

Missouri K-12 & School Choice Survey Questions and Results

Interview Dates:	February 27 to March 11, 2014
Sample Frame:	Registered Voters
Population Samples:	MISSOURI (statewide) = 660 St. Louis Metro = 227 Kansas City Metro (statewide plus oversample) = 165
Margins of Error:	MISSOURI = ± 4.0 percentage points St. Louis Metro = ± 6.5 percentage points Kansas City Metro = ± 7.6 percentage points

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%.

“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”]

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

	Male	Female
MISSOURI	48	52

1. Which of the following do you see as the most important issue facing the state of Missouri right now?

[RANDOMIZE RESPONSES 1-9 TO AVOID BIAS]

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

	Crime	Economy & Jobs	Education	Environment	Healthcare	Housing	Immigration	Values Issues	Taxes
MISSOURI	6	43	14	3	13	1	2	6	6
St. Louis Metro	8	46	15	4	13	1	2	5	4
Kansas City Metro	8	39	14	3	12	2	4	2	8

2. Do you feel things in Missouri’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?

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

	Right Direction	Wrong Track	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	37	56	7
St. Louis Metro	30	64	6
Kansas City Metro	33	59	8

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

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

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	6	36	42	15	2
St. Louis Metro	3	31	47	16	3
Kansas City Metro	5	31	42	20	2

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

[OPEN-END. BASED ON RESPONSE, SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES]

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

	Less than \$4,000	\$4,001 – \$8,000	\$8,001 – \$12,000	\$12,001 – \$16,000	Over \$16,000	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	21	28	17	6	6	22
St. Louis Metro	17	29	17	10	5	23
Kansas City Metro	28	21	14	7	5	24

5. **(Split A)** Do you believe that public school funding in Missouri is at a level that is:

[ROTATE “TOO HIGH” AND “TOO LOW”]

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

	Too High	About Right	Too Low	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	10	26	57	7
St. Louis Metro	10	25	58	7
Kansas City Metro	7	32	53	8

5. (*Split B*) According to the most recent information available, in Missouri \$9,461 is being spent each year per student attending public schools. Do you believe that public school funding in MISSOURI is at a level that is:

[ROTATE “TOO HIGH” AND “TOO LOW”]

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

	Too High	About Right	Too Low	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	18	36	41	6
St. Louis Metro	19	30	47	4
Kansas City Metro	13	39	38	6

6. In thinking about the schools in your area, what grade would you give...

[GRADE OPTIONS: A, B, C, D, or F]

[ROTATE "REGULAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS," "CHARTER SCHOOLS," "PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS"]

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

MISSOURI	A	B	C	D	F	DNA/DK/Ref (VOL.)
Regular Public Schools	10	32	32	15	7	5
Charter Schools	8	27	16	4	3	42
Private Schools	26	37	13	3	1	21

7. 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”]

	Charter School	Homeschool	Private School	Regular Public School	Virtual School	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	11	10	39	32	3	5
St. Louis Metro	8	4	45	30	5	8
Kansas City Metro	12	18	35	30	2	3

8. What is the most important characteristic or attribute that would cause you to choose a **[INSERT SCHOOL TYPE FROM PREVIOUS QUESTION]** for your child? Please use one word, or a very short phrase.

[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.

MISSOURI

BETTER EDUCATION / QUALITY	71
INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION / ONE-ON-ONE	62
ACADEMICS / CURRICULUM	59
BETTER TEACHERS / TEACHERS / TEACHING	57
SOCIALIZATION / PEERS / OTHER KIDS	48
CLASS SIZE / STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO	35
DIVERSITY / VARIETY	32
ENVIRONMENT / CULTURE / COMMUNITY	32
SAFETY / LESS DRUGS, VIOLENCE, BULLYING	27
DISCIPLINE / STRUCTURE	26
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OTHER RESPONSES	42
DK / NO RESPONSE / REFUSED	20

“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”]

9. Based on what you know, or have heard from others... 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”]

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	13	35	12	7	33
St. Louis Metro	12	43	11	8	26
Kansas City Metro	15	29	15	9	31

10. 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”]

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	19	45	15	8	12
St. Louis Metro	16	51	14	9	10
Kansas City Metro	21	34	19	10	15

11. Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, do you favor or oppose “school vouchers”?

[PROBE:] Would you say strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

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

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	18	24	11	12	36
St. Louis Metro	17	25	14	13	31
Kansas City Metro	17	20	9	13	41

12. 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”]

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	29	33	13	19	6
St. Louis Metro	26	33	13	21	6
Kansas City Metro	28	31	15	19	7

13. A “tax credit” allows an individual or business to reduce the final amount of a tax owed to government. Some states give tax credits to individuals and businesses if they contribute money to nonprofit organizations that distribute private school scholarships. A “tax-credit scholarship 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. 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”]

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	27	41	16	11	5
St. Louis Metro	21	43	19	13	4
Kansas City Metro	33	33	19	10	6

[RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 14 AND 15]

14. Some people believe that tax-credit 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”]

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	32	27	17	15	9
St. Louis Metro	28	25	21	16	10
Kansas City Metro	38	25	14	13	9

15. Some people believe that tax-credit scholarships should only be available to families based 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”]

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	20	26	22	25	7
St. Louis Metro	22	26	22	24	6
Kansas City Metro	23	25	14	29	9

16. Thinking ahead to the next election, if a candidate for Governor, State Senator or Representative supports tax-credit scholarships, would that make you more likely to vote for him or her, less likely, or make no difference whatsoever in your voting?

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

	More Likely	No Difference	Less Likely	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	33	47	14	6
St. Louis Metro	33	46	15	5
Kansas City Metro	33	47	15	6

17. An "education savings account" – often called an ESA – allows parents to take their child out of a public district or charter school, and receive a payment into a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses. Parents can then use these funds to pay for private school tuition, online education programs, private tutoring or saving for future college expenses. In general, do you favor or oppose this kind of “savings account system”?

[PROBE:] Would you say strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

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

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	24	36	15	17	9
St. Louis Metro	21	39	15	19	5
Kansas City Metro	30	26	12	20	12

“Now thinking about a couple of other education issues in Missouri...”

18. We would like your opinion on a certain kind of student transfer policy. When a public school district loses its accreditation, students who live in that district may switch (or transfer) to another accredited district within the same or an adjoining county. In general, do you favor or oppose this kind of “student transfer policy”?

[PROBE:] Would you say strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

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

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	27	33	15	15	9
St. Louis Metro	21	35	19	18	7
Kansas City Metro	38	24	12	17	9

19. Now we want to ask what you believe state government should do to intervene – if at all – in unaccredited school districts. On a scale from 1 to 5, please rate how useful each one of the following actions would be to affected students and families? A “1” would reflect least useful action; a “5” would reflect most useful action.

[RANDOMIZE RESPONSES 1 to 4, TO AVOID BIAS]

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

Percentage of respondents rating “4” or “5”

	MISSOURI	St. Louis Metro	Kansas City Metro
Convert all schools in district to public charter schools	26	23	21
Dismiss and replace the elected board of that district	47	53	46
Close the school district and reassign student to adjoining districts	27	27	25
Supply a voucher or scholarship to parents to enroll their child in another school, either private or public	47	46	49
DK/Ref (VOL.)	16	13	15

20. In the state of Louisiana, elected officials enacted a policy that allows the state to take over the management or operations of low-performing public schools. In general, would you favor or oppose a similar kind of “state takeover policy” for Missouri?

[PROBE:] Would you say strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

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

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	15	33	18	23	12
St. Louis Metro	20	35	17	16	11
Kansas City Metro	18	33	19	20	10

“Now the following questions should be pretty quick, and for statistical purposes only....”

21. Are you currently the parent or guardian of a child who lives with you, and who is in any grade from preschool through high school?

[IF NEEDED: IF CHILD IS CURRENTLY ENROLLED OR ENTERING PRESCHOOL IN THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR, ENTER "YES"]

[IF NEEDED: IF YOUNGEST CHILD JUST GRADUATED IN 2013, ENTER "NO"]

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

	Yes	No < PK	No > HS	No Children	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	31	6	24	37	2

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

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

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

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other	Libertarian (VOL.)	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	28	26	30	8	2	7

23. How would you best describe where you live?

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

	Urban	Suburban	Small Town	Rural	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	19	40	20	20	1

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

[OPEN END, THEN CODE TO AGE CATEGORY]

	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 & Over	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	28	36	34	2

25. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

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

	Hispanic	Not Hispanic	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	3	96	1

26. Which of the following best describes your race?

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

	American Indian, Native American	Asian, Pacific Islander, Asian American	Black, African American	Mixed Race	White	Other	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	< 1	2	9	1	85	< 1	2

27. 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 (Toward a Master's Degree, Ph.D.; Law, Medical School)

	Grades 1 to 8	Grades 9 to 11	HS Graduate	Technical/ Vocational	Some College	College Graduate	Post- Graduate	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	< 1	3	22	5	29	24	17	< 1

28. Please stop me when I read the category that best describes your current annual household income, before taxes?

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

	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$79,999	\$80,000 & Over	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MISSOURI	37	35	20	8

[PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING TEXT AVAILABLE TO INTERVIEWERS ANYTIME A RESPONDENT ASKS ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE SURVEY SPONSOR OR FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION]

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