

LOUISIANA

K-12 & SCHOOL CHOICE SURVEY

What Do Voters Say About K-12 Education?

Interview Dates:	February 14-18; 23-27, 2012
Sample Frame:	Registered Voters
Sample Sizes:	LOUISIANA=802; East Baton Rouge=326; Livingston=325; Orleans=325; St. Tammany=333; Tangipahoa=325
Split Sample Sizes:	“Split A”=401; “Split B”=401
Margin of Error:	± 3.5 percentage points for the statewide sample; ± 5.4 percentage points (approx.) for each parish sample ± 4.1 percentage points for each split sample

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”]

1. How much attention do you pay to issues involving K-12 education?

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

	A Lot	Some	Very Little	None	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	50	28	15	6	< 1
East Baton Rouge	45	31	16	8	< 1
Livingston	49	31	16	4	< 1
Orleans	50	30	13	7	< 1
St. Tammany	46	31	16	7	0
Tangipahoa	52	27	15	6	0

2. Do you feel things in Louisiana’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.)
LOUISIANA	34	50	16
East Baton Rouge	20	64	16
Livingston	40	48	13
Orleans	48	38	14
St. Tammany	50	35	16
Tangipahoa	33	50	16

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

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

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	7	27	37	26	3
East Baton Rouge	3	15	37	43	1
Livingston	7	31	37	23	2
Orleans	5	25	39	27	4
St. Tammany	8	35	42	14	2
Tangipahoa	2	26	39	29	4

4. How much do you think is currently spent on each student in Louisiana'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. 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.)
LOUISIANA	29	28	11	3	4	26
East Baton Rouge	34	26	11	2	3	24
Livingston	26	30	11	4	5	25
Orleans	31	28	18	5	1	16
St. Tammany	22	34	14	4	1	25
Tangipahoa	35	29	6	4	3	24

5. (*Split A*) Do you believe that public school funding in Louisiana 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.)
LOUISIANA	7	28	57	9
East Baton Rouge	9	19	60	11
Livingston	8	34	48	10
Orleans	5	29	59	6
St. Tammany	7	26	58	8
Tangipahoa	13	17	56	13

5. **(Split B)*** According to the most recent information available, in Louisiana \$7,992 is being spent each year per student attending public schools. Do you believe that public school funding in Louisiana 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.)
LOUISIANA	14	31	45	10
East Baton Rouge	11	30	48	12
Livingston	19	33	39	8
Orleans	9	29	54	9
St. Tammany	15	46	33	6
Tangipahoa	12	35	44	9

* The author made an error when constructing this question. The actual 2008-2009 per-student “current” spending figure for Louisiana is \$10,625. The state’s per-student “total” spending figure is \$12,075 for 2008-2009.

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

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

[RANDOMIZE “REGULAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS”, “CHARTER SCHOOLS”, “PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS”]

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

(a) Regular Public Schools

	A	B	C	D	F	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	10	24	33	22	8	4
East Baton Rouge	7	18	30	27	15	4
Livingston	19	34	30	9	5	4
Orleans	4	17	35	25	14	5
St. Tammany	22	42	23	8	3	3
Tangipahoa	4	27	33	22	10	4

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

(b) Charter Schools

	A	B	C	D	F	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	10	24	21	4	3	39
East Baton Rouge	10	22	21	7	3	38
Livingston	4	21	13	4	3	55
Orleans	16	37	23	8	4	12
St. Tammany	7	24	8	< 1	2	59
Tangipahoa	8	25	21	5	2	39

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

(c) Private or Parochial Schools

	A	B	C	D	F	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	28	36	16	4	2	15
East Baton Rouge	31	37	14	3	2	13
Livingston	33	24	11	2	3	28
Orleans	26	43	18	2	1	11
St. Tammany	33	39	11	1	1	15
Tangipahoa	28	40	14	3	< 1	14

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.)
LOUISIANA	10	8	49	31	< 1	3
East Baton Rouge	6	7	60	25	< 1	2
Livingston	3	8	46	39	< 1	3
Orleans	26	3	51	10	0	10
St. Tammany	5	8	47	39	0	< 1
Tangipahoa	10	11	54	24	< 1	2

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

LOUISIANA

BETTER EDUCATION / QUALITY	125
INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION / ONE-ON-ONE	110
BETTER TEACHERS / TEACHERS / TEACHING	79
DISCIPLINE / STRUCTURE	60
CLASS SIZE / STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO	54
ALMA MATER / SOCIAL NETWORK	46
PRIVATE SCHOOL: POSITIVE MENTIONS	42
PUBLIC SCHOOL: POSITIVE MENTIONS	38
CURRICULUM / ACADEMICS	35
SOCIALIZATION / PEERS / OTHER KIDS	34
PUBLIC SCHOOL: NEGATIVE MENTIONS	31
SAFETY / LESS DRUGS, VIOLENCE, BULLYING	28
RELIGION / RELIGIOUS REASONS	26
COST / TUITION / AFFORDABILITY	24
ENVIRONMENT / CULTURE / COMMUNITY	21
SCHOOL RESOURCES / FUNDING	21
STANDARDS / MORE CHALLENGING	19
MORALS / VALUES / ETHICS	17
OUTCOMES / RESULTS / GRADUATION RATE	16
PARENTS / PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	15
<hr/>	
OTHER RESPONSES	85
DK / NO RESPONSE / REFUSED	39

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

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

	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not That Familiar	I Have Never Heard of “Charter Schools”	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	10	27	47	12	4
East Baton Rouge	12	29	47	8	4
Livingston	4	21	55	17	4
Orleans	26	42	25	4	4
St. Tammany	5	28	57	8	2
Tangipahoa	6	34	41	14	5

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.)
LOUISIANA	28	33	12	9	17
East Baton Rouge	30	34	10	10	17
Livingston	18	37	11	11	23
Orleans	43	34	10	7	7
St. Tammany	27	35	9	6	23
Tangipahoa	30	39	10	6	16

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

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

	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not That Familiar	I Have Never Heard of “School Vouchers”	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	11	27	33	25	3
East Baton Rouge	14	34	28	23	1
Livingston	10	29	36	20	5
Orleans	12	34	31	21	2
St. Tammany	11	29	38	21	2
Tangipahoa	11	27	34	27	2

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.)
LOUISIANA	39	24	11	18	9
East Baton Rouge	34	29	10	21	7
Livingston	35	25	11	18	11
Orleans	35	32	10	15	8
St. Tammany	37	23	10	22	8
Tangipahoa	47	20	11	14	8

13. How familiar are you with the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program which is also known as the New Orleans Voucher (or Scholarship) Program?

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

	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not That Familiar	I Have Never Heard of This Program	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	8	14	31	43	3
East Baton Rouge	7	20	28	44	1
Livingston	4	16	32	44	3
Orleans	6	22	32	36	5
St. Tammany	6	18	34	41	2
Tangipahoa	6	20	30	42	2

14. Enacted in 2008, the Student Scholarships Program currently provides state-funded vouchers to approximately 2,000 low-income Orleans Parish students who attended a failing public school the previous year so they can attend the private school of their choosing. In general, do you favor or oppose this kind of program?
[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.)
LOUISIANA	34	29	12	14	11
East Baton Rouge	29	32	11	15	13
Livingston	28	27	9	21	15
Orleans	37	33	10	10	10
St. Tammany	31	33	10	15	12
Tangipahoa	41	27	10	14	8

15. What is the most important reason for your response regarding the Student Scholarship Program? Please use one word, or a very short phrase.

[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.

LOUISIANA	
BETTER EDUCATION / QUALITY	139
CHOICE / FLEXIBILITY / FREEDOM	68
HELPS LESS FORTUNATE	61
OPPORTUNITIES	50
HELPS CHILDREN	44
UNFAIR	42
GOOD IDEA	34
HURTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	17
BAD IDEA	10
PRIVATE SCHOOL: NEGATIVE MENTIONS	10
COST / TUITION / AFFORDABILITY	9
FAIR / EQUALITY	9
FIX CURRENT PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM	9
FUNDS / RESOURCES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ONLY	9
PUBLIC SCHOOL: NEGATIVE MENTIONS	9
BAD USE OF TAX MONEY	8
PARENTS / PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	7
GOVERNMENT: NEGATIVE MENTIONS	6
PRIVATE SCHOOL: POSITIVE MENTIONS	5
PUBLIC SCHOOL: POSITIVE MENTIONS	5
SCHOLARSHIPS: POSITIVE MENTIONS	5
NOT FAMILIAR / NEED MORE INFORMATION	38
OTHER RESPONSES	123
DK / NO RESPONSE / REFUSED	125

16. A proposal has been made that would extend voucher eligibility to any low-income or middle-income student whose school gets a C, D or F grade based on the state’s accountability system. 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”]

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	29	30	14	16	11
East Baton Rouge	27	30	13	17	13
Livingston	30	24	11	22	14
Orleans	33	28	17	12	9
St. Tammany	27	32	14	16	12
Tangipahoa	38	30	10	14	9

17. Tenure is the status granted to a teacher after some period of time, giving a teacher certain rights, and requiring detailed rules and procedures for his/her dismissal, lay off, or firing. Based on what you have heard or read, how much do you favor or oppose allowing tenure for public school teachers? **[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.)
LOUISIANA	23	24	12	24	17
East Baton Rouge	22	26	15	26	12
Livingston	22	25	14	25	14
Orleans	24	30	16	16	14
St. Tammany	16	28	13	29	15
Tangipahoa	27	28	11	22	12

18. A proposal has been made to change the guidelines for teacher tenure, seniority status, and salaries. This plan would eliminate tenure for teachers who don't meet certain qualifications on the state's teacher evaluation system. The proposal also ends annual pay raises based on years in the classroom, and it bans the use of seniority in all personnel decisions. 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"]

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	36	21	15	18	11
East Baton Rouge	35	26	15	16	9
Livingston	36	22	11	18	13
Orleans	31	32	12	17	8
St. Tammany	35	25	16	14	10
Tangipahoa	40	20	12	20	8

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

19. 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 2011, ENTER "NO"]

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

	Yes	No	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	37	62	< 1
East Baton Rouge	37	63	0
Livingston	46	54	0
Orleans	38	62	0
St. Tammany	38	62	0
Tangipahoa	38	62	< 1

20. 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.)
LOUISIANA	37	29	24	1	< 1	8
East Baton Rouge	39	31	20	< 1	0	10
Livingston	20	43	26	< 1	< 1	9
Orleans	55	18	17	< 1	< 1	9
St. Tammany	20	40	30	2	< 1	7
Tangipahoa	33	30	23	1	< 1	12

21. **(Split A)** 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”]

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Other	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	14	30	44	2	10
East Baton Rouge	19	34	36	1	10
Livingston	7	25	59	2	8
Orleans	18	39	35	< 1	8
St. Tammany	13	37	43	2	5
Tangipahoa	11	35	43	2	10

21. **(Split B)** How would you describe your views on most political matters? Generally, do you think of yourself as progressive, moderate, or conservative? **[Rotate Progressive and Conservative]**

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

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

	Progressive	Moderate	Conservative	Other	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	13	36	43	2	6
East Baton Rouge	21	38	35	0	7
Livingston	8	39	41	1	11
Orleans	26	43	26	< 1	6
St. Tammany	12	32	46	2	8
Tangipahoa	14	37	43	1	5

22. 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.)
LOUISIANA	20	24	30	26	< 1
East Baton Rouge	33	36	14	14	2
Livingston	6	19	31	42	2
Orleans	57	30	8	3	2
St. Tammany	10	39	26	23	< 1
Tangipahoa	5	12	49	33	< 1

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

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

	18 – 29	30 –39	40 – 49	50 – 64	65 & Over	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	19	15	18	30	18	< 1
East Baton Rouge	25	17	17	25	15	< 1
Livingston	17	21	22	26	14	< 1
Orleans	25	16	18	26	14	< 1
St. Tammany	15	16	20	30	18	< 1
Tangipahoa	24	15	18	27	16	< 1

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

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

	Hispanic	Not Hispanic	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	4	94	2
East Baton Rouge	5	94	1
Livingston	3	94	4
Orleans	3	91	6
St. Tammany	4	95	1
Tangipahoa	4	95	1

25. Which of the following 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.)
LOUISIANA	< 1	1	29	< 1	67	2	< 1
East Baton Rouge	0	2	41	< 1	56	1	0
Livingston	< 1	< 1	5	< 1	93	2	0
Orleans	0	2	58	< 1	38	2	0
St. Tammany	< 1	< 1	9	< 1	89	1	0
Tangipahoa	< 1	0	25	< 1	74	< 1	0

26. 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"]

	Catholic	Jewish	Mormon	Muslim	Protestant	Other	None	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	31	< 1	< 1	< 1	58	< 1	7	3
East Baton Rouge	20	< 1	< 1	< 1	65	< 1	8	4
Livingston	18	0	< 1	< 1	67	0	11	3
Orleans	26	< 1	0	1	58	1	9	3
St. Tammany	42	1	0	< 1	45	< 1	8	3
Tangipahoa	24	2	1	0	64	< 1	6	3

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.)
LOUISIANA	1	7	7	5	23	24	10	< 1
East Baton Rouge	< 1	4	4	5	23	25	16	< 1
Livingston	2	9	9	6	23	19	6	1
Orleans	< 1	5	5	2	23	25	16	1
St. Tammany	1	3	3	4	24	27	18	< 1
Tangipahoa	< 1	10	10	9	22	18	12	< 1

28. 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"]

	Under \$25,000	\$25,000 – \$49,999	\$50,000 – \$74,999	\$75,000 – \$124,999	\$125,000 – \$200,000	Over \$200,000	DK/Ref (VOL.)
LOUISIANA	20	20	17	19	5	4	16
East Baton Rouge	14	20	17	22	7	3	17
Livingston	16	25	16	18	7	< 1	18
Orleans	22	21	21	15	4	3	14
St. Tammany	8	18	21	16	10	5	22
Tangipahoa	27	26	14	15	3	2	14

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

	Male	Female
LOUISIANA	48	53
East Baton Rouge	50	51
Livingston	51	49
Orleans	49	51
St. Tammany	49	51
Tangipahoa	47	53

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

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