

MOMS AND SCHOOLS SURVEY

NATIONWIDE PUBLIC OPINION ON SCHOOLING

Interview Dates:	April 17 to 24, 2012
Sample Frame:	Adults (18+)
Sample Sizes:	NATIONAL = 803 Moms = 401; Non-Moms = 677 Northeast = 145; South = 295; Midwest = 177 ; West = 185
Margins of Error:	NATIONAL = ± 3.5 percentage points Moms = ± 4.9 percentage points; Non-Moms = ± 3.8 percentage points Northeast = ± 8.1 percentage points; South = ± 5.7 percentage points Midwest = ± 7.4 percentage points; West = ± 7.2 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%.



**Responses from
Moms and Non-Moms**

“For this part of the interview, we would like to ask you some questions about some education issues. 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. 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 CURRENTLY ENROLLED OR ENTERING PRESCHOOL IN THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR, ENTER "YES"]

[IF NEEDED: IF YOUNGEST CHILD JUST GRADUATED IN 2011, ENTER "NO"]

	Yes	No	DK/Ref (VOL.)
Moms	100	-	-
Non-Moms	18	81	< 1

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

[GRADE OPTIONS: A, B, C, D, F, (Does Not Apply), or (DK)]

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

[IF NEEDED, DEFINITION OF “CHARTER SCHOOL”:

“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.”]

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

(A) Regular Public Schools or District Schools

	A	B	C	D	F	Does Not Apply (VOL.)	DK/Ref (VOL.)
Moms	27	35	22	7	5	< 1	4
Non-Moms	21	31	17	7	6	2	17

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

(B) Charter Schools

	A	B	C	D	F	Does Not Apply (VOL.)	DK/Ref (VOL.)
Moms	10	15	10	1	3	18	44
Non-Moms	14	17	11	3	3	14	39

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

(C) Private or Parochial Schools

	A	B	C	D	F	Does Not Apply (VOL.)	DK/Ref (VOL.)
Moms	27	24	8	1	1	9	30
Non-Moms	25	25	7	2	2	6	33

3. If it was 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 NEEDED, DEFINITION OF “CHARTER SCHOOL”:

“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.”]

[IF NEEDED, DEFINITION OF “VIRTUAL SCHOOL”:

“Virtual schools can be run publicly or privately, allowing students to work with their curriculum and teachers over the internet – in combination with, or in place of, traditional classroom learning.”]

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

	Charter School	Homeschool	Private School	Regular Public School	Virtual School	DK/Ref (VOL.)
Moms	8	7	37	45	1	2
Non-Moms	8	6	37	41	< 1	7

4. 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.)
Moms	33	28	13	15	12
Non-Moms	28	27	11	17	17

5. Some people believe that school vouchers or 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.)
Moms	50	21	10	14	4
Non-Moms	43	26	11	15	6

6. Some people believe that school vouchers or 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.)
Moms	18	13	25	40	4
Non-Moms	19	17	22	35	6



**Responses Nationwide
and by Region**

1. 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 CURRENTLY ENROLLED OR ENTERING PRESCHOOL IN THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR, ENTER "YES"]

[IF NEEDED: IF YOUNGEST CHILD JUST GRADUATED IN 2011, ENTER "NO"]

	Yes	No	DK/Ref (VOL.)
NATIONAL	31	68	< 1
Northeast	29	72	-
South	31	68	1
Midwest	31	69	< 1
West	35	64	1

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

[GRADE OPTIONS: A, B, C, D, F, (Does Not Apply), or (DK)]

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

[IF NEEDED, DEFINITION OF “CHARTER SCHOOL”:

“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.”]

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

(A) Regular Public Schools

	A	B	C	D	F	Does Not Apply (VOL.)	DK/Ref (VOL.)
NATIONAL	22	32	17	7	5	2	15
Northeast	22	32	20	8	3	< 1	15
South	26	28	16	6	8	2	14
Midwest	22	37	13	5	4	3	16
West	17	31	21	8	5	1	17

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

(B) Charter Schools

	A	B	C	D	F	Does Not Apply (VOL.)	DK/Ref (VOL.)
NATIONAL	14	18	11	2	2	13	39
Northeast	15	19	11	2	3	9	41
South	17	20	12	2	3	15	33
Midwest	9	13	10	2	1	15	50
West	15	20	10	4	3	13	35

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

(C) Private or Parochial Schools

	A	B	C	D	F	Does Not Apply (VOL.)	DK/Ref (VOL.)
NATIONAL	25	25	7	2	2	7	32
Northeast	28	29	4	5	0	6	28
South	29	21	8	< 1	3	9	31
Midwest	20	24	8	2	2	6	38
West	23	30	6	3	2	5	31

3. 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 NEEDED, DEFINITION OF “CHARTER SCHOOL”:

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

	Charter School	Homeschool	Private School	Regular Public School	Virtual School	DK/Ref (VOL.)
NATIONAL	8	6	37	42	< 1	7
Northeast	9	5	36	41	2	8
South	5	7	37	44	0	6
Midwest	9	6	33	43	< 1	9
West	10	6	41	38	< 1	4

4. 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.)
NATIONAL	29	27	12	16	17
Northeast	34	26	13	13	15
South	28	29	10	17	16
Midwest	26	27	13	16	17
West	29	24	11	17	18

5. Some people believe that school vouchers or 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.)
NATIONAL	43	26	10	15	6
Northeast	39	24	12	19	7
South	44	24	10	15	5
Midwest	36	34	11	14	6
West	50	21	10	13	6

6. Some people believe that school vouchers or 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.)
NATIONAL	20	17	22	35	6
Northeast	24	17	22	34	3
South	23	17	22	30	7
Midwest	17	14	27	35	7
West	15	21	17	43	5

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

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