

Granite State Poll Sample Questions Draft 2

Commission to Study School Funding

Goal: Frame 5 to 6 questions to poll NH residents. What is the most important feedback the Commission needs to design a fair and effective funding formula?

Timing: September 2020, next version to Survey Center by Wednesday, August 12th. Data will be collected online over a 4-day period. The Survey Center provides raw data and a report a week later.

Demographic Questions

- Asked on each poll: Age, sex, region, level of education, income, party
- Other suggestions from our group:
 - Current parent in the public schools (grade/school level or yes/no)
 - Property owner in NH, renter, seasonal property owner, out of state owner, other,
 - School district you live in (drop down list), Community you live in (drop down list)
 - Employment status: employed, unemployed, retired

Guidance from the UNH Survey Center Staff:

- Avoid, “nice to know questions.” Ask ourselves, “how does this help make a decision?”
- Avoid lots of information in the questions. If it can't be succinct, probably not worth asking.

Draft Questions for Discussion: *Use track changes.*

- On average, school districts spend approximately \$19,000 per student each year, with approximately \$4500 from state funds and the rest mostly from local property taxes. Do you think that is reasonable? What is a reasonable amount for the state to pay? (0-25%, 25-50%, 50-75%, 75-100% as choices)
- Should state funds be used to cover more of the costs for public education? If so, would you consider a new or expanded statewide tax in order to reduce local property taxes?
- Knowing communities and school districts in NH have varying taxable wealth based on property values, how important is tax equity in school funding?
- Which of these options is closest to your opinion of what should be the primary source of education funding in NH? (local property taxes, a state-wide property tax, an income tax, or a sales tax? other?)
- Some communities in NH have more wealth than others in terms of property values and household income. We rely mostly on property taxes to pay for our schools. This means 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 to equalize students' opportunity for an adequate education?
- Would you support the redistribution of school funding if it meant that tax revenue from some wealthy communities might support the school expenses in some poorer communities?
- Should all NH school children have the same degree of opportunity to an adequate education regardless of the needs of those children? Or the community they live in?
- How important is each of factor in assuring that students receive an education that meets their needs?

– teacher compensation	– extracurricular programs
– instructional technology	– content of the curriculum
– class size	– special education
– school leadership	– early childhood education
– learning standards	– English language learner supports
– quality of classrooms and buildings	– college and career readiness
– social and behavioral supports	– low-income student supports
– transportation	