent favored an income tax and 19 percent favored real estate taxes.

“Though wrap-around services in at-risk schools are often suggested as needed by education policy experts,” McDougle said, “the most important use the public sees for increased school funds is increasing teacher pay.”

Other findings of the newly released poll include:

- Forty-five percent of respondents oppose changing the state constitution to give charter schools greater independence from local school boards; 40 percent favor such action.

- Seventy-eight percent of respondents feel their community's schools were safe or very safe, with 27 percent saying they were very safe.
- Seventy-four percent want to see teachers who work in schools that fall short of state accreditation paid about the same as teachers in fully accredited schools; 13 percent said teachers in such schools should be paid more, while 9 percent said less.
- Fifty-six percent would be willing to have their child earn some high school credits online; only 14 percent would be willing for their child to earn all high school credits online, while 28 percent want none of their child's credits to be earned online.

These findings are part of a new statewide survey conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University. The Commonwealth Education Poll was conducted by landline and cell telephone from November 8-17, 2016, with a random sample of 806 adults in Virginia. The margin of error for the poll is plus or minus 4.3 percentage points. This poll is conducted annually by VCU's Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute, which is part of the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. Portions of the poll related to higher education and workforce development will be released on Thurs., Jan. 26.

For a PDF of the 40-page report including complete question wording and detailed tables of results see <http://cepi.vcu.edu/publications/polls/>.

END



L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs

Embargoed until 11:30 a.m., Thursday, January 26, 2017

COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL 2016-17

A survey of Virginians conducted by the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute at Virginia Commonwealth University's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs

cepi.vcu.edu

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[Release 2] Citizens Believe Virginia's Higher Ed Institutions Do a Good Job Preparing Students for Success in the Workforce

In the latest Commonwealth Education Poll, a majority of respondents say Virginia colleges and universities are doing a good job providing students with skills to succeed in the workplace and beyond. Five areas were identified as particular strengths:

- Producing graduates in scientific fields – 75 percent
- Preparing students for the workforce needs for the future – 64 percent
- Providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job – 67 percent
- Developing students' writing and communication skills – 63 percent
- Preparing students to be engaged citizens – 61 percent

"This poll shows the trust citizens have in our colleges and universities to prepare students for the careers of the future," said Virginia Secretary of Education Dietra Trent. "Working over the last three years to bring education into the 21st century, Governor McAuliffe has helped to lay the groundwork for a strong talent pipeline from the classroom to the workforce."

Poll responses also indicate that the public sees Virginia colleges as a key catalyst for workforce readiness. Almost three in four members of the public say community college graduates (74 percent) and four-year college graduates (73 percent) are ready to join the workforce. This contrasts with only 36 percent who believe that high school graduates are ready for the world of work.

“Colleges and universities in Virginia as a whole are perceived positively by a large majority of the public in terms of outcomes that support the state’s economy and civic life,” said Robyn McDougale, Ph.D., interim executive director of the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute and associate professor at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University.

“These responses also show that the public’s estimate of workforce readiness is equally positive for both community college and four-year college graduates but not for high school graduates,” she said. “The system of higher education clearly provides a significant added value to its students.”

While high school graduates aren’t seen as ready for the workforce, a majority of 60 percent of the public thinks a high school graduate is ready for college. That number reaches 88 percent for community college graduates being ready for a four-year college.

The value of a higher education degree also drives policy discussions about how to increase access to college for more students. One often cited barrier is cost and two poll questions showed:

- A narrow majority of the public in Virginia (54 percent) is willing to pay higher taxes in order to drive down costs through need-based financial aid.
- A strong majority of the public (74 percent) wants college administrators to spend privately raised, non-taxpayer sources of available funding on reducing tuition and fees. This compared to only 15 percent who preferred a focus on expanding teaching faculty and resources to provide access to more students and 7 percent who preferred a focus on building new facilities to attract the highest quality students.

“College administrators face constant tradeoffs in deciding whether to focus finite resources on facilities that attract the highest quality students, expanding classrooms and faculty so more students can attend, or reducing the cost of attendance,” McDougale said. “Those are tough choices, but the responses here show the public is most clearly concerned about reducing the cost of attendance.”

Other higher education findings of the Commonwealth Education Poll include:

- 74 percent of respondents said they believe college and university campuses in Virginia are safe, up from 67 percent in last year’s poll. Only 3 percent felt that campuses were “not safe at all”.
- Fifty-four percent of Virginians report knowing quite a lot or some about the process of transferring from a two-year to four-year school, an increase of 9 percentage points from a 2013 survey. Of those respondents, 66 percent reported that the transfer process was very or somewhat easy.
- Forty-nine percent of Virginians report knowing quite a lot or some about dual enrollment opportunities, whereby high school students take college courses for credits toward both a high school diploma and a bachelor’s degree.

These findings are part of a new statewide survey conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University. The Commonwealth Education Poll was conducted by landline and cell telephone from November 8-17, 2016, with a random sample of 806 adults in Virginia. The margin of error for the poll is plus or minus 4.3 percentage points. This poll is conducted annually by VCU’s Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute, which is part of the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. Portions of the poll related K-12 funding and policy were released on Tues., Jan. 24.

For a PDF of the 42-page report including complete question wording and detailed tables of results see <http://cepi.vcu.edu/publications/polls/>.

END