

MASSINC GATEWAY CITIES EDUCATION POLL

January 25, 2011



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**MASSINC
GATEWAY CITIES EDUCATION POLL RESULTS**

Field Dates: January 11-13, 2011

Overall grades given to local public schools

Students are often graded on the quality of their work using the letters A, B, C, D, and F. Suppose the public schools themselves were graded in the same way. What grade would you give the public schools in (read name of respondent's city)?

		Unweighted Count*	A	B	C	D	F	Don't know / Refused
OVERALL	Overall	400	12%	37%	34%	8%	3%	5%
GENDER	Male	183	13%	45%	29%	8%	3%	2%
	Female	217	12%	31%	38%	9%	3%	8%
AGE CATEGORIES	18 to 29	69	13%	29%	47%	10%	1%	1%
	30 to 44	101	11%	44%	38%	2%	1%	3%
	45 to 59	134	9%	37%	36%	6%	2%	9%
	60+	96	16%	37%	24%	13%	6%	5%
AGE AND GENDER	Men age 18-49	103	16%	50%	25%	5%	1%	3%
	Women age 18-49	116	10%	32%	47%	5%	2%	4%
	Men age 50+	80	11%	41%	31%	10%	6%	2%
	Women age 50+	101	13%	29%	30%	12%	4%	12%
PARTY REGISTRATION	Democrat	188	16%	39%	30%	9%	4%	2%
	Republican	48	6%	25%	32%	14%	7%	16%
	Unenrolled / Other	164	10%	38%	38%	6%	2%	6%
RACE	White / Caucasian	295	12%	38%	30%	10%	4%	6%
	All others	105	13%	36%	40%	6%	2%	4%
HAS PUBLIC SCHOOL KIDS	No kids in local public school	325	11%	37%	33%	9%	4%	6%
	Has kids in local public school	75	17%	40%	36%	4%	2%	1%

* The "Unweighted Count" column shows the unweighted sample size for each group. For more information, please refer to "sample composition" on page 5.

Schools getting better or worse

In the last five years, do you think the public schools in (read name of respondent’s city) have gotten better overall, gotten worse overall, or stayed about the same?

Note: scale order rotated

		Unweighted Count*	Gotten better	Stayed the same	Gotten worse	Don't know / Refused
OVERALL	Overall	400	31%	45%	18%	6%
GENDER	Male	183	33%	46%	17%	4%
	Female	217	28%	44%	19%	9%
AGE CATEGORIES	18 to 29	69	34%	43%	21%	2%
	30 to 44	101	36%	44%	13%	6%
	45 to 59	134	29%	42%	24%	5%
	60+	96	27%	50%	14%	9%
AGE AND GENDER	Men age 18-49	103	40%	41%	14%	5%
	Women age 18-49	116	33%	43%	20%	4%
	Men age 50+	80	28%	51%	19%	2%
	Women age 50+	101	24%	45%	18%	13%
PARTY REGISTRATION	Democrat	188	33%	47%	15%	5%
	Republican	48	23%	41%	29%	7%
	Unenrolled / Other	164	30%	44%	19%	7%
RACE	White / Caucasian	295	27%	49%	18%	6%
	All others	105	38%	37%	17%	7%
HAS PUBLIC SCHOOL KIDS	No kids in local public school	325	28%	46%	19%	7%
	Has kids in local public school	75	43%	43%	11%	3%

** The “Unweighted Count” column shows the unweighted sample size for each group. For more information, please refer to “sample composition” on page 5.*

Support or oppose reform ideas

I would now like to read you several ideas some people say would improve public schools in (read name of respondent’s city). As I read each one, please tell me if you support or oppose the idea. READ ITEM. And do you strongly (support/oppose), or just somewhat (support/oppose) (repeat idea description)?

Note: item order rotated

	Total % support (strongly or somewhat)	% “strongly support”
Providing comprehensive early childhood education	91%	73%
Increasing funding for education to support the reform process (Split A*)	78%	54%
Allowing students to attend schools in other districts	69%	37%
Using student test data as a part of evaluating teacher performance	68%	38%
Permitting charter schools to increase enrollment to accommodate more students	68%	41%
Extending the school day	58%	31%
Raising taxes to increase funding for education to support the reform process (Split B*)	47%	16%

** A random one half of respondents was given the item “Increasing funding for education to support the reform process”. The other half was given the item “Raising taxes to increase funding for education to support the reform process”.*

About the poll: These results are based on a MassINC Polling Group poll of registered voters in the Massachusetts “Gateway Cities”, which include Brockton, Fall River, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, New Bedford, Pittsfield, Springfield, and Worcester. The poll was conducted January 11-13, 2011 among a representative sample of 400 registered voters. Live telephone interviews were conducted via both landline and cell phone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish by Eastern Research Services. The margin of sampling error is +/- 4.9 percent with a 95 percent level of confidence.

Sample composition: Population parameters for age, gender, and party of registered voters in the Gateway Cities were drawn from databases of registered voters. Initial figures for racial and ethnic composition of the Gateway Cities were drawn from Census data. These figures were then adjusted to account for variations in voter registration by racial and ethnic group to arrive at final estimates. Analysis was performed to test the effect of various realistic assumptions regarding racial and ethnic makeup, and the effects were found to be negligible on key questions such as grades given to the local public schools.

The figures shown below represent the weighted percentage of the total sample that each sub-group represents.

<i>GENDER</i>	<i>Male</i>	47%
	<i>Female</i>	53%
<i>AGE CATEGORIES</i>	<i>18 to 29</i>	14%
	<i>30 to 44</i>	21%
	<i>45 to 59</i>	29%
	<i>60+</i>	35%
<i>RACE</i>	<i>White / Caucasian</i>	65%
	<i>All others</i>	35%
<i>PARTY REGISTRATION</i>	<i>Democrat</i>	48%
	<i>Republican</i>	9%
	<i>Unenrolled / Other</i>	43%