

Public Poll Summaries

Education Post – **RELEASE DATE: October 9, 2014**

Nationally representative survey of 1,800 parents or grandparents, with oversamples of Black and Latino parents/grandparents, conducted August 2014.

- Most (61%) parents and grandparents think their child/grandchild's school needs to improve and three-quarters (73%) worry that their child/grandchild's school isn't preparing them for success.
- More than half (54%) of parents and grandparents have a favorable impression of the Common Core State Standards. Thirty percent (30%) have a negative impression and 16% aren't sure.
- Nine in 10 (89%) parents and grandparents believe higher standards and more challenging curriculum will improve schools; half (48%) feel it will improve schools a lot.
- Nine in 10 (89%) parents and grandparents believe fair and periodic standardized testing that allows parents to know that their child is learning what they need to succeed will improve schools; 44% feel it will improve schools a lot.

Center on Education Policy – **RELEASE DATE: October 8, 2014**

Nationally representative sample of 211 superintendents or their designees conducted February-June 2014

- Nine in 10 district leaders agree that the Common Core standards are more rigorous than their state's previous standards – up substantially since 2011.
- Three-quarters of district leaders agree that the Common Core standards will lead to improved skills in math and English among the students in their district – again, up substantially since 2011.
- District leaders do not expect these improvements to come without challenges. Eighty percent (80%) say the standards will require new or substantially revised curriculum and new instructional practices.
- Significant proportions of district leaders say overcoming resistance from outside the education system, and within the system, is a challenge.

Primary Sources Update – **RELEASE DATE: OCTOBER 3, 2014.**

An online survey of 1,600 teachers who participated in the 2013 Primary Sources survey conducted in July 2014

- More teachers feel prepared to teach to the Common Core this year (79%) than last year (71%).
- Many teachers are already seeing a positive impact on their students' ability to effectively present their ideas based on evidence (53%), think critically and use reasoning skills (53%), read and comprehend informational texts (50%), use real-world tools and resources (46%) and work collaboratively with peers (46%). Teachers in schools that have fully implemented the Common Core are even more likely to have seen a positive impact on their students' abilities.
- Two-thirds of teachers (68%) who say implementation has started in their school agree it is going well, up six points from last year.
- Teachers continue to identify critical resources and supports as necessary to ensure they can successfully apply the standards in their classroom. Specifically, teachers say they need CCSS-aligned instructional materials (86%) and quality professional development (84%). Teachers who receive these supports are significantly more likely to believe the Common Core will be a positive for most students.

Democrats for Public Education Reform – **RELEASE DATE: OCTOBER 2, 2014.**

A phone survey among 1,200 active voters conducted in mid-September.

- 80% (4 in 5) of Americans identified having “an engaging curriculum focusing on critical thinking & problem solving” as the best way to help teachers and schools better educate students – above each of the other 14 policies tested, including smaller class size, increased funding, and higher teacher pay.

Council of Great City Schools – **RELEASE DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2014.**

An online survey of 600 parents in Council of Great City Schools districts conducted in early August

- Half (50%) of parents surveyed say the quality of classroom instruction at their child's school has improved in the most recent school year.

- Half of parents (50%) feel the Common Core standards are at least somewhat beneficial to their child or children (compared to 13% who thought the standards were only slightly beneficial, and 12% who thought they were not be beneficial at all).
- Among parents who have heard at least a little about the standards, half (48%) start with generally positive impressions of the Common Core standards. Just 22% start with a negative impression and a significant proportion are unsure or unaware of the standards.
- Most encouraging is how positively parents respond to a straightforward description of the standards: *The Common Core is a new set of high-quality academic standards in mathematics and English language arts/literacy (ELA). These learning goals outline what a student should know and be able to do at the end of each grade. The standards were created to ensure that all students graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in college, career, and life, regardless of where they live.* After reading the description, parents overwhelmingly (88%) said that the standards were either “somewhat” or “very” important for their child’s education.

Gallup/Ed Week – RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2014.

A web survey of 1,663 K-12 School District Superintendents conducted in early-mid August.

- 73% of superintendents surveyed said the common standards are "just about right" for most students. That represents an increase since survey results released in July showed that 66% of district leaders said the standards present an appropriate level of rigor for students.
- Two-thirds (64%) of superintendents support staying the course with the assessment consortia. Only 20% say more states should pull back from the consortia.

Center for American Progress – RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2014.

A mixed-mode survey of 827 parents who are registered voters conducted in mid-September

- Seven in 10 (71%) parents have heard of the Common Core and two-thirds of say they understand it.
- However, misinformation about the Common Core is widespread. Half (50%) of parents think Common Core is a shared curriculum (as opposed to standards) and 49% believe they are a federal initiative.
- Nearly all parents support the Common Core’s characteristics and stated goals. Three in five (59%) parents strongly favor raising national standards so the U.S. can be more competitive with other countries and two in five (41%) parents strongly favor voluntary national education standards establishing shared goals and expectations for students across states.