

# 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 10 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%).

## SURVEY PROFILE

<b>Title:</b>	2014 Schooling in America Survey
<b>Survey Data Collection &amp; Quality Control:</b>	Braun Research, Inc. (BRI)
<b>Survey Sponsor &amp; Developer:</b>	Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice
<b>Interview Dates:</b>	April 23 to May 4, 2014
<b>Interview Method:</b>	Live Telephone   70% landline and 30% cell phone
<b>Interview Length:</b>	16 minutes (average)
<b>Language(s):</b>	English
<b>Sample Frame:</b>	Adults (age 18+)
<b>Sampling Method:</b>	Dual Frame; Probability Sampling; RDD
<b>Population Sample:</b>	National/American Adults = 1,007
<b>Margin of Error:</b>	National/American Adults = $\pm$ 3.1 percentage points
<b>Response Rates:</b>	Landline (LL) = 15.8% Cell Phone = 14.1%
<b>Weighting?</b>	Yes (Landline/Cell, Age, Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Region)
<b>Oversampling?</b>	No

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