

## **Granite State Poll Sample Questions**

Commission to Study School Funding Public Engagement Workgroup Meeting  
August 3, 2020

### **Notes for the Public Engagement Workgroup**

- This document is for our workgroup to think about what we want to know to support the Commission's charge and process for decision-making
- These are draft questions for discussion. The wording will be revised by experts at the UNH Survey Center.
- We want to frame 5 to 6 questions that get at the most important issues.

### **Demographic Question Notes**

- Will need to know if respondent is a current parent of a public school student to assess responses to last few questions in the list below
- Will need to know whether respondents are property owners, renters, ever had a child in NH schools, etc. for all the questions. We can align with the school employee survey
- Anything else?

### **Draft Questions for Discussion**

1. Knowing communities and school districts in NH have varying taxable wealth based on property values, how important is tax equity in school funding? (*Note: Need to explain tax equity; could form a question with reference to the current ConVal v. NH case.*)
2. Approximately, 2/3's of school funding is derived from property taxes. To what degree do you believe this is a fair/the best way to raise funds for schools?
3. Which of these options is closest to your opinion of what should be the primary source of education funding in New Hampshire ... local property taxes, a state-wide property tax, an income tax, or a sales tax? Other?
4. On average across all NH communities, schools spend about \$19,000 per student each year. This is among the highest average in the country. But some districts such as Manchester, Dover, and Nashua spend around \$12-13,000 per student while others such as Rye, Newington, or Lincoln spend more than twice that amount. Is this wide range of funds available to educate students, depending on where they live, equitable/fair in your view?
5. Some communities have much more wealth than others when we think about the value of property and household income. For example, the value of property for each enrolled student in some of our wealthiest districts is \$XX and in some of our poorest districts is \$YY. Since we rely mostly on property taxes to pay for our schools, this means that school budgets closely reflect the wealth of their communities. Would you support a statewide funding system that allocates more money to poorer communities than wealthier communities in order to equalize students' opportunity for an adequate education?

- 5a. Would you support this kind of redistribution if it meant that tax revenue from some wealthy communities might support the school expenses in some poorer communities?
6. Should tax revenues only be used to support schools in the communities where the taxes are raised?
- 6a. Should tax revenues be shared equitably across communities so that the school budgets in wealthy and poor communities are more similar?
7. Should all New Hampshire school children have the same degree of opportunity to an adequate education regardless of the needs of those children?
- 7a. Should all New Hampshire school children have the same degree of opportunity to an adequate education regardless of the community they live in?
8. How important is each of these factors in assuring that students receive an education that meets their needs? – teacher compensation – instructional technology – school leadership – quality of classrooms and buildings – social and behavioral supports – transportation – extracurricular programs – content of the curriculum – etc.
9. If there was one way to reduce the cost of our public schools, what do you think it should be?
10. If there was one way to improve the quality and outcomes of our public schools, what do you think it should be?
11. On a scale of A through F, how well do you think the public schools in your community are performing?
- 10a. On a scale of A through F, how well do you think the public schools in New Hampshire overall are performing?

Additionally, we may want to look at the Gallup Poll on Parent's Satisfaction - <https://news.gallup.com/poll/241652/seven-parents-satisfied-child-education.aspx>.

Scale = Completely satisfied, Somewhat satisfied, Somewhat dissatisfied, Completely dissatisfied, Just starting school (vol.), No opinion

22. Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of education students receive in kindergarten through grade twelve in the U.S. today -- would you say you are completely satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or completely dissatisfied?
25. (Asked of parents with children in grades kindergarten through 12) How satisfied are you with the quality of education your oldest child is receiving? Would you say you are completely satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or completely dissatisfied?