

PSBA's Public Opinion Poll on Community Public Schools

Lesson # 3: Pennsylvanians Are Satisfied With Their Local Schools

The closer and more involved Pennsylvanians are with their community schools, the more satisfied they are with their school. In fact, over 2/3 of Pennsylvanians (67%) are satisfied with the quality of their community schools; less than 10% are very dissatisfied (9.4%).ⁱ

- **Pennsylvanians with and without children rank their local schools high** -- sixty-nine percent (69%) of parents with children under the age of 18 living at home were satisfied with their community public school (21% very satisfied, and 48% somewhat satisfied); compared to 66% of those persons with no children under the age of 18 living at home.
- **Every region of the state showed overwhelming support for their community schools** with residents in Southwestern Pennsylvania reporting the highest level of satisfaction with their local community schools (75%), followed closely by Central Pennsylvania residents at 74%, Northeastern 70%, Southeastern 58%, and the Northwestern region at 53%. Of all the regions, residents of Southeastern Pennsylvania including Philadelphia County indicated that they were very dissatisfied with their community schools (16%), followed by the Northwestern region (11%) (Northeastern 6%, Southwestern (7%), Central (5)).
- **Regardless of age, Pennsylvanians are overwhelmingly satisfied with their schools.** The older the respondents, the more satisfied (very or somewhat satisfied) they were with their community school (71%), 35 to 54 year olds (67%) and 18 to 34 year olds (63%). Respondents aged 35 to 54 were very satisfied (20%) with their community schools, more so than persons aged 55 or more (15%) and those aged 18 to 34 years (12%).
- **Both Republicans and Democrats overwhelmingly are satisfied with their local schools**, 73% and 69%, respectively, compared to Independents (56%). Almost ¼ of Independents (23%), however, indicate that they are very satisfied with their community school, higher than Democrats (17%) and Republicans (14%).
- **Both men and women held equally high opinions of their community schools** (67%).

ⁱ The following summary presents the findings of a survey of 801 Pennsylvania adults conducted during September, 2011. The survey was designed by Terry Madonna Opinion Research and the interviewing was conducted by First Contact of Rehoboth, Delaware. The sample error for the total sample is plus or minus 3.5 percent. Telephone numbers for the survey were generated via random digit dialing. Respondents were randomly selected from within each household. The final sample was weighted (age, education, race, region, and gender) to correct for differential probabilities of selection and non-response using an iterative weighting procedure.