



**Public Education through the Public’s Eye:
A Survey of New Orleans Voters and Parents**

Public School Parent Top Line Results

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Survey Conducted by Market Research Insight**

**300 Public School Parents in Orleans Parish
November 3 - 14, 2009**

Hello, my name is _____ with Market Research Insight, a nationally recognized research firm. We do not sell anything. We just conduct various opinion surveys. Tonight, we are surveying New Orleans voters about important issues facing public education.

Just to be sure, are you registered to vote in New Orleans for elections such as Mayor and City Council? (IF NO, POLITELY TERMINATE)

Do you or does anyone in this household work for:

- The news media? (IF YES, POLITELY TERMINATE)
- An advertising or public relations firm? (IF YES, POLITELY TERMINATE)
- A marketing research firm? (IF YES, POLITELY TERMINATE)

Are you the parent or guardian of at least one child in a traditional public school or public charter school in New Orleans?

HAVE CHILD IN PUBLIC SCHOOL OR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL	
Yes	100%

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How many children do you have attending traditional public schools or public charter schools?
(RECORD 1 OR HIGHER NUMBER)

NUMBER OF CHILDREN	
Mean	1.94
Median	2

1. (IF MORE THAN ONE CHILD IN PUBLIC OR CHARTER SCHOOL, ASK...) For this survey, please answer all of the following questions as they apply to your child in public school with the most recent birthday? (CONTINUE AND ASK EVERYONE...) Is your child in a traditional public school or public charter school?

1. TYPE OF SCHOOL CHILD ATTENDS	
Traditional Public School	55%
Public Charter School	45%

2. (IF CHILD, ASK IN PUBLIC OR CHARTER SCHOOL, ASK...) If you were to grade the quality of the public school your child attends, would it be A, B, C, D, or F?

2. GRADE FOR QUALITY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILD ATTENDS	
A	28%
B	35%
C	24%
D	8%
F	3%
Uncertain	2%

(IF CHILD IN PUBLIC OR CHARTER SCHOOL, ASK FOLLOWING SERIES Q's 3-9) Thinking about your child, do you agree or disagree with the following statements about traditional and public charter schools? (CONTINUE WITH...) Do you strongly (AGREE/DISAGREE) or somewhat (AGREE/DISAGREE)? (RANDOM ORDER)

3. Information about different public school options for my child is readily available to me.

3. INFORMATION ABOUT DIFFERENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPTIONS FOR MY CHILD IS READILY AVAILABLE TO ME	
Strongly Disagree	15%
Somewhat Disagree	15%
Uncertain	8%
Somewhat Agree	40%
Strongly Agree	22%
Total Disagree	30%
Total Agree	62%

4. I had good options to choose from when I was deciding where to register my child for school.

4. I HAD GOOD OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM WHEN I WAS DECIDING WHERE TO REGISTER MY CHILD FOR SCHOOL	
Strongly Disagree	15%
Somewhat Disagree	15%
Uncertain	4%
Somewhat Agree	33%
Strongly Agree	33%
Total Disagree	30%
Total Agree	66%

5. It was easy to register my child for school.

5. IT WAS EASY TO REGISTER MY CHILD FOR SCHOOL

Strongly Disagree	7%
Somewhat Disagree	7%
Uncertain	3%
Somewhat Agree	37%
Strongly Agree	47%
Total Disagree	14%
Total Agree	84%

6. My child is enrolled in the school that was my first or second choice.

6. MY CHILD IS ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL THAT WAS MY FIRST OR SECOND CHOICE	
Strongly Disagree	7%
Somewhat Disagree	6%
Uncertain	3%
Somewhat Agree	34%
Strongly Agree	51%
Total Disagree	13%
Total Agree	85%

7. It is important that I be able to choose what school my child attends.

7. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT I BE ABLE TO CHOOSE WHAT SCHOOL MY CHILD ATTENDS

Strongly Disagree	0%
Somewhat Disagree	0%
Uncertain	1%
Somewhat Agree	18%
Strongly Agree	81%
Total Disagree	0%
Total Agree	99%

8. It is important that my child be able to go to our neighborhood school.

8. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT MY CHILD BE ABLE TO GO TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL	
Strongly Disagree	5%
Somewhat Disagree	16%
Uncertain	3%
Somewhat Agree	34%
Strongly Agree	41%
Total Disagree	21%
Total Agree	75%

9. I tried to enroll my child in our neighborhood school, but I was not able to.

9. I TRIED TO ENROLL MY CHILD IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL, BUT I WAS NOT ABLE TO	
Strongly Disagree	40%
Somewhat Disagree	24%
Uncertain	8%

Somewhat Agree	16%
Strongly Agree	13%
Total Disagree	64%
Total Agree	29%

(ASK ALL RESPONDENTS QUESTIONS 10-31)

10. Would you say that public schools in New Orleans (ROTATE 1ST TWO OPTIONS) were better before Katrina, are better after Katrina, or about the same before and after?

10. PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NEW ORLEANS	
Were Better Before Katrina	19%
Are Better After Katrina	31%
Are About The Same Before And After	43%
Uncertain	6%

I am going to read a number of statements that apply to both traditional public schools and public charter schools in New Orleans. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each. (CONTINUE WITH...) Do you strongly (AGREE/DISAGREE) or somewhat (AGREE/DISAGREE)? (RANDOM ORDER SERIES)

11. The state of Louisiana made the right decision to take over most schools in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

11. THE STATE OF LOUISIANA MADE THE RIGHT DECISION TO TAKE OVER MOST SCHOOLS IN NEW ORLEANS AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA	
Strongly Disagree	10%
Somewhat Disagree	11%
Uncertain	13%
Somewhat Agree	26%
Strongly Agree	40%

Total Disagree	21%
Total Agree	66%

12. Public charter schools have improved public education in New Orleans.

12. PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS HAVE IMPROVED PUBLIC EDUCATION IN NEW ORLEANS	
Strongly Disagree	3%
Somewhat Disagree	10%
Uncertain	17%
Somewhat Agree	33%
Strongly Agree	36%
Total Disagree	13%
Total Agree	69%

13. A parent should be able to send their child to any school in the city.

13. A PARENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEND THEIR CHILD TO ANY SCHOOL IN THE CITY	
Strongly Disagree	2%
Somewhat Disagree	6%
Uncertain	4%
Somewhat Agree	30%
Strongly Agree	58%
Total Disagree	8%
Total Agree	88%

14. A parent should be able to send their child to their neighborhood school.

14. A PARENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEND THEIR CHILD TO THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL	
Strongly Disagree	0%
Somewhat Disagree	1%
Uncertain	2%
Somewhat Agree	28%
Strongly Agree	68%
Total Disagree	1%
Total Agree	96%

15. The many new teachers coming into public schools in New Orleans have improved public education in the city.

15. THE MANY NEW TEACHERS COMING INTO PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NEW ORLEANS HAVE IMPROVED THE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE CITY	
Strongly Disagree	9%
Somewhat Disagree	8%
Uncertain	15%
Somewhat Agree	45%
Strongly Agree	23%
Total Disagree	17%
Total Agree	68%

16. A school should receive more money to educate a student from a low income family than it receives to educate a student from a family that is not low income.

16. A SCHOOL SHOULD RECEIVE MORE MONEY TO EDUCATE A STUDENT FROM A LOW INCOME FAMILY	
Strongly Disagree	19%
Somewhat Disagree	18%
Uncertain	7%
Somewhat Agree	23%
Strongly Agree	33%
Total Disagree	37%
Total Agree	56%

17. A school should receive more money to educate a student with a learning disability than it receives to educate a student without a learning disability.

17. A SCHOOL SHOULD RECEIVE MORE MONEY TO EDUCATE A STUDENT WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY	
Strongly Disagree	6%
Somewhat Disagree	5%
Uncertain	5%
Somewhat Agree	30%
Strongly Agree	55%
Total Disagree	11%
Total Agree	85%

Now I have a few options to read to you about what groups should have oversight and control over public schools in New Orleans. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each of the following options. (CONTINUE WITH...) Do you strongly (FAVOR/OPPOSE) or somewhat (FAVOR/OPPOSE)? (RANDOM ORDER SERIES)

18. Give control of all schools back to the Orleans Parish School Board.

18. GIVE CONTROL OF ALL SCHOOLS BACK TO THE ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	
Strongly Oppose	33%
Somewhat Oppose	24%
Uncertain	12%
Somewhat Favor	19%
Strongly Favor	12%
Total Oppose	57%
Total Favor	31%

19. Give control of all schools to the next Mayor of New Orleans.

19. GIVE CONTROL OF ALL SCHOOLS TO THE NEXT MAYOR OF NEW ORLEANS	
Strongly Oppose	67%
Somewhat Oppose	20%
Uncertain	6%
Somewhat Favor	5%
Strongly Favor	2%
Total Oppose	87%
Total Favor	7%

20. Give control of all schools to the State Recovery School District.

20. GIVE CONTROL OF ALL SCHOOLS TO THE STATE RECOVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT	
Strongly Oppose	21%
Somewhat Oppose	21%
Uncertain	16%
Somewhat Favor	23%
Strongly Favor	19%
Total Oppose	42%
Total Favor	42%

21. Change almost all schools into public charter schools.

21. CHANGE ALMOST ALL SCHOOLS INTO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS	
Strongly Oppose	16%
Somewhat Oppose	20%
Uncertain	15%
Somewhat Favor	26%
Strongly Favor	23%
Total Oppose	36%
Total Favor	49%

22. Create a new school board whose members are elected citywide.

22. CREATE A NEW SCHOOL BOARD WHOSE MEMBERS ARE ELECTED CITYWIDE	
Strongly Oppose	7%
Somewhat Oppose	8%
Uncertain	6%
Somewhat Favor	28%
Strongly Favor	51%
Total Oppose	15%
Total Favor	79%

23. Create a new school board whose members are appointed by the Mayor of New Orleans.

23. CREATE A NEW SCHOOL BOARD WHOSE MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR OF NEW ORLEANS	
Strongly Oppose	56%
Somewhat Oppose	26%
Uncertain	3%
Somewhat Favor	11%
Strongly Favor	4%
Total Oppose	82%
Total Favor	15%

24. Do you think public schools in New Orleans do or do not have enough money to provide all students with a good education?

24. PUBLIC SCHOOL MONEY TO PROVIDE ALL STUDENTS A GOOD EDUCATION	
Do Have Enough Money	15%
Do Not Have Enough Money	80%
Uncertain	5%

25. As you may know, public schools in New Orleans are funded by a combination of property and sales taxes. Although people who rent their homes do not pay property taxes directly, their monthly rent includes money to pay the property taxes. Are you willing or unwilling to pay more in property and sales taxes to support public schools?

25. PAY MORE IN PROPERTY OR SALES TAX TO SUPPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Willing To Pay More	51%
Unwilling To Pay More	41%
Uncertain	8%

26. (IF WILLING TO PAY MORE, ASK...) On a monthly basis, would you be willing to pay \$40 more? To pay \$30 more? To pay \$20 more? To pay \$15 more? To pay \$10 more? To pay less than \$10 more? (WHEN RESPONDENT SAYS WILLING TO PAY STOP QUESTION AND RECORD RESPONSE)

26. MONTHLY AMOUNT WILLING TO PAY	
\$40 More	32%
\$30 More	10%
\$20 More	20%
\$15 More	9%
\$10 More	13%

Less Than \$10 More	7%
Volunteered Not Really Willing to Pay Any More	2%
Uncertain/Won't Say	8%

Thank you, that completes the opinion section of the survey. Now, a few questions for demographic purposes and we'll be finished.

27. What is your age? (RECORD ACTUAL AGE)

27. VOTER AGE	
18-24 Years	3%
25-34 Years	21%
35-44 Years	41%
45-54 Years	23%
55-64 Years	6%
65-74 Years	2%
75-84 Years	0%
85 Years & Older	0%
Refused	4%

28. What is the highest level of education you have obtained to date?

28. EDUCATION	
Less Than High School	4%
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	37%
Some College, No Degree	25%
Associate's Degree	12%
Bachelor's Degree	15%

Graduate Or Professional Degree	8%
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29. Approximately, what is your household's total, yearly income? When I read the correct category, just tell me.

29. ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
Under \$15,000	12%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	24%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	21%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	16%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	12%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	8%
\$100,000 And Over	8%

30. And, your gender is male or female? (CONTINUE WITH...) Are you employed outside of the home?

30. GENDER AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS	
Employed Male	31%
Not Employed Male	4%
Employed Female	46%
Not Employed Female	19%

31. What do you consider to be your main ethnic background? (RECORD RESPONSE BUT DO NOT READ CATEGORIES)

31. ETHNIC BACKGROUND	
African-American	90%
Caucasian	9%
Hispanic	1%
Asian	0%

This concludes our survey. Thank you for your time.

COUNCIL DISTRICT	
District A	10%
District B	19%
District C	24%
District D	25%
District E	22%

Please direct any questions with regard to this survey to coweninfo@tulane.edu or please call 504-274-3690.