

By the People - Deliberation Week 2005
Deliberative Opinion Poll Results for: Education

Location of Deliberation	National online	Albuquerque	Kearney	New Haven	Rochester	St. Louis
Local focus of deliberation	standards & equal access	hispanic achievement gap	funding & school consolidation	Achievement gap	school choice, NCLB	funding, accountability, school readiness, achievement gap

Q1		<i>Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D, or FAIL to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools themselves, in your community, were graded in the same way. What grade would you give your community's public schools?</i>				
	National online	Albuquerque	Kearney	New Haven	Rochester	St. Louis
TOTAL (n=)	357	74	126	142	55	91
A	7.9%	5%	22%	11%	5%	12%
B	35.8%	16%	61%	36%	31%	19%
C	32.9%	43%	15%	38%	38%	41%
D	15.2%	18%	1%	11%	22%	13%
FAIL	5.7%	12%	0%	3%	4%	12%
Haven't thought much about it.	2.5%	5%	1%	2%	0%	3%

Q2		<i>How about the public schools in the nation as a whole? What grade would you give the public schools nationally?</i>				
	National online	Albuquerque	Kearney	New Haven	Rochester	St. Louis
TOTAL (n=)	358	74	124	144	56	90
A	0.0%	4%	2%	1%	0%	7%
B	5.7%	15%	25%	17%	14%	16%

C	51.5%	51%	60%	57%	50%	52%
D	28.9%	18%	10%	17%	30%	21%
FAIL	11.0%	5%	1%	3%	4%	2%
Haven't thought much about it.	2.9%	7%	2%	5%	2%	2%

Q3 *In your opinion is there too much emphasis on standardized testing in the public schools in your community, about the right amount, or not enough emphasis?*

	National online	Albuquerque	Kearney	New Haven	Rochester	St. Louis
TOTAL (n=)	356	74	126	145	57	91
Too much	65.3%	53%	59%	54%	61%	46%
About the right amount	23.4%	31%	37%	32%	21%	24%
Not enough	9.3%	9%	2%	8%	14%	18%
Couldn't say	2.0%	7%	2%	7%	4%	12%

Q4 *Some people think that tests for student achievement should be set at the state level and applied in the same way to all students in the state. Others think that local school boards should make these decisions in each community. Which do you think?*

	National online	Albuquerque	Kearney	New Haven	Rochester	St. Louis
TOTAL (n=)	358	72	124	139	57	90
Decisions about testing should be made at the state level	55.9%	53%	35%	59%	65%	46%

Decisions should be made by local school boards in each community	37.9%	40%	57%	34%	26%	42%
Couldn't say	6.3%	7%	8%	7%	9%	12%

Q5 *Here is a list of problems schools might face. Which of these do you think it is most important for the nation's schools to focus on improving?*

	National online	Albuquerque	Kearney	New Haven	Rochester	St. Louis
TOTAL (n=)	353	73	124	140	57	89
Academic standards	28.1%	22%	19%	30%	42%	29%
Class size	11.6%	22%	9%	16%	7%	6%
Parental involvement	24.9%	30%	22%	25%	30%	22%
Quality of teachers	17.9%	10%	6%	15%	14%	19%
School administration	3.4%	3%	0%	8%	0%	2%
Funding	9.5%	11%	44%	4%	2%	17%
Safety	3.2%	1%	0%	1%	4%	2%
Use of technology	1.4%	1%	0%	2%	2%	2%

Q6 *Here is a list of problems schools might face. Which of these do you think it is SECOND most important for the nation's schools to focus on improving?*

	National online	Albuquerque	Kearney	New Haven	Rochester	St. Louis
TOTAL (n=)	358	73	123	138	56	88

Academic standards	19.7%	21%	18%	15%	21%	19%
Class size	12.3%	14%	10%	22%	7%	10%
Parental involvement	19.6%	27%	20%	16%	25%	18%
Quality of teachers	29.6%	27%	27%	25%	27%	25%
School administration	5.0%	7%	2%	11%	2%	6%
Funding	8.0%	3%	19%	8%	2%	14%
Safety	1.7%	1%	2%	0%	14%	5%
Use of technology	4.0%	0%	3%	3%	2%	3%

Q7	<i>To what degree do you think <u>your elected representatives</u> in Washington share your priorities for how to improve</i>					
	National online	Albuquerque	Kearney	New Haven	Rochester	St. Louis
TOTAL (n=)	356	74	128	146	57	97
0 - Completely different priorities	17.2%	15%	0%	4%	9%	19%
1	4.6%	1%	2%	6%	4%	5%
2	11.4%	7%	5%	5%	9%	11%
3	13.7%	12%	20%	10%	14%	12%
4	7.8%	7%	18%	4%	7%	8%
5	21.3%	27%	25%	23%	23%	12%
6	3.9%	12%	9%	8%	4%	6%
7	9.1%	4%	9%	5%	16%	3%
8	3.7%	3%	2%	5%	2%	3%
9	2.1%	1%	0%	3%	2%	1%
10 - Completely the same	1.8%	3%	1%	3%	2%	7%
11 - Don't know/DNR	3.2%	8%	9%	23%	11%	11%

Q8	<i>To what degree do you think your <u>elected state representatives</u> at the state capital share your priorities for how to improve education?</i>					
	National online	Albuquerque	Kearney	New Haven	Rochester	St. Louis
TOTAL (n=)		74	128	146	57	97
0 - Completely different priorities		14%	2%	3%	2%	16%
1		5%	2%	5%	4%	2%
2		3%	3%	7%	14%	9%
3		7%	10%	8%	16%	12%
4		5%	10%	6%	14%	9%
5		30%	24%	21%	26%	18%
6		15%	9%	10%	5%	6%
7		11%	16%	12%	7%	3%
8		4%	13%	3%	7%	6%
9		1%	5%	3%	0%	0%
10 - Completely the same		3%	1%	2%	2%	6%
11 - Don't know/DNR		3%	5%	21%	4%	11%

Q9	<i>From what you know or have heard about the No Child Left Behind Act, do you approve or disapprove of it or couldn't you say?</i>					
	National online	Albuquerque	Kearney	New Haven	Rochester	St. Louis
TOTAL (n=)	354	72	124	143	56	90
Approve strongly	6.4%	21%	0%	16%	4%	17%
Approve somewhat	23.1%	32%	15%	24%	36%	28%

Neither approve nor disapprove	9.3%	11%	10%	6%	5%	16%
Disapprove somewhat	21.8%	17%	27%	16%	16%	12%
Disapprove strongly	34.1%	18%	48%	34%	32%	20%
Couldn't say	5.2%	1%	0%	3%	7%	8%

Q10		<i>How much would you say that the amount of money spent by a public school affects the quality of education it provides?</i>				
	National online	Albuquerque	Kearney	New Haven	Rochester	St. Louis
TOTAL (n=)	357	73	125	145	56	91
A great deal	38.4%	42%	42%	28%	11%	37%
Somewhat	32.4%	44%	49%	48%	11%	47%
Very little	16.4%	8%	6%	18%	5%	8%
Hardly at all	11.6%	4%	2%	4%	23%	3%
Couldn't say	1.2%	1%	1%	1%	46%	4%

Q11		<i>Large classes do not have much effect on student performance.</i>				
	National online	Albuquerque	Kearney	New Haven	Rochester	St. Louis
TOTAL (n=)	357	73	124	145	56	91
Strongly agree	4.5%	26%	5%	10%	11%	14%
Agree somewhat	13.3%	14%	10%	17%	11%	19%
Neither agree nor disagree	5.2%	5%	4%	6%	5%	4%
Disagree somewhat	23.7%	12%	25%	28%	23%	18%
Disagree strongly	53.3%	42%	56%	39%	46%	43%
Couldn't say	0.0%	0%	1%	0%	4%	2%

All survey responses were gathered at the end of a structured deliberative process

NOTE ON TOPICS: THE FOCUS AREAS ARE INDICATED UNDER THE NAME OF EACH LOCATION. LOCAL SITES DISCUSSED THE NATIONAL ISSUES AS WELL AS AN ISSUE OF PARTICULAR LOCAL INTEREST. THE ONLINE DISCUSSION WAS BASED ON NATIONAL BACKGROUND MATERIALS ONLY; LOCAL DISCUSSIONS ON A SUMMARY NATIONAL BACKGROUNDER AND A LOCALLY-GENERATED DOCUMENT AS WELL. SEE <http://www.newshour.org/btp>

Note on samples: the online participants were recruited through a random selection procedure supplemented by matching and stratification, from the nation as a whole; Rochester and New Haven's participants were invited exclusively from among those randomly invited to participate in -- and who either attended or said they would attend - previous deliberations in those communities; Albuquerque, Kearney, and St. Louis participants included previous invitees selected in this way as well as additional participants recruited through local partners to reflect the diversity of their area. Kearney's sample included a randomly invited group of local educators.