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Interviews: 1,687 adults
833 General Population Adults;
854 Parents of School aged children
Sampling margin of error for a 50% statistic with 95%
confidence is:
 ± 3.4 for General Population; ± 3.4 for Parents

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL
CONDUCTED BY KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS

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NOTE: all results shown are percentages unless otherwise labelled. Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Q1. What is the biggest problem facing the United States today?

(To be coded)

Q2. How important is each of the following issues to you personally?

The economy

	General Population	Parents
Not at all important	1%	*
Slightly important	2%	1%
Moderately important	9%	11%
Very important	30%	27%
Extremely important	58%	61%
Refused	1%	1%

The situation in Iraq

	General Population	Parents
Not at all important	2%	2%
Slightly important	5%	6%
Moderately important	21%	23%
Very important	35%	38%
Extremely important	36%	31%
Refused	1%	*

Terrorism

	General Population	Parents
Not at all important	3%	2%
Slightly important	9%	7%
Moderately important	21%	23%
Very important	34%	32%
Extremely important	32%	36%
Refused	1%	*

Health care

	General Population	Parents
Not at all important	2%	1%
Slightly important	3%	5%
Moderately important	14%	17%
Very important	35%	35%
Extremely important	46%	41%
Refused	1%	*

Social Security

	General Population	Parents
Not at all important	1%	2%
Slightly important	6%	9%
Moderately important	21%	26%
Very important	34%	30%
Extremely important	36%	34%
Refused	1%	*

Gas prices

	General Population	Parents
Not at all important	1%	*
Slightly important	3%	1%
Moderately important	13%	8%
Very important	23%	26%
Extremely important	59%	63%
Refused	1%	*

Taxes

	General Population	Parents
Not at all important	1%	1%
Slightly important	6%	4%
Moderately important	27%	24%
Very important	36%	33%
Extremely important	29%	37%
Refused	1%	*

Immigration

	General Population	Parents
Not at all important	7%	6%
Slightly important	13%	15%
Moderately important	28%	29%
Very important	27%	25%
Extremely important	25%	24%
Refused	1%	*

Same-sex marriage

	General Population	Parents
Not at all important	44%	42%
Slightly important	14%	16%
Moderately important	16%	16%
Very important	13%	10%
Extremely important	14%	15%
Refused	*	*

Abortion

	General Population	Parents
Not at all important	19%	21%
Slightly important	18%	17%
Moderately important	23%	22%
Very important	20%	16%
Extremely important	18%	23%
Refused	1%	1%

The environment

	General Population	Parents
Not at all important	3%	3%
Slightly important	9%	11%
Moderately important	23%	24%
Very important	34%	35%
Extremely important	29%	28%
Refused	1%	*

Education

	General Population	Parents
Not at all important	1%	1%
Slightly important	6%	3%
Moderately important	14%	13%
Very important	41%	34%
Extremely important	38%	48%
Refused	1%	*

[RANDOMLY ASSIGN HALF OF RESPONDENTS TO Q3A AND HALF TO Q3B]

Q3A. Would you be willing to pay more in taxes if the money were spent on hiring more teachers and improving the facilities of your local public schools, or not?

	General Population	Parents
Yes, very willing	16%	19%
Yes, somewhat willing	41%	40%
No, not too willing	27%	23%
No, not at all willing	15%	18%
Refused	1%	*

Q3B. Would you be willing to accept a reduction in spending for your local public schools, including cutting the number of teachers and not investing in school facilities, if that meant you would pay lower taxes, or not?

	General Population	Parents
Yes, very willing	9%	9%
Yes, somewhat willing	15%	12%
No, not too willing	36%	27%
No, not at all willing	38%	51%
Refused	1%	*

(Q4 NOT ASKED)

Q5. How would you rate the quality of education in your local public schools?
Would you say the quality of education is...

	General Population	Parents
Excellent	10%	16%
Good	44%	46%
Only fair	32%	24%
Poor	10%	9%
Very poor	4%	5%
Refused	*	*

Q6. How good a job do your local public schools do in...

Preparing students for college

	General Population	Parents
Excellent	9%	13%
Good	45%	48%
Only fair	33%	26%
Poor	8%	9%
Very poor	3%	3%
Refused	2%	*

Preparing students for the workforce

	General Population	Parents
Excellent	6%	9%
Good	38%	48%
Only fair	39%	29%
Poor	12%	10%
Very poor	4%	4%
Refused	2%	*

Giving children the practical skills they will need to survive as adults

	General Population	Parents
Excellent	7%	10%
Good	33%	38%
Only fair	40%	33%
Poor	14%	13%
Very poor	4%	5%
Refused	2%	*

Q7. We are going to list several of the problems facing schools in America today.
For each one, please answer how serious that problem is for most schools in America today.

Overcrowding

	General Population	Parents
Very serious	35%	36%
Somewhat serious	43%	40%
Not too serious	18%	20%
Not at all serious	3%	3%
Refused	2%	1%

Getting and keeping good teachers

	General Population	Parents
Very serious	52%	48%
Somewhat serious	37%	39%
Not too serious	8%	10%
Not at all serious	1%	2%
Refused	1%	*

Lack of student discipline

	General Population	Parents
Very serious	56%	49%
Somewhat serious	34%	36%
Not too serious	9%	12%
Not at all serious	1%	2%
Refused	1%	1%

Fighting, violence, gangs

	General Population	Parents
Very serious	52%	47%
Somewhat serious	34%	37%
Not too serious	10%	14%
Not at all serious	2%	2%
Refused	2%	*

Condition of school buildings

	General Population	Parents
Very serious	18%	22%
Somewhat serious	46%	38%
Not too serious	30%	32%
Not at all serious	5%	8%
Refused	1%	1%

Availability of athletic facilities

	General Population	Parents
Very serious	9%	12%
Somewhat serious	31%	33%
Not too serious	43%	39%
Not at all serious	15%	16%
Refused	1%	1%

Outdated textbooks

	General Population	Parents
Very serious	24%	24%
Somewhat serious	42%	40%
Not too serious	29%	30%
Not at all serious	3%	5%
Refused	2%	1%

Placing emphasis on the wrong subjects

	General Population	Parents
Very serious	28%	28%
Somewhat serious	49%	44%
Not too serious	20%	25%
Not at all serious	2%	2%
Refused	1%	*

Low expectations

	General Population	Parents
Very serious	39%	39%
Somewhat serious	49%	44%
Not too serious	10%	14%
Not at all serious	1%	3%
Refused	1%	1%

Students not spending enough time in school

	General Population	Parents
Very serious	26%	22%
Somewhat serious	41%	36%
Not too serious	28%	34%
Not at all serious	4%	8%
Refused	1%	*

Q8. If you had to choose, which one subject do you think students should spend more time studying in school?

	General Population	Parents
Mathematics	38%	40%
Biology	1%	2%
Chemistry	*	*
Physics	2%	2%
English	21%	21%
Music	1%	1%
Physical Education	4%	6%
History	10%	9%
Government	10%	6%
Geography	2%	1%
Art	1%	1%
Other, please specify:	9%	10%
Refused	1%	*

Q9. How much of an impact does the quality of a country's education system have on a country's overall economic prosperity?

	General Population	Parents
A very large impact	43%	39%
A large impact	43%	46%
Only a moderate impact	9%	12%
A small impact	2%	2%
No impact at all	1%	1%
Refused	1%	-

Q10. From what you may have read, seen, or heard, how do you think children in the United States compare to children in other industrialized countries when it comes to standardized math and science tests?

	General Population	Parents
Better than all other industrialized countries	2%	2%
Better than most other industrialized countries	11%	14%
Somewhere in the middle of the pack	35%	34%
Worse than most other industrialized countries	38%	37%
Worse than all other industrialized countries	5%	4%
Don't know	9%	8%
Refused	1%	*

Q11. From what you may have read, seen, or heard, how do you think children in the United States compare to children in other industrialized countries when it comes to high school graduation rates?

	General Population	Parents
Better than all other industrialized countries	2%	5%
Better than most other industrialized countries	13%	15%
Somewhere in the middle of the pack	38%	39%
Worse than most other industrialized countries	29%	27%
Worse than all other industrialized countries	5%	3%
Don't know	12%	10%
Refused	1%	1%

Q12. When it comes to education, do you think the United States is getting ahead of the rest of the world, just keeping up, or is falling behind the rest of the world?

	General Population	Parents
Getting ahead of the rest of the world	4%	5%
Just keeping up	44%	51%
Falling behind the rest of the world	50%	44%
Refused	1%	*

Q13. Do you think the quality of schools in the United States is better, worse, or about the same as it was 20 YEARS ago?

	General Population	Parents
Much better	5%	8%
Somewhat better	16%	22%
About the same	17%	20%
Somewhat worse	42%	33%
Much worse	20%	16%
Refused	*	*

Q14. If more students in the United States completed high school, what effect do you think that would have on the overall economy?

	General Population	Parents
It would help the economy a lot	40%	36%
It would help the economy, but only a little	45%	43%
It would have no real impact on the economy	13%	19%
It would hurt the economy, but only a little	1%	1%
It would hurt the economy a lot	1%	1%
Refused	1%	*

Q14A. If all Americans graduated from a two or four year college, what effect do you think that would have on the overall economy?

	General Population	Parents
It would help the economy a lot	53%	44%
It would help the economy, but only a little	31%	36%
It would have no real impact on the economy	11%	15%
It would hurt the economy, but only a little	2%	3%
It would hurt the economy a lot	2%	2%
Refused	2%	1%

Q14B. Do you think people who do better on standardized reading and math tests in school wind up being more financially successful later in life than those who don't do as well, or not?

	General Population	Parents
Yes, much more financially successful	36%	33%
Yes, but only a little more financially successful	37%	37%
No, it makes no difference	25%	30%
Refused	2%	*

Q15. How well do standardized tests measure the quality of education offered by the schools in your community?

	General Population	Parents
Very well	7%	9%
Somewhat well	47%	51%
Not too well	34%	31%
Not at all well	10%	9%
Refused	2%	*

Q16. In your opinion, which is the best way to measure student achievement?

	General Population	Parents
By means of test scores	28%	30%
By classroom work and homework	70%	69%
Refused	2%	2%

Q17. Which comes closest to your view?

	General Population	Parents
The amount of pay teachers receive should be based at least in part on the performance of their students	61%	58%
The amount of pay teachers receive should not be based in any way on the performance of their students	37%	40%
Refused	2%	1%

Q18. Do you think teachers should be allowed to strike, or not?

	General Population	Parents
Yes, should be allowed to strike	53%	53%
No, should not be allowed to strike	46%	46%
Refused	1%	1%

[CLASS1 TO P4 SEQUENCE ASKED OF ONLY PARENT SUB-SAMPLE ONLY. IF MULTIPLE SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN, RESPONDENTS ASKED TO ANSWER BASED ON OLDEST CHILD]

CLASS1: Does your child attend a public school, or not?

	Parents
Yes	80%
No	20%
Refused	*

CLASS2: What grade or year of school does your child currently attend?

	Parents
Kindergarten	8%
Grade 1	9%
Grade 2	6%
Grade 3	6%
Grade 4	8%
Grade 5	5%
Grade 6	6%
Grade 7	6%
Grade 8	5%
Grade 9	9%
Grade 10	12%
Grade 11	9%
Grade 12	7%
College	2%
Refused	3%

CLASS3: Is your child male or female?

	Parents
Male	51%
Female	48%
Refused	1%

P1. How would you rate the quality of education at the school attended by your child? Would you say the quality of education is...

	Parents
Excellent	30%
Good	50%
Only fair	15%
Poor	2%
Very poor	2%
Refused	2%

P2. How would you rate the school attended by your child in terms of...

Preparing students for college

	Parents
Excellent	22%
Good	50%
Only fair	21%
Poor	2%
Very poor	3%
Refused	2%

Preparing students for the workforce

	Parents
Excellent	18%
Good	48%
Only fair	25%
Poor	5%
Very poor	2%
Refused	2%

Giving children the practical skills they will need to survive as adults

	Parents
Excellent	23%
Good	43%
Only fair	24%
Poor	6%
Very poor	2%
Refused	3%

- P3. We are going to list several of the problems facing schools in America today. For each one, please answer how serious that problem is for the school attended by your child.

Overcrowding

	Parents
Very serious	14%
Somewhat serious	28%
Not too serious	30%
Not at all serious	26%
Refused	2%

Getting and keeping good teachers

	Parents
Very serious	18%
Somewhat serious	29%
Not too serious	29%
Not at all serious	20%
Refused	3%

Lack of student discipline

	Parents
Very serious	15%
Somewhat serious	26%
Not too serious	35%
Not at all serious	22%
Refused	2%

Fighting, violence, gangs

	Parents
Very serious	14%
Somewhat serious	15%
Not too serious	30%
Not at all serious	39%
Refused	2%

Condition of the school buildings

	Parents
Very serious	10%
Somewhat serious	17%
Not too serious	29%
Not at all serious	41%
Refused	2%

Availability of athletic fields

	Parents
Very serious	7%
Somewhat serious	19%
Not too serious	35%
Not at all serious	37%
Refused	2%

Outdated textbooks

	Parents
Very serious	10%
Somewhat serious	21%
Not too serious	37%
Not at all serious	31%
Refused	2%

Placing emphasis on the wrong subjects

	Parents
Very serious	12%
Somewhat serious	23%
Not too serious	41%
Not at all serious	22%
Refused	3%

Low expectations of students

	Parents
Very serious	14%
Somewhat serious	26%
Not too serious	31%
Not at all serious	27%
Refused	3%

Students not spending enough time in school

	Parents
Very serious	8%
Somewhat serious	23%
Not too serious	37%
Not at all serious	29%
Refused	3%

P4. In general, how do you think the education your child is receiving is better, worse, or about the same as the education you received as a child?

	Parents
Much better	21%
Somewhat better	34%
About the same	24%
Somewhat worse	16%
Much worse	5%
Refused	1%

DEMOGRAPHICS

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, an Independent, a supporter of some other party, or none of these?

	General Population	Parents
Democrat	39%	36%
Republican	27%	31%
Independent	22%	15%
Some other party	1%	1%
None of these	10%	16%
Refused	1%	*

[ASK IF DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN IN PID1]

PID2. Would you call yourself a strong [DEMOCRAT/REPUBLICAN] or a not very strong [DEMOCRAT/REPUBLICAN]?

	General Population	Parents
Strong	36%	36%
Not very strong	30%	31%
Refused	-	-

[ASK IF INDEPENDENT, NONE OF THESE OR REFUSED / NOT ANSWERED IN PID1]

PID3. Do you think of yourself as CLOSER to the Democratic Party or to the Republican Party?

	General Population	Parents
Closer to the Democratic Party	10%	9%
Closer to the Republican Party	8%	9%
Neither	14%	14%
Refused	1%	*

PARTY IDENTIFICATION. Leaned party identification.

	General Population	Parents
Democrat	51%	46%
Republican	34%	38%
Independent/Other/None	15%	16%

Race/Ethnicity

	General Population	Parents
White, Non-Hispanic	69%	66%
Black, Non-Hispanic	11%	11%
Other, Non-Hispanic	5%	3%
Hispanic	14%	17%
2+ Races, Non-Hispanic	1%	3%

Education

	General Population	Parents
Less than high school	14%	13%
High school	31%	29%
Some college	27%	29%
Bachelor's degree or higher	27%	28%

Gender

	General Population	Parents
Male	48%	43%
Female	52%	57%

Marital status

	General Population	Parents
Married	50%	78%
Widowed	6%	2%
Divorced	11%	6%
Separated	2%	1%
Never married	25%	10%
Living with partner	6%	3%

Region

	General Population	Parents
Northeast	19%	18%
Midwest	22%	23%
South	36%	36%
West	23%	23%

Age

	General Population	Parents
18-29	21%	17%
30-39	16%	36%
40-49	19%	36%
50-64	28%	10%
65+	15%	*

Household income

	General Population	Parents
Under \$25K	20%	18%
\$25-50K	31%	21%
\$50-75K	21%	25%
\$75K+	28%	36%

Children in household

	General Population	Parents
No children in household	77%	-
Children in household	23%	100%

Employment status

	General Population	Parents
Employed	65%	79%
Unemployed	17%	1%
Retired	10%	5%
Homemaker/Disabled/Other	8%	15%

Household Internet access

	General Population	Parents
No	39%	29%
Yes	61%	71%