**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2014 SCHOOLING IN AMERICA SURVEY**

1,007 phone interviews with adults (age 18+) in the United States  
Conducted April 23 to May 4, 2014 | Released June 26, 2014

**DIRECTION OF K-12 EDUCATION**

Americans are more likely to think K-12 education has gotten off on the “wrong track” (58%), compared with about one-third of adults (33%) who say it is heading in the “right direction.”

**RATING FEDERAL ACTIVITY**

Nearly three-quarters of Americans have a dim view of the federal government’s performance in K-12 education (74% say “fair” or “poor”). Just 22% say “good” or “excellent.”

**SPENDING ON K-12 EDUCATION**

Two out of three respondents (67%) either underestimate educational spending per student, or they could not guess. When given actual spending information, Americans are significantly less likely to say funding is at a level that is “too low,” compared to answering without having such information.

**GRADING AREA SCHOOLS**

Of those respondents giving a grade, Americans are much more likely to give an A or B to private schools (78%) in their local areas, compared to nearby district schools (45%) and charter schools (59%).

**SCHOOLING PREFERENCE**

Americans have a wide range of schooling preferences: 37% would choose a public school; 40% prefer private school; 10% say public charter school; 11% would like to home-school.

**SCHOOL CHOICE**

- Charter schools are supported by a majority of Americans. A solid majority (61%) say they favor charter schools, whereas 26% of respondents say they oppose charters.
- More than six out of ten Americans (63%) said they support school vouchers, compared with 33% who said they oppose such a school choice system.
- A solid majority of Americans (56%) said they support an “education savings account” system (“ESA”), whereas 34% oppose the idea.
- Nearly two-thirds of Americans support “tax-credit scholarships.” The percentage of those who favor (64%) is much greater than the proportion of adults who say they oppose this type of reform (25%).

**COMMON CORE, TESTING**

- Half of Americans (50%) said they support the Common Core, compared with 41% who said they oppose this policy.
- “Champions” - strongly supportive - are more likely to be urban, Democrat, low-income earners, and African American.
- “Dissidents” - strongly opposed - are more likely to be a school parent, Independent, middle-income earner, and live in suburban and small-town communities.
- A plurality of Americans (36%) said the amount of time spent on standardized testing is “too high,” compared with 24% who said “too low.”
- Twice the number of school parents said the amount of testing time is “too high” (44%), versus those who said “too low” (22%).
Title: 2014 Schooling in America Survey

Survey Data Collection & Quality Control: Braun Research, Inc. (BRI)

Survey Sponsor & Developer: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

Interview Dates: April 23 to May 4, 2014

Interview Method: Live Telephone | 70% landline and 30% cell phone

Interview Length: 16 minutes (average)

Language(s): English

Sample Frame: Adults (age 18+)

Sampling Method: Dual Frame; Probability Sampling; RDD

Population Sample: National/American Adults = 1,007

Margin of Error: National/American Adults = ± 3.1 percentage points

Response Rates: Landline (LL) = 15.8%

Cell Phone = 14.1%

Weighting? Yes (Landline/Cell, Age, Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Region)

Oversampling? No

Project Contact:
Paul DiPerna | Research Director | paul@edchoice.org