

## Minnesota K-12 & School Choice Survey Questions and Results

**Interview Dates:** February 7 to 24, 2015  
**Sample Frame:** Registered Voters  
**Population Samples:** MINNESOTA (statewide) = 606  
Twin Cities = 323

**Margins of Error:** MINNESOTA =  $\pm 4.0$  percentage points  
Twin Cities =  $\pm 5.5$  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%.*

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**“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
MINNESOTA	49	51

1. Which of the following do you see as the most important issue facing the state of Minnesota 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
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	4	19	20	5	15	5	6	5	15
<b>Twin Cities</b>	2	20	22	6	13	5	6	4	16

2. 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 2014, ENTER "NO"]**

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

	Yes	No < PK	No > HS	No Children	DK/Ref (VOL.)
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	29	3	30	39	0

3. Do you feel things in Minnesota’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.)
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Twin Cities</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>11</b>

4. How would you rate Minnesota’s public school system?

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

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	DK/Ref (VOL.)
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Twin Cities</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

5. How much do you think is spent per year on each student in Minnesota’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.)
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Twin Cities</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>23</b>

**[RANDOMLY ASSIGN QUESTIONS 6A AND 6B]**

6. **(Split A)** Do you believe that public school funding in Minnesota 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.)
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	11	39	45	4
<b>Twin Cities</b>	11	39	46	4

6. **(Split B)** According to the most recent information available, in Minnesota \$10,781 is being spent each year per student attending public schools. Do you believe that public school funding in MINNESOTA 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.)
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	22	40	31	6
<b>Twin Cities</b>	23	41	30	6

7. 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”]

ALL RESPONDENTS	A	B	C	D	F	DNA/DK/Ref (VOL.)
Regular Public Schools	14	40	32	7	3	4
Charter Schools	11	30	17	5	1	37
Private Schools	26	38	10	2	1	23

8. 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”]**

	<b>Charter School</b>	<b>Homeschool</b>	<b>Private School</b>	<b>Regular Public School</b>	<b>Virtual School</b>	<b>DK/Ref (VOL.)</b>
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Twin Cities</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

9. 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.**

**MINNESOTA**

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<b>BETTER EDUCATION / QUALITY</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION / ONE-ON-ONE</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>DIVERSITY / VARIETY</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>SOCIALIZATION / PEERS / OTHER KIDS</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>CLASS SIZE / STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>TEACHERS / BETTER TEACHERS / TEACHING</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>MORALS / VALUES / ETHICS</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>ACADEMICS / CURRICULUM</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENT / CULTURE / COMMUNITY</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>DISCIPLINE / STRUCTURE</b>	<b>25</b>

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<b>OTHER RESPONSES</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>DK / NO RESPONSE / REFUSED</b>	<b>18</b>



**“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”]**

**10.**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”]**

	<b>Strongly Favor</b>	<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	<b>DK/Ref (VOL.)</b>
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Twin Cities</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>

11. 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.)
MINNESOTA	20	38	20	8	14
Twin Cities	18	36	23	8	14

12. 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”]

	<b>Strongly Favor</b>	<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	<b>DK/Ref (VOL.)</b>
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Twin Cities</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>32</b>

13. 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”]**

	<b>Strongly Favor</b>	<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	<b>DK/Ref (VOL.)</b>
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Twin Cities</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>

14. 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, tutoring, online education programs, special needs therapies, or save 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”]**

	<b>Strongly Favor</b>	<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	<b>DK/Ref (VOL.)</b>
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Twin Cities</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>

15. The Minnesota State Legislature is considering a proposal that would provide education savings accounts to students with physical disabilities or diagnosed with other special needs. In general, do you favor or oppose this kind of proposal?

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

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

	<b>Strongly Favor</b>	<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	<b>DK/Ref (VOL.)</b>
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Twin Cities</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>

16. Thinking ahead to the next election, if a candidate for Governor, State Senate, or State Representative supports education savings accounts, 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.)
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	31	52	14	3
<b>Twin Cities</b>	29	54	14	3

17.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”]**

	<b>Strongly Favor</b>	<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	<b>DK/Ref (VOL.)</b>
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Twin Cities</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>



18. [IF Q17 = “Strongly Favor” OR “Somewhat Favor”] What is the most important reason you say you favor tax-credit scholarships? Is your main reason that such a system provides:

[RANDOMIZE RESPONSES 1 to 5, TO AVOID BIAS]

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

	MINNESOTA	Twin Cities
Access to Religious Schools	7	7
Access to Safer Schools	5	5
Access to Schools Having Better Academics	27	30
Access to Schools Providing More Individual Attention	19	17
More Freedom and Flexibility for Parents	36	33
(Something Else/Other)	4	4
DK/Ref (VOL.)	3	3

18. [IF Q17 = “Strongly Oppose” OR “Somewhat Oppose”] What is the most important reason you say you favor tax-credit scholarships? Is your main reason that such a system would:

[RANDOMIZE RESPONSES 1 to 5, TO AVOID BIAS]

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

	MINNESOTA	Twin Cities
Benefit Businesses and Wealthy Individuals	17	16
Cause Fraudulent Behavior	9	12
Cause Student Transportation Problems	1	0
Divert Funding Away from Public Schools	49	49
Send Funding to Religious Schools	7	8
(Something Else/Other)	10	9
DK/Ref (VOL.)	6	5

“Just a couple more questions about tax-credit scholarships...”

**[RANDOMLY ASSIGN QUESTIONS 19A AND 19B]**

**19. (Split A)** 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”]**

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>DK/Ref (VOL.)</b>
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Twin Cities</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>

**19. (Split B)** 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”]**

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>DK/Ref (VOL.)</b>
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Twin Cities</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>

**20.** Thinking ahead to the next election, if a candidate for Governor, State Senate, or State 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”]**

	<b>More Likely</b>	<b>No Difference</b>	<b>Less Likely</b>	<b>DK/Ref (VOL.)</b>
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Twin Cities</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>

**[RANDOMLY ASSIGN QUESTIONS 21A AND 21B]**

**21. (Split A)** How influential to you is the teachers union’s endorsement of a candidate running for state office like Governor, State Senator, or State Representative?

**[PROBE:]** Would you say strong or modest positive/negative?

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

	<b>Strong Positive</b>	<b>Modest Positive</b>	<b>Does Not Matter</b>	<b>Modest Negative</b>	<b>Strong Negative</b>	<b>DK/Ref (VOL.)</b>
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Twin Cities</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>

**21. (Split B)** How influential to you is a parent advocacy organization’s endorsement of a candidate running for state office like Governor, State Senator, or State Representative?

**[PROBE:]** Would you say strong or modest positive/negative?

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

	<b>Strong Positive</b>	<b>Modest Positive</b>	<b>Does Not Matter</b>	<b>Modest Negative</b>	<b>Strong Negative</b>	<b>DK/Ref (VOL.)</b>
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Twin Cities</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>

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

**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”]**

	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Other (VOL.)</b>	<b>Libertarian (VOL.)</b>	<b>DK/Ref (VOL.)</b>
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

**23. How would you best describe where you live?**

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

	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Suburban</b>	<b>Small Town</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>DK/Ref (VOL.)</b>
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>&lt; 1</b>

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.)
MINNESOTA	23	35	41	1

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.)
MINNESOTA	2	98	0

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 (VOL.)	DK/Ref (VOL.)
MINNESOTA	< 1	4	3	< 1	92	< 1	0



27. 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.)
MINNESOTA	26	31	34	10

[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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