

INDIANA

K-12 & SCHOOL CHOICE SURVEY

What do voters say about
K-12 education?

Polling Paper No. 2

Paul **DiPerna**

JANUARY 2011

With questions on state performance, education spending,
charter schools, virtual schools, tax-credit scholarships, and
school vouchers

The Friedman Foundation
for Educational Choice
edchoice.org 

Survey Project & Profile

Title:	Indiana K-12 & School Choice Survey
Survey Organization:	Braun Research Incorporated (BRI)
Sponsor:	The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice
Interview Dates:	November 12-17, 2010
Interview Method:	Live Telephone 80% landline and 20% cell phone
Avg Interview Length:	10 minutes
Language(s):	English
Sample Frame:	Registered Voters (via Survey Sampling International)
Sampling Method:	Random Digit Dial (RDD)
Sample Sizes:	INDIANA=1,017; Allen= 351; Elkhart & St. Joseph= 367; Floyd= 360; Hamilton= 351; Lake= 352; Marion= 372; Vanderburgh= 354; Vigo= 350
Margin of Error:	± 3.1 percentage points for the statewide sample; ± 5.4 percentage points (approx.) for each countywide oversample
LL Response Rates:	INDIANA=23.5%; County Avg=22.9%
Cell Response Rates:	INDIANA=23.0%; County Avg=21.4%
Weighting?	Yes (Gender, Race, Age, Education Level)
Oversampling?	Yes (Eight Counties, reported separately from Statewide sample)

Project Contact:

Paul DiPerna | Research Director | paul@edchoice.org

The author is responsible for overall polling design; question wording and ordering; this paper's analysis, charts, and writing; and any unintentional errors or misrepresentations.

Survey Demographics

	STATE	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
K-12 Parent	36%	36%	35%	28%	45%	40%	41%	32%	34%
Democrat	31%	30%	42%	30%	24%	44%	35%	32%	41%
Independent	25%	21%	23%	23%	22%	19%	28%	29%	24%
Republican	28%	31%	26%	38%	43%	19%	27%	29%	23%
Liberal	13%	15%	19%	13%	17%	20%	14%	18%	29%
Moderate	37%	34%	33%	48%	39%	32%	44%	33%	27%
Conservative	40%	43%	40%	35%	37%	33%	35%	41%	33%
Urban	14%	25%	24%	14%	9%	26%	32%	30%	18%
Suburban	25%	40%	29%	34%	59%	33%	54%	30%	22%
Small Town	35%	14%	31%	31%	21%	32%	5%	17%	39%
Rural	25%	18%	14%	22%	10%	8%	8%	20%	21%
Asian	< 1%	2%	2%	1%	4%	1%	2%	1%	2%
Black	7%	11%	9%	5%	3%	24%	24%	8%	7%
White	91%	83%	83%	93%	91%	66%	70%	88%	89%
Hispanic	2%	5%	7%	1%	2%	13%	6%	1%	2%
Catholic	18%	29%	24%	30%	17%	33%	15%	27%	14%
Jewish	< 1%	1%	1%	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%	0%	< 1%
Muslim	< 1%	< 1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Protestant	64%	52%	63%	53%	63%	54%	69%	57%	69%
None	13%	14%	8%	12%	12%	10%	12%	12%	13%
18-29	16%	21%	22%	19%	21%	20%	20%	22%	27%
30-39	17%	19%	17%	17%	21%	17%	21%	15%	16%
40-49	19%	19%	18%	21%	23%	20%	21%	18%	17%
50-64	28%	25%	23%	25%	23%	25%	23%	24%	22%
65 & Over	20%	16%	19%	17%	11%	17%	15%	19%	18%
Under \$25,000	19%	17%	19%	14%	9%	19%	21%	24%	22%
\$25,000 - \$49,999	24%	28%	27%	20%	11%	26%	28%	21%	24%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	20%	19%	20%	29%	15%	24%	18%	19%	22%
\$75,000 - \$124,999	13%	13%	14%	18%	30%	13%	16%	11%	12%
\$125,000 - \$200,000	5%	5%	5%	6%	11%	2%	6%	6%	4%
Over \$200,000	1%	1%	2%	3%	7%	1%	1%	1%	1%
< HS Graduate	15%	13%	17%	14%	5%	15%	17%	13%	16%
HS Graduate	34%	28%	29%	32%	17%	35%	29%	32%	29%
Some College	31%	35%	31%	33%	28%	32%	28%	34%	36%
≥ College	21%	24%	23%	21%	50%	17%	26%	21%	19%
Male	48%	48%	48%	47%	49%	47%	48%	46%	49%
Female	52%	52%	52%	53%	51%	53%	52%	54%	51%

January 10, 2011

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Indiana's K-12 Profile

Average State Rank on NAEP ¹	20
High School Graduation Rate ²	75%
# Regular Public School Students ³	1,027,659
# Charter School Students ⁴	18,488
# Private School Students ⁵	94,476
% Public School Students ⁶	91.7%
% Charter School Students ⁶	1.6%
% Private School Students ⁶	8.3%
# School Districts ³	294
# Regular Public Schools ³	1,944
# Charter Schools ³	51
# Private Schools ⁵	709
Virtual Schools Climate ⁷	Weak
% Free and Reduced-Price Lunch ³	42%
% Individualized Education Program (IEP) ³	17%
% English Language Learners (ELL) ³	4%
\$ Revenue Per Student ⁸	\$12,015
\$ Per Student Spending ⁸	\$9,254

Indiana Profile Notes

1. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Average of four rankings (rounded upward to nearest single digit) based on 2009 state scale scores for 4th grade reading (#23); 4th grade math (#18); 8th grade reading (#22); 8th grade math (#18).
URL: nationsreportcard.gov/data_tools.asp
2. Reported high school graduation rates, determined by the Average Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR) on the National Center for Education Statistics section on the U.S. Department of Education website. Data for 2008-2009 school year.
URL: nces.ed.gov/ccd
3. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD). Data for the 2008-2009 school year. Alabama does not have a charter school law. 2008 IEP data – imputed for Alabama and Mississippi because of irregularity in the states' 2009 data.
URL: nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states
4. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD). Data for the 2009-2010 school year.
URL: nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch
5. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Private School Universe Survey (PSS). Data for 2009–2010 school year.
URL: nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/index.asp
6. Percentages are meant for general impressions only. State-level data on home-school students are generally unreliable, and this subpopulation of students could not be included in this table. Due to rounding, percentage totals may be slightly greater or less than 100%.
7. Author rating (Weak, Moderate, or Strong), based on John Watson, Amy Murin, Lauren Vashaw, Butch Gemin, and Chris Rapp, *Keeping Pace with K-12 Online Learning: An Annual Review of State-Level Policy and Practice*, (Evergreen Education Group, 2010), Table 2.
URL: www.kpk12.com/cms/wp-content/uploads/KeepingPaceK12_2010.pdf
8. Frank Johnson, Lei Zhou, and Nanae Nakamoto, *Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2008–09 (Fiscal Year 2009)* (NCES 2011-329). U.S. Department of Education. Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Statistics (June 2011).
URL: nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011329.pdf
“Current Expenditures” data include dollars spent on instruction, instruction-related, support services, and other elementary/secondary current expenditures, but exclude expenditures on long-term debt service, facilities and construction, and other programs.

Overview

The “Indiana K-12 & School Choice Survey” project, commissioned by The Foundation for Educational Choice and conducted by Braun Research Incorporated (BRI), measures **Indiana registered voters’ awareness and opinions on a range of K-12 education issues**. We report the *levels* and *gaps* of voter opinion, knowledge, and awareness when asked about issues in K-12 education and school choice reforms.

This paper reports snapshots of how a representative sample of Indiana voters recently responded to 16 substantive questions and 11 demographic questions (see pages 35 – 62). The next section summarizes key findings.

A total of 3,445 telephone interviews were conducted in English from November 12-17, **2010, by means of both landline and cell phone. BRI’s trained callers interviewed 1,017** registered voters in Indiana to produce an initial statewide sample. BRI then made additional phone calls to achieve at least 350 total completed interviews in each of the following counties/regions: Allen (351), Elkhart/ St. Joseph (367), Floyd (360), Hamilton (351), Lake (352), Marion (372) , Vanderburgh (354), Vigo (350). Statistical results were weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the overall statewide sample is ± 3.1 percentage points. Margin of error for each county sample is approximately ± 5.4 percentage points.

This paper is presented in four sections. The first section summarizes key findings. We **call the second section “Survey Snapshots,”** which offers charts illustrating the core findings of the survey. **The third section describes the survey’s methodology,** summarizes response statistics, and presents additional technical information on call dispositions for landline and cell phone interviews. The fourth section presents the questionnaire and question-by-question results (“topline **numbers**”), essentially allowing the reader to follow the actual interview as it was conducted, with respect to question wording and ordering. This paper sets out to provide a straight-forward analysis, going light on editorial commentary, and letting the charts and numbers communicate the major findings.

Key Findings

- ▶ **On average, registered voters in Indiana are more likely to think that K-12 education is on the “wrong track” (51%) compared to the “right direction” (31%).**

See Question 1

Six out of eight counties share this angst at varying levels. Hamilton County is statistically even, and Vanderburgh County is the exception, where 52% of voters believe K-12 education is heading in the right direction.

- ▶ **Hoosier voters describe the state’s public school system more often as “fair” or “poor” (55%) versus “good” or “excellent” (42%).**

See Question 3

Marion County is especially negative, with 62% saying the education system is “fair” or “poor.” Vanderburgh County is the most positive, with 60% saying the system is “good” or “excellent.”

- ▶ **Generally speaking, Indiana voters do not know how much is spent in the public schools.**

See Question 4

Nearly 2 out of 3 respondents (64%) underestimate per-student spending in the public schools. According to financial information the state provided the U.S. Department of Education for the 2007-2008 school year, total per-student spending on average was \$8,867 to \$10,164 depending on the definition used. Almost 4 out of 10 voters thought the correct range was less than \$4,000 per student. Another 25% of voters said it was in the \$4,001-\$8,000 spending range. There is a lack of awareness and understanding about how much money is being spent to educate students in Indiana.

- ▶ **When asked for a preferred school type, Indiana voters express a gaping disconnect between their preferred school type and actual enrollment patterns.**

See Question 5

About 9% of Indiana's K-12 student population attend private schools, but in the survey, 41% of voters would select a private school as their first option.

Approximately 90% of the state's students attend regular public schools, but a much lower percentage of voters (38%) would chose a regular public school as their first choice. Less than 1% of the student population are going to charter schools, but 10% of Hoosier voters would like to send their child to a charter school.

- ▶ **Indiana voters are much more likely to favor charter schools (66%), rather than oppose such schools (16%).**

See Questions 8 and 9

All counties overwhelmingly support charter schools. Marion County voters are most favorable (80%) and Lake County is relatively the least favorable (64%). In the statewide sample, respondents who say they “strongly favor” charter schools outnumber those who say they “strongly oppose” charter schools by a 4-to-1 ratio.

- ▶ **There is decidedly strong Hoosier support for school vouchers in Indiana and across the eight featured counties.**

See Questions 13 – 16

In the statewide sample, there is a sizeable gap between those who favor school vouchers (66%) and those who oppose (24%) school vouchers, equal to 42 percentage points. The counties showing greatest levels of support are: Elkhart and St. Joseph (76%), Marion (76%), and Vanderburgh (74%). Hamilton County registers the relatively lowest level of support (62%). Nearly half of interviewed

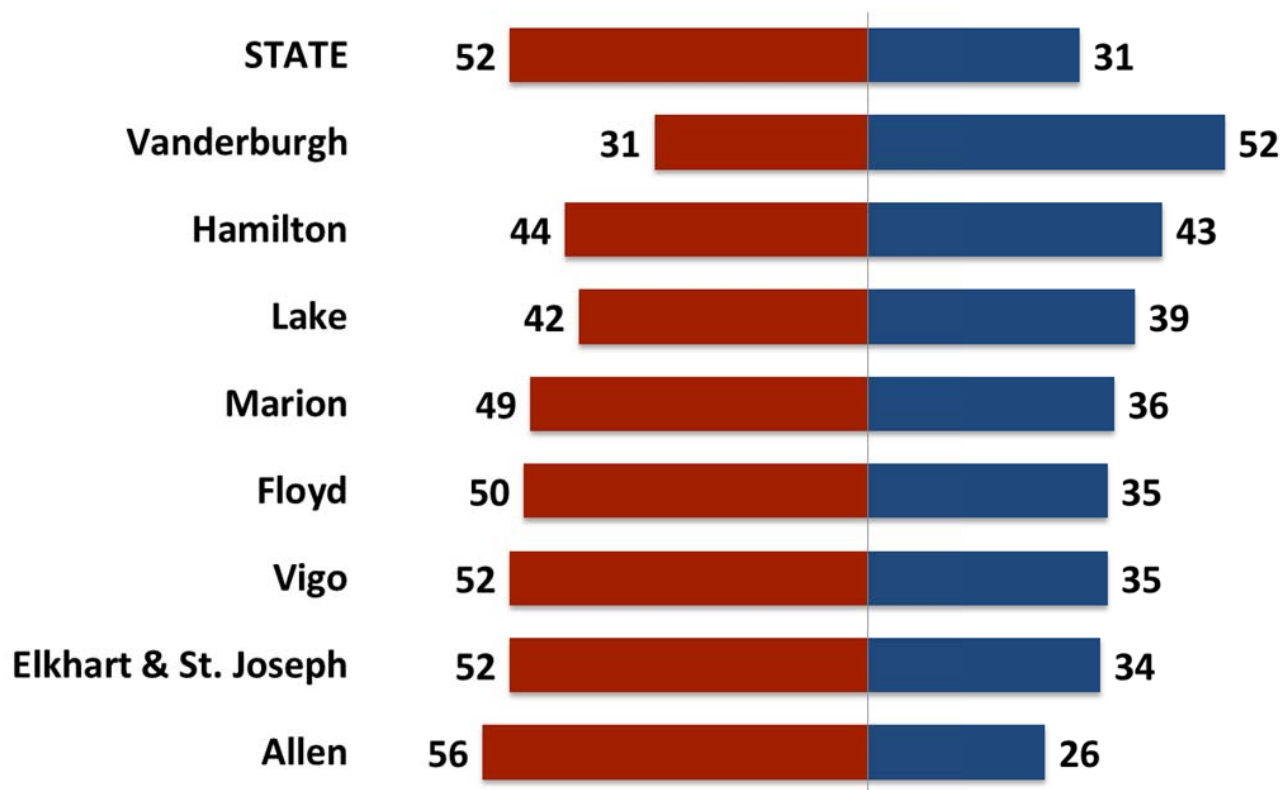
voters in Vanderburgh (48%), Marion (47%), and Elkhart-St. Joseph (46%) say **they “strongly favor” a school voucher system. At least one**-third of voters in the other five sampled counties indicate they are strongly favorable.



Survey Snapshots

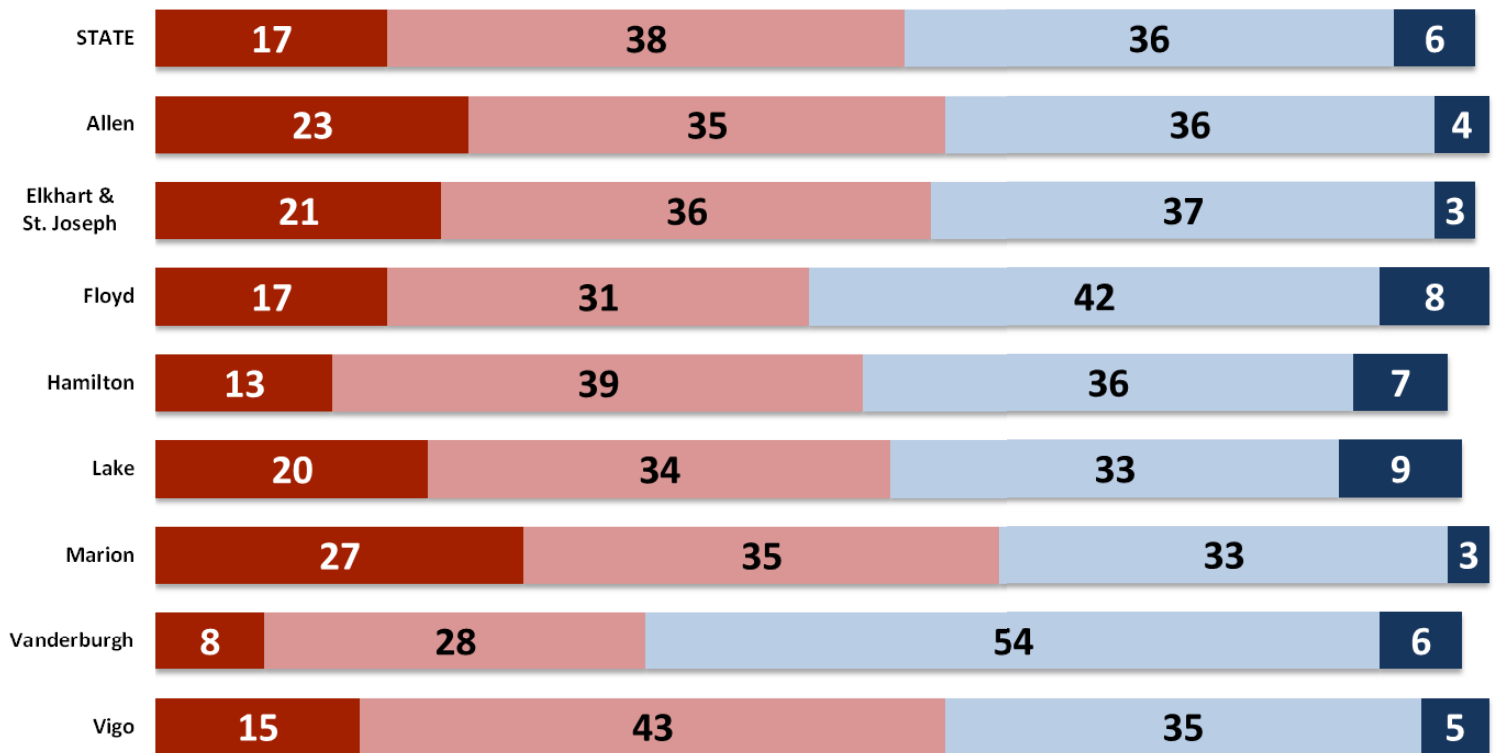
Q1. Do you feel things in Indiana's K-12 Education system are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have generally gotten off on the wrong track?

■ Wrong Track ■ Right Direction



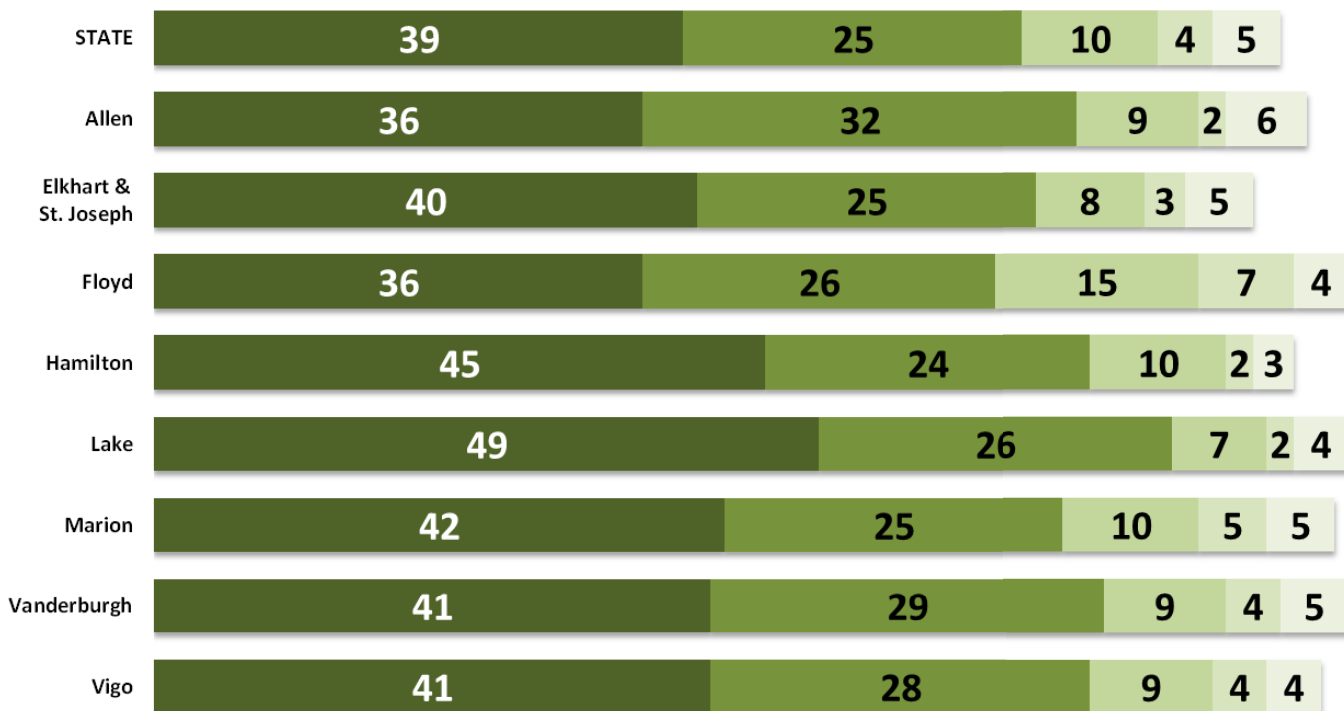
Q3. How would you rate Indiana's public school system?

■ Poor
 ■ Fair
 ■ Good
 ■ Excellent



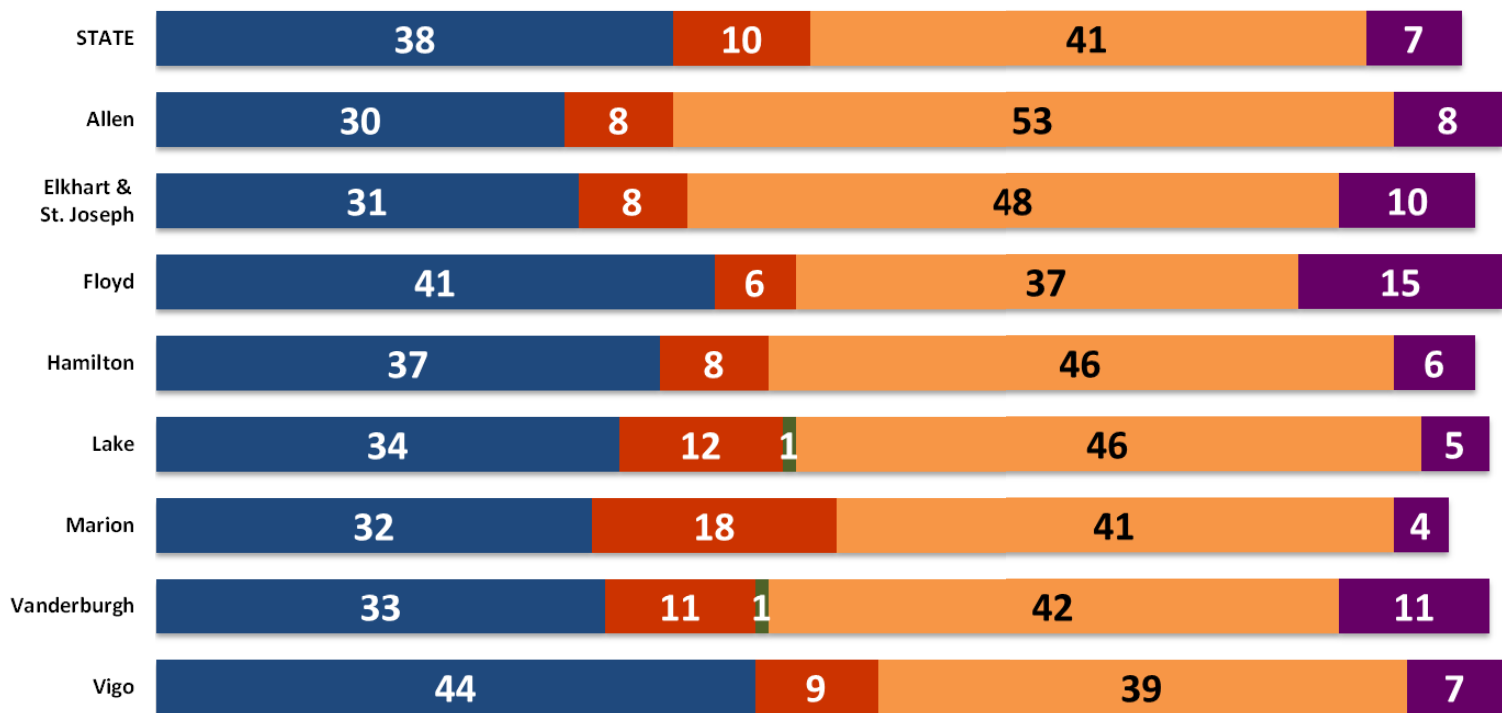
Q4. How much do you think is currently spent on each student in Indiana's public schools? Your estimate (to the nearest thousand dollars) will represent the combined expenditures of local, state, and federal governments.

- **Less Than \$4,000**
- **\$4,001 - \$8,000**
- **\$8,001 - \$12,000**
- **\$12,001 - \$16,000**
- **Over \$16,000**



Q5. If it were your decision and you could select any type of school, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?

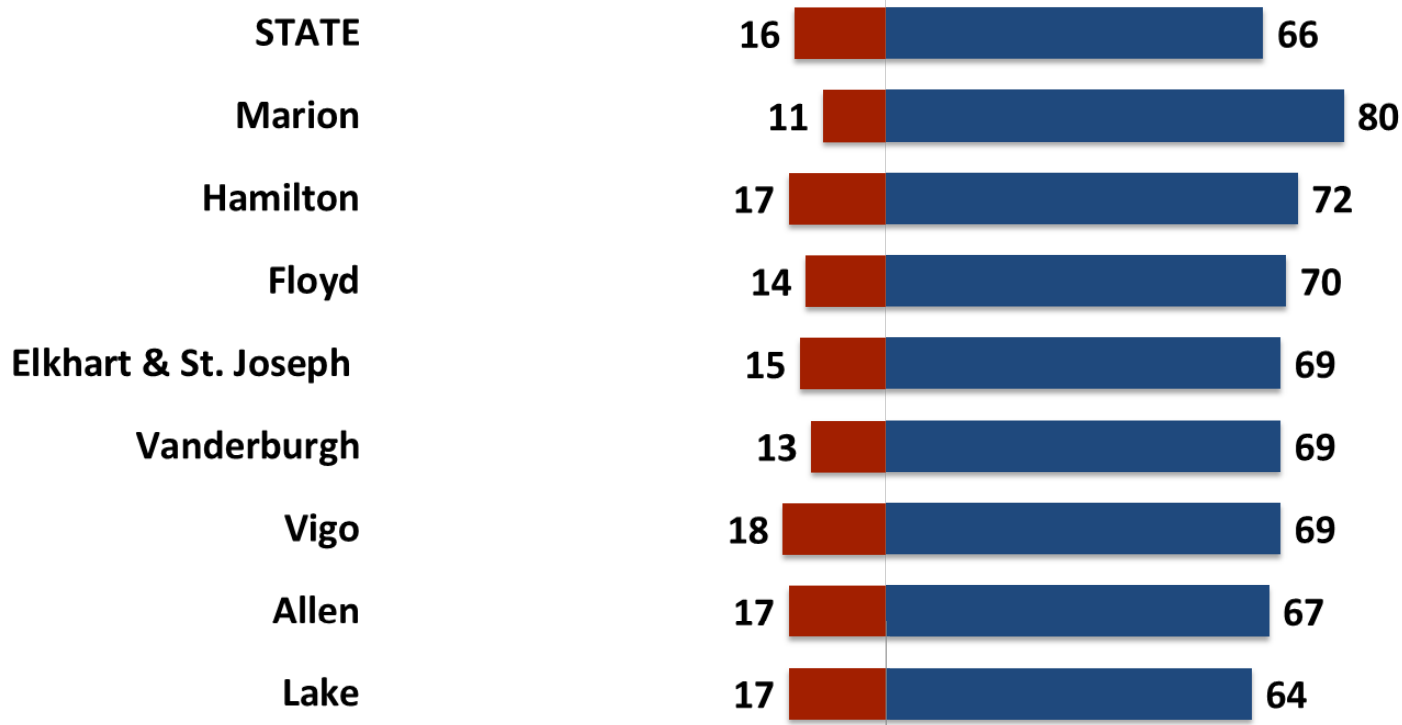
- Regular Public School
- Charter School
- Virtual School
- Private School
- Homeschooling



Q9. Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, do you favor or oppose charter schools?

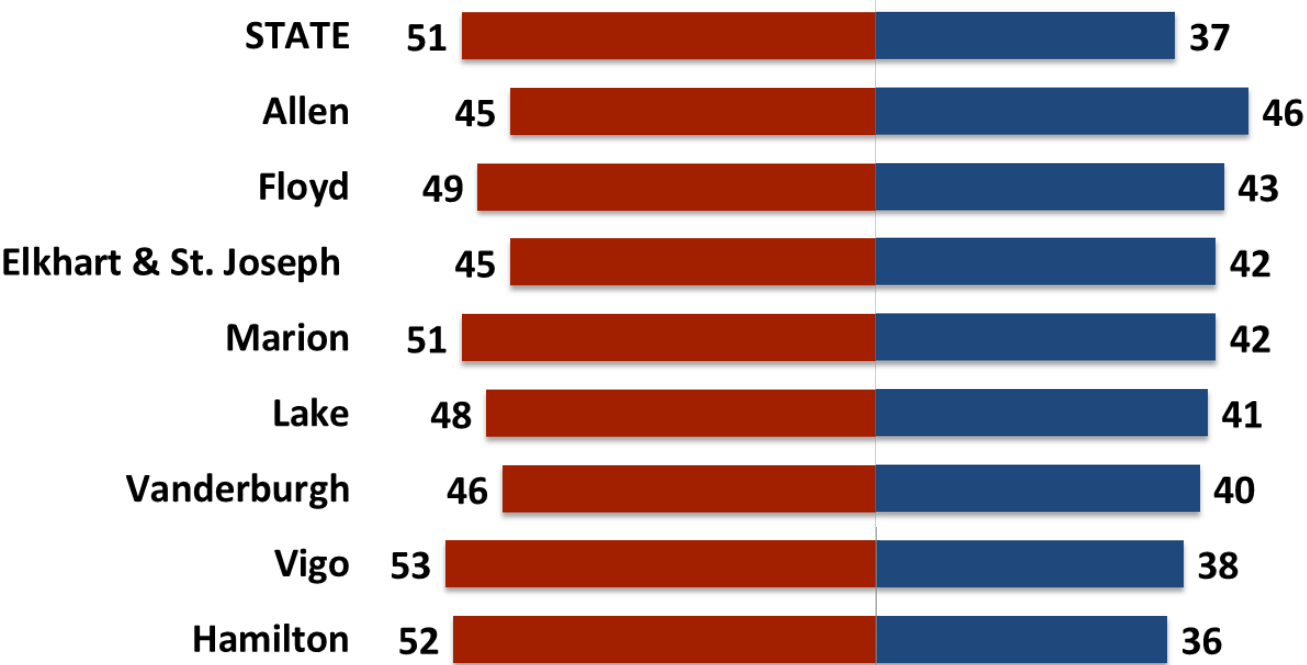
■ Oppose

■ Favor



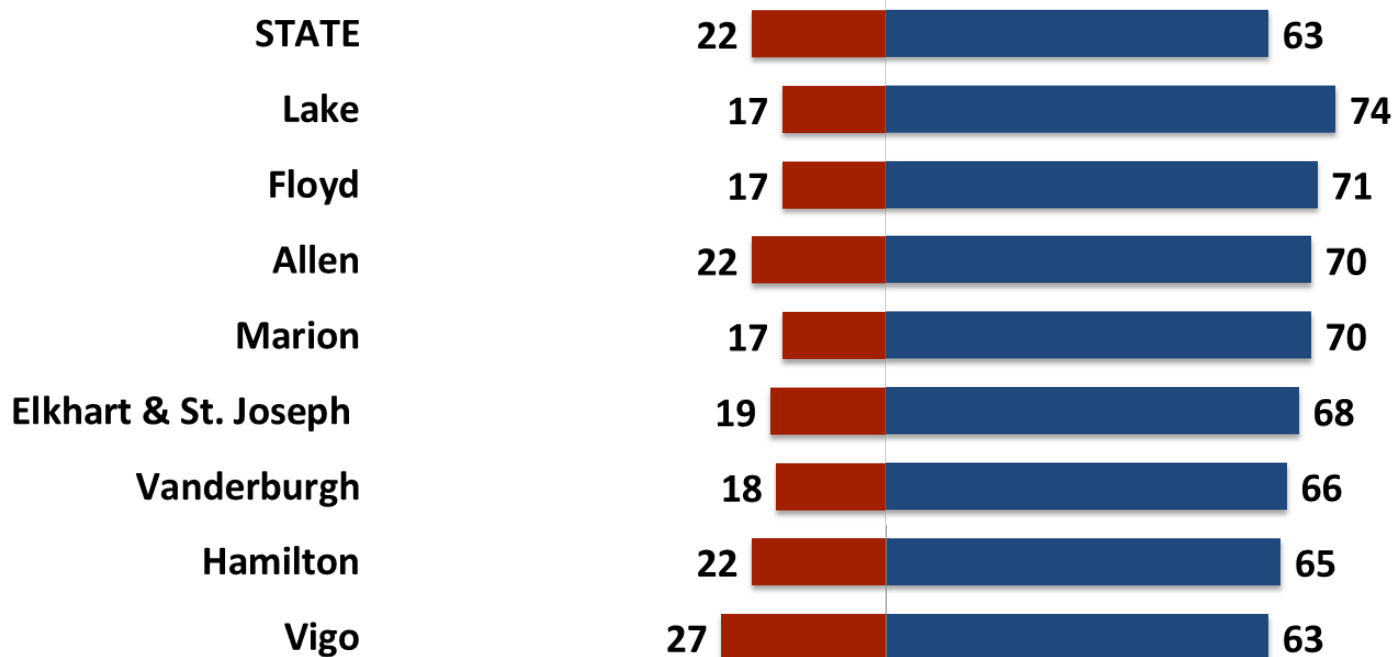
Q11. In Indiana, virtual charter schools are publicly funded schools where a student learns from home using a state-approved curriculum and lessons delivered over the internet. The student is supervised by a teacher and required to take the same tests and assessments as other public school students. In general, do you favor or oppose virtual charter schools?

■ Oppose ■ Favor



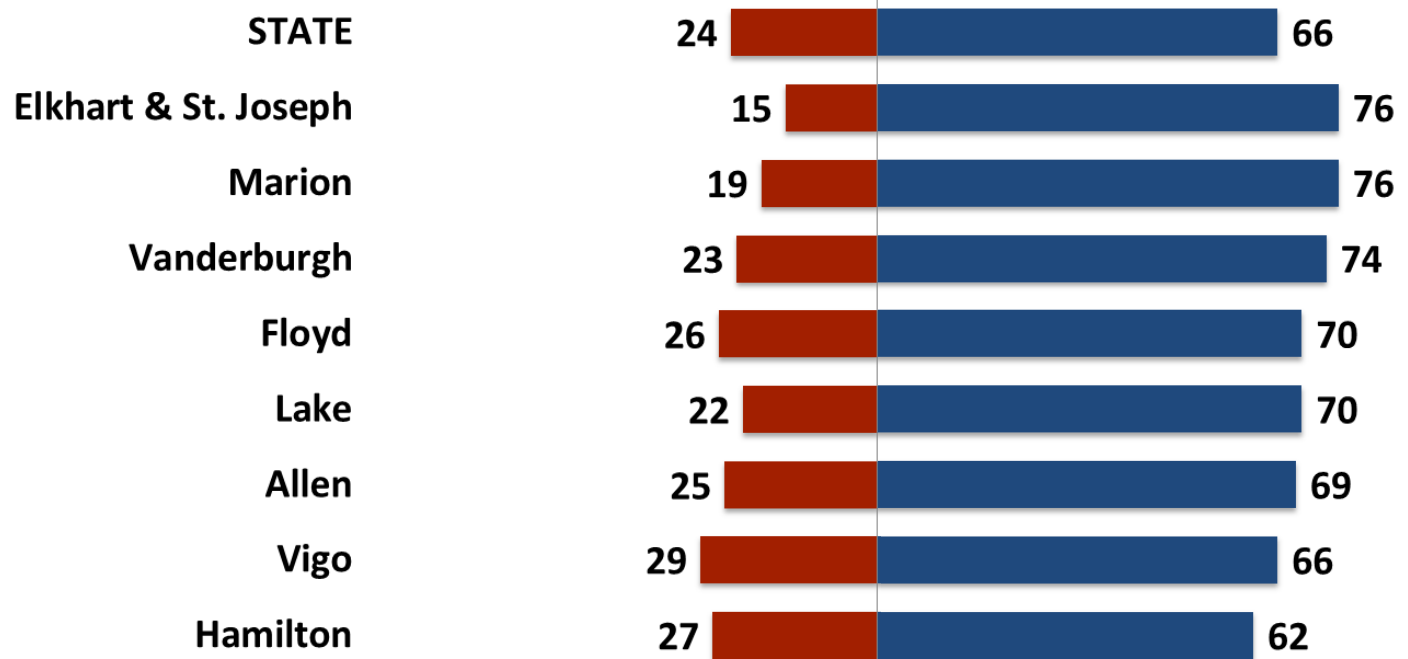
Q12. Some states, including Indiana, give tax credits to individuals and businesses if they contribute money to nonprofit organizations that distribute private school scholarships. This policy supports a “tax-credit scholarship system”. In general, do you favor or oppose a tax-credit scholarship system?

■ Oppose ■ Favor



Q14. A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a “school voucher” to pay partial or full tuition for their child’s school. In general, do you favor or oppose a school voucher system?

■ Oppose ■ Favor



Methods Summary

The “K-12 & School Choice Survey ” project, commissioned by The Foundation for Educational Choice and conducted by Braun Research Incorporated (BRI), interviewed 1,017 registered voters in Indiana and then oversampled to reach at least 350 total completes in each of the following counties: Marion (372 completes) , Lake (352 completes), Hamilton (351 completes), Allen (351 completes) , Vanderburgh (354 completes), St. Joseph/Elkhart (367 completes), Floyd (360 completes), Vigo (350 completes). A total of **3,445** telephone interviews were conducted in English from November 12 - 17, 2010, by means of both landline and cell phone. Statistical results were weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the overall state survey is ± 3.1 percentage points. Margin of error for the total sample of interviews is ± 5.4 percentage points.

BRI’s live callers conducted all phone interviews. For this entire project, a total of 26,952 calls were made in Indiana. Of these calls 7,182 were unusable phone numbers (disconnected, fax, busy, non-residential, or non-answers, etc.); 13,002 were usable numbers but eligibility unknown (including refusals and voicemail); 504 cell phone numbers were usable but not eligible for this survey; 106 people did not complete the survey. The average response rate of the landline interviews was 23.2%. The average response rate of the cell phone interviews was 22.2%.

Details on **each state’s sample dispositions, landline, and cell phone response rates, and weighting** are discussed in following sections.

Sample Design

A combination of landline and cellular random digit dial (RDD) samples was used to represent registered voters in Indiana who have access to either a landline or cellular telephone. Both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International, LLC (SSI) according to BRI specifications.

SSI starts with a database of all listed telephone numbers, updated on a four- to six-week rolling basis, 25 percent of the listings at a time. All active blocks—contiguous groups of 100 phone numbers for which more than one residential number is listed—are added to this database. Blocks and exchanges that include only listed business numbers are excluded.

Numbers for the landline sample were drawn with equal probabilities 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.

Contact Procedures

Interviews were conducted from November 12 - 17, 2010. As many as 8 attempts were made to contact every sampled telephone number. Sample was released for interviewing in replicates, which are representative subsamples of the larger sample. Using replicates to control the release of sample ensures that complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample. Calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chance of making contact with potential respondents. Each phone number received at least one daytime call.

The survey's margin of error is the largest 95% confidence Interval for any estimated proportion based on the total sample – the one around 50%. The overall margin of error is 3%. This means that in 95 of every 100 samples drawn using the same methodology, estimated proportions based on the entire sample will be no more than 3 percentage points away from their true values in the population.

It is critical to note that the MSE is higher when considering the number of respondents for a given demographic subgroup. For example, the MSE for a subgroup of 150 respondents is ± 8.0 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, question wording, ordering, and other practical difficulties when conducting surveys may introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion research.

Call Dispositions and Response Rates

Full dispositions for all sampled landline and cell phone numbers are located below.

Indiana and County Call Dispositions (combined)					
<u>SUMMARY</u>			<u>DETAIL</u>		
Landline	Cell Phone		Landline	Cell Phone	
26,427	6,500	Total	4,230	673	Disconnected
21,861	5,091	Released	628	7	Fax
4,566	1,409	Unreleased	745	26	Government/Business
15,419	4,352	Usable	-	26	Non Cell Phone
6,442	739	Unusable	33	-	Non Landline
12,783	2,273	Qualified	5,636	732	Unusable
70.5%	85.5%	Est. Usability	2,455	47	No Answer
80.4%	51.7%	Est. Eligibility	291	4	Busy
23.2%	22.2%	Est. Response	2,746	51	Usability Unknown
			2,942	501	Complete
			67	39	Break-Off
			3,009	540	Usable/Eligible
			3,856	1,390	Refused
			279	42	Language Barrier
			3,093	1,302	Voice Mail
			1,998	382	Call Back-Retired
			498	145	Strong Refusal
			14	3	Privacy Manager
			9,738	3,264	Usable/Eligible Unknown
			-	326	Under 18
			732	178	Not Registered in State
			732	504	Usable/Ineligible
			23.2%	22.2%	Response Rate

Weighting Procedures and Analysis

Weighting is generally used in survey analysis to compensate for sample designs and patterns of non-response that might bias results. In this study, the sample demographics were balanced to population parameters. The sample was balanced to reflect the targeted population representation by Age, Gender, Race and Education. The weighted and unweighted results are available on request.

Weighting targets are imposed for sex, age, ethnicity, and level of education for the state of Indiana. Gender and ethnicity were based on Census Bureau figures from Table 4b of **“Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2008 – Detailed Tables.”**¹

Table 4c of the above cited report describes the age distributions, but these do not match our questionnaire coding scheme for **respondent’s age**. We calculated age distributions from date-of-birth information on file from the **state’s respective registered voter** database, as supplied by Aristotle International.

Level of education is based on voting-age population distributions as reported by the Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2008 3-year estimates. We adjusted college graduate weighting targets for the state where required based on the 2008 Census figures on registered voters (Table 5 of the above cited), noting that the percentage of college graduates is higher for registered voters compared with all adults (32.1% vs. 27.5%, respectively).

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, “Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2008 - Detailed Tables,” URL: www.census.gov/hhes/www/socdemo/voting/publications/p20/2008/tables.html

About the Author

Paul DiPerna (paul@edchoice.org) is Research Director for The Foundation for Educational Choice in Indianapolis. DiPerna joined the Foundation in September 2006, and his research includes surveys and polling on K-12 education issues. He also manages and edits all other research projects commissioned by the Foundation. DiPerna previously served as assistant director for the Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution, working there for more than six years. He was a research analyst for the first five issues of the *Brown Center Report on American Education* (2000-2004), and managed the activities of the National Working Commission on Choice in K-12 Education (2001-2005). DiPerna has presented research at the American Sociological Association annual meeting, and he has published articles in *Education Next*, *First Monday*, and the *Washington Examiner*. In 2008, he authored a textbook chapter in the *Handbook of Research on Web Log Analysis*.

A native of Pittsburgh, DiPerna attended the University of Dayton as an undergraduate and received an M.A. in political science from the University of Illinois.

Acknowledgements

Paul DiPerna would like to thank a number of people who provided invaluable time, comments, and assistance throughout the course of this survey project. This would not have been possible without the opportunities provided by Robert Enlow, Leslie Hiner, and Carey Folco. I would also like to thank the team at Braun Research who assisted in project development, and for their excellent work in conducting the interviews and collecting the data. I appreciate the time and commitments from Paul Braun, Dave Oshman, Shayne Poole, Elaine Karnes, and Rich Kuchinsky. We are very grateful to the citizens of Indiana, who generously agreed to participate in our survey interviews.

About...

The Foundation for Educational Choice

The Foundation for Educational Choice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and nonpartisan **organization, solely dedicated to advancing Milton and Rose Friedman’s vision of school choice** for all children. First established as the Milton and Rose D. Friedman Foundation in 1996, the Foundation continues to promote school choice as the most effective and equitable way to improve the quality of K-12 education in America. The Foundation is dedicated to research, education, and outreach on the vital issues and implications related to choice and competition in K-12 education.

Indiana Public Charter Schools Association

The Indiana Public Charter Schools Association offers services, advocacy and support **for Indiana’s 62 public charter schools. More than 23,000 students attend public** charter schools in Indiana. The Association web site is www.INcharters.org

School Choice Indiana

School Choice Indiana, Inc. is a non-partisan, statewide organization dedicated to the principle that providing parents with real choices in the education of their children will improve educational outcomes and improve the quality of education, both in private and public schools. We will work with anyone willing to engage in efforts to promote educational freedom for Hoosier families. We will educate the public, community leaders and policy makers on the positive impact that school choice can have on children, families, local communities and our state as a whole.

Braun Research, Inc. (BRI)

The Braun Research network of companies, founded in 1995, combined employ 60 full-time and over 600 part-time employees engaged in data collection via telephone, and internet for various survey research firms, government and advertising agencies, local community organizations, local and national business groups, foundations, universities and academic entities, as well as religious organizations. In 15 years, Braun Research has conducted more than 6,900 research projects by telephone, internet, and mail worldwide.

Nationally-known research firms have hired Braun Research, including the Gallup Organization, the Pew Research Center, the Eagleton Poll, Mathematica Policy Research, and the *Washington Post*. Braun Research has worked for the New Jersey Department of Health and Human Services, as well as other government agencies including the United States Departments of the Treasury and Defense, and the Center for Disease Control.

Braun Research is a well-respected firm employing techniques and standards approved by various survey research academic organizations and other affiliations including those with whom Braun is an active member, including AAPOR (American Association for Public Opinion Research) and MRA/CMOR (Market Research Association/Council on Marketing and Opinion Research) and CASRO (Council on American Survey Research Organizations).

Braun's services on behalf of other research firms are up to standards required by various professional associations where Braun enjoys membership, and in some cases, participates actively. Paul Braun is a member of the MRA/CMOR committees on response rate improvement and in launching a seal of quality for the industry. Paul Braun is recognized as a leader in the field by colleagues who asked him to serve on these committees. He has served as President of the New Jersey Chapter of AAPOR.

Indiana K-12 Survey Questionnaire & Topline Results

Interview Dates: November 12 to November 17, 2010

Sample Frame: Registered Voters

Sample Sizes: INDIANA=1,017; Allen= 351; Elkhart & St. Joseph= 367; Floyd= 360; Hamilton= 351; Lake= 352; Marion= 372; Vanderburgh= 354; Vigo= 350

Margin of Error: \pm 3.1 percentage points for each statewide sample;
 \pm 5.4 percentage points (approx.) for each of the countywide samples

Displayed numbers in tables are percentages, unless otherwise noted.

Due to rounding, percentage totals for a given question may be slightly greater or less than 100%.

[INTRODUCTION]

Hello, I am _____ calling for Braun Research Inc. in Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a telephone opinion survey and would like to know your opinions on some important issues. We are not selling anything or asking for donations. May I please speak to someone who is registered to vote and is at home right now?

[IF ASKED FOR TIME:]

The survey should take approximately 7 to 9 minutes.

[IF ASKED FOR SPONSOR:]

The Foundation for Educational Choice is the sponsor of this survey.

“For this brief interview, if you are completely unsure about your answer or have no feelings for an answer, you can say ,I Don’t Know’.” [ENTER AS “DK”]

1. Do you feel things in Indiana's K-12 public education system are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have generally gotten off on the wrong track?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS "DK"]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Right Direction	31	26	34	35	43	39	36	52	35
Wrong Track	52	56	52	50	44	42	49	31	52
DK/Ref (VOL.)	17	18	15	15	12	19	14	17	13

2. What one word best describes your impression of Indiana’s public school system? Just the one word that best describes Indiana’s education system.

[OPEN-END. IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

**Top 10 | Specific impressions offered by respondents in the statewide sample.
Numbers represent counts (n), not percentages.**

INDIANA	
GOOD	98
POOR	56
FAIR	38
LACKING	37
ADEQUATE	29
OK	28
IMPROVING	25
MEDIOCRE	24
EXCELLENT	21
AVERAGE	20

3. How would you rate Indiana's public school system?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS "DK"]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Excellent	6	4	3	8	7	9	3	6	5
Good	36	36	37	42	36	33	33	54	35
Fair	38	35	36	31	39	34	35	28	43
Poor	17	23	21	17	13	20	27	8	15
DK/Ref (VOL.)	3	2	4	3	5	4	2	4	2

4. How much do you think is currently spent on each student in Indiana's public schools? Your estimate (to the nearest thousand dollars) will represent the combined expenditures of local, state, and federal governments.

[OPEN-END. RECORD SPECIFIC ESTIMATE. IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE LISTING CATEGORIES BELOW, AND RECORD CATEGORY. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS "DK"]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS "DK"]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Less Than \$4,000	39	36	40	36	45	49	42	41	41
\$4,001 - \$8,000	25	32	25	26	24	26	25	29	28
\$8,001 - \$12,000	10	9	8	15	10	7	10	9	9
\$12,001 - \$16,000	4	2	3	7	2	2	5	4	4
Over \$16,000	5	6	5	4	3	4	5	5	4
DK/Ref (VOL.)	18	15	18	12	15	12	13	13	14

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

[RANDOMIZE RESPONSES TO AVOID BIAS]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Charter School	10	8	8	6	8	12	18	11	9
Homeschooling	7	8	10	15	6	5	4	11	7
Private School	41	53	48	37	46	46	41	42	39
Regular Public School	38	30	31	41	37	34	32	33	44
Virtual School	< 1	< 1	0	0	< 1	1	< 1	1	< 1
DK/Ref (VOL.)	4	1	3	2	3	3	5	3	< 1

6. What is the most important school attribute (or characteristic) to be the main reason you would select a **[INSERT SCHOOL TYPE FROM QUESTION Q5]**?

[OPEN-END. IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

**Top 20 | Specific impressions offered by respondents in the statewide sample.
Numbers represent counts (n), not percentages.**

INDIANA	
TEACHER / TEACHERS	99
EDUCATION	89
ACADEMICS	43
QUALITY	42
SCHOOL	41
CURRICULUM	36
DISCIPLINE	31
ATTENTION	30
SMALL / SMALLER	28
TEACHER-STUDENT RATIO	26
ONE ON ONE	24
CHRISTIAN	19
INDIVIDUAL / INDIVIDUALIZED	19
CLASS SIZE	18
LEARNING	16
VALUES	15
DIVERSITY	14
GRADUATE / GRADUATION	13
TEACHING	13
DEDICATION	11

7. What type of school would be your second choice?

[RANDOMIZE RESPONSES TO AVOID BIAS]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Charter School	21	21	20	23	24	19	30	24	21
Homeschooling	15	12	19	16	8	14	10	14	15
Private School	30	29	27	30	33	35	30	30	34
Regular Public School	23	31	25	23	29	24	20	26	18
Virtual School	3	3	3	1	< 1	3	3	1	4
DK/Ref (VOL.)	8	4	7	7	6	6	6	5	9

“For the remainder of this interview, if you are completely unsure about your answer or have no feelings for an answer, feel free to say “I Don’t Know”.” [ENTER AS “DK”]

8. How familiar are you with “charter schools” in K-12 education?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Very Familiar	3	9	8	5	7	7	10	12	5
Somewhat Familiar	26	23	27	32	35	27	42	30	24
Not That Familiar	46	48	42	42	45	50	41	40	45
I Have Never Heard of “Charter Schools”	17	18	16	17	9	13	6	16	21
DK/Ref (VOL.)	5	2	7	4	4	3	2	3	5

9. Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, do you favor or oppose charter schools? **[PROBE:]** Would you say strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Strongly Favor	27	33	34	21	30	28	32	32	24
Somewhat Favor	39	34	35	49	42	36	48	37	46
Somewhat Oppose	10	9	13	8	9	13	7	7	8
Strongly Oppose	7	8	3	6	8	4	4	7	10
DK/Ref (VOL.)	17	16	15	16	12	19	9	18	12

10. How familiar are you with “virtual charter schools” in K-12 education?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Very Familiar	3	3	3	2	3	4	5	3	2
Somewhat Familiar	11	12	11	20	10	10	14	12	16
Not That Familiar	35	30	31	24	36	35	43	34	25
I Have Never Heard of “Virtual Charter Schools”	48	55	48	52	47	51	36	46	53
DK/Ref (VOL.)	4	1	7	3	4	1	3	5	4

11. In Indiana, virtual charter schools are publicly funded schools where a student learns from home using a state-approved curriculum and lessons delivered over the internet. The student is supervised by a teacher and required to take the same tests and assessments as other public school students. In general, do you favor or oppose virtual charter schools? **[PROBE:]** Would you say strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Strongly Favor	10	11	11	10	8	16	8	9	10
Somewhat Favor	27	35	31	33	28	25	34	30	28
Somewhat Oppose	22	20	23	20	23	19	20	16	22
Strongly Oppose	29	25	21	29	29	28	31	29	32
DK/Ref (VOL.)	12	10	14	8	12	11	7	15	8

12. Some states, including Indiana, give tax credits to individuals and businesses if they contribute money to nonprofit organizations that distribute private school scholarships. This policy supports a “tax-credit scholarship system”. In general, do you favor or oppose a tax-credit scholarship system? **[PROBE:]** Would you say strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Strongly Favor	28	33	35	25	32	39	38	35	28
Somewhat Favor	35	36	32	46	32	35	32	31	35
Somewhat Oppose	9	12	12	10	10	7	7	7	12
Strongly Oppose	13	10	7	8	12	10	10	12	16
DK/Ref (VOL.)	16	8	13	12	14	9	13	16	10

13. How familiar are you with “school vouchers” in K-12 education?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Very Familiar	8	8	10	5	12	4	11	13	5
Somewhat Familiar	24	27	22	35	28	25	26	30	24
Not That Familiar	35	29	38	27	37	35	42	33	37
I Have Never Heard of “School Vouchers”	30	36	26	31	22	34	18	23	32
DK/Ref (VOL.)	3	1	4	2	2	2	3	2	2

14. A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools.

If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a “school voucher” to pay partial or full tuition for their child’s school. In general, do you favor or oppose a school voucher system? **[PROBE:]** Would you say strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Strongly Favor	38	41	46	34	36	43	47	48	35
Somewhat Favor	28	28	30	35	25	27	29	26	31
Somewhat Oppose	11	12	5	10	17	9	11	10	12
Strongly Oppose	14	13	9	16	11	13	8	13	16
DK/Ref (VOL.)	10	5	9	5	11	8	5	4	6

15. Some people believe that school vouchers or scholarships should be available to all families, regardless of incomes and special needs. Do you agree or disagree with that statement? **[PROBE:]** Would you say strongly or somewhat agree/disagree?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Strongly Agree	54	52	59	45	54	56	59	56	57
Somewhat Agree	19	22	22	31	22	17	22	24	17
Somewhat Disagree	10	10	11	11	11	10	7	5	14
Strongly Disagree	13	14	7	10	11	14	9	12	9
DK/Ref (VOL.)	4	2	2	3	2	4	3	4	4

16. Some people believe that school vouchers or scholarships should be available to families based entirely on financial need. Do you agree or disagree with that statement? **[PROBE:]** Would you say strongly or somewhat agree/disagree?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Strongly Agree	21	22	22	20	18	25	27	22	21
Somewhat Agree	17	18	24	26	20	15	14	10	18
Somewhat Disagree	22	25	24	20	26	17	23	23	22
Strongly Disagree	37	34	28	33	32	35	34	40	34
DK/Ref (VOL.)	4	2	3	1	4	7	3	5	5

“Now, just a few questions for statistical purposes only. ...”

17. Are you currently the parent or guardian of a child who lives with you, and who is in any grade from Pre-School through High School?

[IF NEEDED: IF CHILD IS GOING INTO PRESCHOOL IN THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR, ENTER "YES"]

[IF NEEDED: IF CHILD JUST GRADUATED IN 2010, ENTER "NO"]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Yes	36	36	35	28	45	40	41	32	34
No	64	64	65	72	55	60	59	68	67
DK/Ref (VOL.)	< 1	0	1	1	0	< 1	0	0	0

18. Generally speaking, do you usually consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

[Code for Democrat, Republican, Independent, Libertarian, Tea Party, Other, or “DK”]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Democrat	31	30	42	30	24	44	35	32	41
Republican	28	31	26	38	43	19	27	29	23
Independent	25	21	23	23	22	19	28	29	24
Other	5	5	2	3	4	4	5	3	6
Libertarian (VOL.)	1	2	< 1	1	1	1	< 1	1	1
Tea Party (VOL.)	< 1	0	0	< 1	0	< 1	0	< 1	0
DK/Ref (VOL.)	11	10	7	5	6	12	6	5	5

19. How would you describe your views on most political matters? Generally, do you think of yourself as liberal, moderate, or conservative? **[Rotate Liberal and Conservative]**

[Code only for Liberal, Moderate, Conservative, or “DK”]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Liberal	13	15	19	13	17	20	14	18	29
Moderate	37	34	33	48	39	32	44	33	27
Conservative	40	43	40	35	37	33	35	41	33
DK/Ref (VOL.)	10	9	8	5	7	15	7	8	11

20. How would you best describe where you live?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Urban	14	25	24	14	9	26	32	30	18
Suburban	25	40	29	34	59	33	54	30	22
Small Town	35	14	31	31	21	32	5	17	39
Rural	25	18	14	22	10	8	8	20	21
DK/Ref (VOL.)	1	3	2	0	1	1	1	4	0

21. Which of the following age categories do you fall in?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
18 – 29	16	21	22	19	21	20	20	22	27
30 – 39	17	19	17	17	21	17	21	15	16
40 – 49	19	19	18	21	23	20	21	18	17
50 – 64	28	25	23	25	23	25	23	24	22
65 & Over	20	16	19	17	11	17	15	19	18
DK/Ref (VOL.)	< 1	0	0	1	< 1	< 1	0	1	0

22. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin or descent, or not?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Hispanic	2	5	7	1	2	13	6	1	2
Not Hispanic	98	95	93	98	97	87	94	97	98
DK/Ref (VOL.)	< 1	< 1	< 1	1	< 1	1	< 1	2	< 1

23. Which of the following describes your race?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Asian/Asian American	< 1	2	2	1	4	1	2	1	2
Black/African American	7	11	9	5	3	24	24	8	7
White/Caucasian	91	83	83	93	91	66	70	88	89
Other	1	4	4	1	2	7	3	2	2
DK/Ref (VOL.)	< 1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	< 1

24. What is your religion, if any? **[DO NOT READ CATEGORIES]**

[IF GIVEN SPECIFIC PROTESTANT DENOMINATION, SIMPLY CODE PROTESTANT]

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Catholic	18	29	24	30	17	33	15	27	14
Jewish	< 1	1	1	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1	0	< 1
Muslim	< 1	< 1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Protestant	64	52	63	53	63	54	69	57	69
Other	2	1	< 1	1	1	< 1	1	1	1
None	13	14	8	12	12	10	12	12	13
DK/Ref (VOL.)	4	3	4	3	5	2	3	4	3

25. What is the last grade or class that you completed in school? **[DO NOT READ CATEGORIES]**

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS "DK"]

None (Grades 1-8)

High School Incomplete (Grades 9-11)

High school Graduate (Grade 12 or GED Certificate)

Technical, Trade, or Vocational School (AFTER High School)

Some College (Associate's Degree, No 4-Yr Degree)

College Graduate (Bachelor's Degree., or Other 4-Yr Degree)

Post-Graduate Training or Professional Schooling After College (e.g., Toward a Master's Degree, Ph.D.; Law, Medical School)

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Grades 1 to 8	2	2	3	4	< 1	2	2	4	5
Grades 9 to 11	13	11	14	9	5	13	14	9	10
HS Graduate	34	28	29	32	17	35	29	32	29
Technical/Vocational	2	4	4	3	1	2	1	1	4
Some College	29	31	27	30	27	30	27	33	32
College Graduate	12	14	16	14	34	11	16	13	11
Post-Graduate	9	11	7	6	16	6	10	8	8
DK/Ref (VOL.)	< 1	< 1	0	1	< 1	0	0	0	< 1

26. Would you tell me into which of the following categories your total family income falls?

[IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE. IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS “DK”]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Under \$25,000	19	17	19	14	9	19	21	24	22
\$25,000 – \$49,999	24	28	27	20	11	26	28	21	24
\$50,000 – \$74,999	20	19	20	29	15	24	18	19	22
\$75,000 – \$124,999	13	13	14	18	30	13	16	11	12
\$125,000 – \$200,000	5	5	5	6	11	2	6	6	4
Over \$200,000	1	1	2	3	7	1	1	1	1
DK/Ref (VOL.)	18	16	14	11	18	16	12	19	15

27. [CODE GENDER OF RESPONDENT; DO NOT ASK, UNLESS GENDER IS IN QUESTION]

	INDIANA	Allen	Elkhart & St. Joseph	Floyd	Hamilton	Lake	Marion	Vanderburgh	Vigo
Male	48	48	48	47	49	47	48	46	49
Female	52	52	52	53	51	53	52	54	51

[PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING TEXT AVAILABLE TO INTERVIEWERS ANYTIME A RESPONDENT ASKS ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE]

The Foundation for Educational Choice is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization that studies attitudes toward K-12 education issues facing the states and the country. The Foundation has no connection to the government, political parties, or any campaigns. Reports about its surveys are made available free of charge on their website EdChoice *dot* ORG.