



**HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY POLL
MEMO RELEASE 2/10/2017 (UPDATE: EDUCATION ISSUES)**

ELEMENTS	DETAILS
Population represented	Adults in North Carolina (and registered voters)
Sample size	405 Adults in North Carolina (with 373 self-identified registered voters)
Mode of data collection	Telephone (landline and cellular telephones). Interviews conducted in English.
Type of sample (probability/non-probability)	Probability, using RDD samples of landline and cellular telephones generated by Survey Sampling International. Landline respondents were randomly selected within household by asking to speak with the person age 18 or older who has had the most recent birthday.
Start and end dates of data collection	January 28 – February 3, 2017
Margin of sampling error for total sample	Approximately 4.9 percentage points for the all adult sample. Approximately 5.1 percentage points for the registered voter sample. The margin of error is not adjusted for sample weights.
Are the data weighted?	Yes, relative to U.S. Census (2014 American Community Survey and Population Estimates Program) estimates for age, race and gender; CDC estimates for phone usage (cell only, landline only, or both); and North Carolina State Board of Elections party registration statistics.
Survey sponsor and funded by	High Point University Survey Research Center, High Point, NC
Survey/Data collection supplier	High Point University Survey Research Center. The Center is located on the High Point University campus. Student interviewers staff the 42 stations equipped with WinCati computer assisted telephone interviewing systems.
Contact for more information	<p>Martin Kifer Director, High Point University Survey Research Center 336-841-9333 mkifer@highpoint.edu</p> <p>Brian McDonald Associate Director 336-841-9651 bmcdonal@highpoint.edu</p>

Attached is the full text of survey questions our interviewers asked. Interested parties can access results from the survey at <http://www.highpoint.edu/src> and should contact the Director of the Survey Research Center for additional information.

Survey questions: Below are questions the Survey Research Center fielded for this study. They represent the text as read by the interviewers, plus options that appeared to interviewers but were not offered to respondents (in parentheses). Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding. Percentages less than one percent are denoted with a *

Registered Voter Screening

These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district or haven't you been able to register so far?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Yes	92	100
No	8	0
(Don't know/Refuse)	*	
	n= 405	n=373

Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote or is there a chance that your registration has lapsed because you moved or some other reason?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Yes, absolutely certain	92	100
Chance registration has lapsed	0	0
	n=373	n=373

On November 8th, 2016, North Carolina held its general election for President, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives and other offices. Did you vote or were you unable to vote for some reason?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Yes	91	91
No	9	9
	n=373	n=373

Education in North Carolina

Do you happen to have any children--for whom you are parent or guardian-- currently receiving instruction here in North Carolina at the kindergarten through twelfth grade level? If so, do they currently receive their education through a traditional public school, charter school, private or parochial school, home school, or more than one of those?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
No, not a parent or guardian for any children kindergarten through 12 th grade age	68	69
Yes, public school	26	24
Yes, charter school	1	2
Yes, private or parochial school	4	5
Yes, home school	2	2
(Don't know/Refuse)	*	*
	n= 413	n=381

Note: Participants could select more than one response.

Overall, in which direction would you say that public education in North Carolina is headed? Would you say the right direction or wrong direction?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Right Direction	31	30
Wrong Direction	55	57
(Don't know/Refuse)	14	14
	n=405	n=373

Using a grade of A, B, C, D and F -- where A is excellent and F is very poor -- how would you grade North Carolina on the quality of its public schools?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
A	3	3
B	21	22
C	44	42
D	16	16
F	9	10
(Don't know/Refuse)	7	7
	n=405	n=373

I am going to read a list of summaries of legislation that the North Carolina General Assembly passed or is considering. Please indicate to what extent you believe these changes will impact the quality of public education in North Carolina. For each item you can say strong negative impact, negative impact, no impact, positive impact or strong positive impact.

All adults (n=404)

	Strong Negative Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Positive Impact	Strong Positive Impact	(Don't know/ Refuse)
In 2017, the state will spend 44 million dollars to provide low income families with a 4200 dollar per child voucher to send their children to attend a private school where state tests are not given.	15	28	8	31	13	5
North Carolina schools having fewer teacher assistants in the classroom.	34	48	6	6	3	3
In 2017, class sizes will be reduced in kindergarten through 3 rd grade but there will be fewer art, music, and physical education teachers and larger classes in grades 4 through 8.	30	46	9	9	3	5
In 2017, a new "achievement" district that includes at least five low-performing North Carolina public schools will be created and managed by an out-of-state, for profit company.	23	37	9	15	5	12
Power has been shifted away from the State Board of Education to the State superintendent.	13	42	12	15	3	16

Registered Voters (n=372)

	Strong Negative Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Positive Impact	Strong Positive Impact	(Don't know/ Refuse)
In 2017, the state will spend 44 million dollars to provide low income families with a 4200 dollar per child voucher to send their children to attend a private school where state tests are not given.	16	28	9	31	12	5
North Carolina schools having fewer teacher assistants in the classroom.	36	48	6	5	3	3
In 2017, class sizes will be reduced in kindergarten through 3 rd grade but there will be fewer art, music, and physical education teachers and larger classes in grades 4 through 8.	30	45	8	9	3	5
In 2017, a new "achievement" district that includes at least five low-performing North Carolina public schools will be created and managed by an out-of-state, for profit company.	23	38	7	16	5	11
Power has been shifted away from the State Board of Education to the State superintendent.	12	43	11	14	3	17

Do you believe that the state should give schools a rating of A, B, C, D, or F based on students' test scores?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Yes	46	46
No	46	47
(Don't know/Refuse)	7	8
	n=404	n=372

I am going to read two statements about how to rate the quality of schools. Please tell me whether the first statement or the second statement is closer to your own view.

In rating schools, there should be more emphasis on how much students improve overall

OR

In rating schools, there should be more emphasis on how many students attain a particular level of proficiency

	All Adults	Registered Voters
More emphasis on overall improvement	67	67
More emphasis on how many students attain proficiency	22	23
(Neither)	2	2
(Both)	4	4
(Don't know/Refuse)	5	5
	n=404	n=372

These days many schools focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math--also known as "STEM"--curriculum. How much would you say you know about the STEM curriculum? Would you say you know a lot, a little bit, or not very much at all about the STEM curriculum?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
A lot	27	28
A little bit	32	31
Not much at all	40	40
(Don't know/Refuse)	1	1
	n=405	n=373

Would you vote for or against a law that would spend government money to establish federal and state programs making high-quality preschools available to every child in America who would qualify for free lunch?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Vote against	15	16
Vote for	80	79
(Don't know/Refuse)	5	5
	n=405	n=373

I am going to read you a list of government officials and some other groups. Please tell me whether you think that in general most people have respect for these people or groups.

All Adults (n=405)

	Yes	No	(Don't know/ Refuse)
Public school teachers	68	26	6
School principals	69	22	9
School superintendents	62	26	12
School boards	52	39	9
County commissioners	53	29	18
North Carolina State Superintendent of Public Instruction	43	32	25
North Carolina Governor	65	24	11
State legislators	44	46	10
Businesses or Private Companies	66	22	13
Local media	56	39	5
National media	33	61	6
Faith based organizations	63	26	11
State Board of Education	52	35	13

Registered Voters (n=373)

	Yes	No	(Don't know/ Refuse)
Public school teachers	67	27	5
School principals	70	22	8
School superintendents	62	27	12
School boards	53	39	8
County commissioners	54	29	17
North Carolina State Superintendent of Public Instruction	42	34	24
North Carolina Governor	65	25	11
State legislators	45	46	9
Businesses or Private Companies	66	22	12
Local media	56	39	4
National media	34	60	6
Faith based organizations	63	27	10
State Board of Education	53	35	12

Now I am going to read you a list of school types. Please tell me if you feel they should receive additional funds from the state:

[Exceptional Children, sometimes called EC, include students who have different educational needs due to physical, mental, or social disabilities]

All Adults (n=405)

	Yes	No	(Don't know/ Refuse)
Schools with a high percentage of low income students	85	13	3
Schools with English Language Learners	72	23	5
Schools with Exceptional Children programs	87	12	1

Registered Voters (n=373)

	Yes	No	(Don't know/ Refuse)
Schools with a high percentage of low income students	86	12	2
Schools with English Language Learners	73	23	4
Schools with Exceptional Children programs	87	12	1

Thinking about leadership in the public school system, should there be more or less funding for university-based leadership training and development of each of the following

All Adults (n=404)

	More	Less	(Don't know/ Refuse)
Teacher leaders	85	8	7
School principals	75	19	7
District office leaders	51	33	16

Registered Voters (n=373)

	More	Less	(Don't know/ Refuse)
Teacher leaders	85	8	7
School principals	75	19	6
District office leaders	53	32	16

Currently, State law requires public schools in North Carolina to start school the last week of August, no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26th. Previously, state law allowed local school districts to determine the starting day for their schools, and many districts started school in early August. Which statement best captures your opinion?

School districts should be allowed to start the school year at the same time as community colleges and universities and have the same flexibility on setting the school calendar that charter schools have

OR

State law should determine the start date for ALL North Carolina public schools.

	All Adults	Registered Voters
School districts should be allowed flexibility to start the school year at the same time as community colleges and universities	59	60
State law should determine the start date for all North Carolina public schools	37	36
(Don't know/Refuse)	4	4
	n=404	n=372

Would you prefer that North Carolina public schools follow a traditional calendar or a year round school calendar?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Traditional	59	57
Year round	28	30
(Don't know/Refuse)	13	13
	n=404	n=372

The last statewide bond referendum for public school facility construction and maintenance was held in 1997. Would you generally favor or oppose a statewide bond referendum to provide North Carolina school districts with funds to address an estimated 8 to 10-billion-dollar backlog in school construction and renovation?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Favor	71	71
Oppose	17	18
(Don't know/Refuse)	12	11
	n=403	n=371

Would you favor or oppose a law to offer tuition-free university and community college to public school students in North Carolina whose families make less than \$125,000 a year?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Favor	66	66
Oppose	32	32
(Don't know/Refuse)	2	11
	n=404	n=372

Generally speaking, do you believe that taxpayer dollars to train North Carolina school principals and school leaders should be allocated to universities in North Carolina or provided as grants to other private companies to train those leaders?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Allocated to universities in NC	60	61
Provided as grants to other private agencies	23	23
(Don't know/Refuse)	17	17
	n=404	n=372

How important would you say central office administrators are to the overall success of public education? Not Important, Somewhat Important, Important, or Very Important.

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Not Important	10	10
Somewhat Important	30	30
Important	29	28
Very Important	24	25
(Don't know/Refuse)	8	7
	n=405	n=373

Generally speaking, would you say that North Carolina public school TEACHERS are paid too little, about the right amount, or too much?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Too little	84	84
About right	10	9
Too much	2	2
(Don't know/Refuse)	4	5
	n=404	n=372

Would you be willing to pay more in taxes so that North Carolina TEACHERS would be paid at the level of the national average within five years?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Yes	77	77
No	18	18
(Don't know/Refuse)	5	5
	n=401	n=369

Generally speaking, would you say that North Carolina public school PRINCIPALS are paid too little, about the right amount, or too much?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Too little	30	30
About right	33	32
Too much	11	11
(Don't know/Refuse)	27	28
	n=402	n=370

Would you be willing to pay more in taxes so that North Carolina PRINCIPALS would be paid at the level of the national average within five years?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Yes	50	50
No	36	36
(Don't know/Refuse)	14	14
	n=402	n=370

Demographics

Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Yes	4	3
No	95	96
(Don't know/Refuse)	1	1
	n=402	n=370

What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
African-American or Black	21	21
White or Caucasian	70	71
Native American	2	2
Asian	1	*
(Multiple or Other)	2	2
(Don't know/Refuse)	3	3
	N=405	n=373

What is the last year of schooling you have completed?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
(1-11 th grade)	4	3
(High school graduate)	17	16
(Some college)	21	22
(College graduate)	36	37
(Graduate school)	21	22
(Don't know/ Refused)	*	1
	n=402	n=370

Are you, or is any member of your household, a member of the armed forces or a veteran?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Yes	30	31
No	69	68
(Don't know/Refuse)	*	*
	n=402	n=370

Would you please stop me when I read the correct category for your total household income?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
25 thousand dollars or less	11	11
25 to 50 thousand dollars	15	15
50 to 75 thousand dollars	20	19
75 to 100 thousand dollars	18	18
100 to 150 thousand dollars	12	13
150 to 250 thousand dollars	6	5
More than 250 thousand dollars	2	3
(Don't know/Refuse)	16	15
	n=402	n=370

Do you have a gun in your home?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Yes	47	49
No	48	46
(Don't know)	5	5
	n=402	n=370

How often do you attend worship services? Would you say never, a few times a year, a few times a month, almost every week, every week, or more than once a week.

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Never	19	18
A few times a year	25	27
A few times a month	17	15
Almost every week	11	12
Every week	17	18
More than once a week	8	8
(Don't know/Refuse)	3	3
	n=405	n=373

Would you describe yourself as a "born again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Yes	45	46
No	51	50
(Don't know)	4	4
	n=405	n=373

In politics today, do you generally consider yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or what?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Democrat	36	35
Republican	31	32
(Independent/unaffiliated)	30	30
(Other)	1	1
(Don't know/Refuse)	3	3
	n=405	n=370

Thinking about politics today, do you generally consider yourself to be very conservative, somewhat conservative, moderate, somewhat liberal, or very liberal?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Very conservative	10	11
Somewhat conservative	26	27
Moderate	32	32
Somewhat liberal	16	15
Very liberal	12	12
(Other)	*	0
(Don't know/Refuse)	3	3
	n=402	n=370

How would you best describe your current relationship status?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Single	32	31
Engaged	3	4
Living with significant other	5	5
Married	53	54
Widowed	5	5
(Don't know/Refuse)	1	1
	n=402	n=370

Gender

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Male	48	49
Female	52	51
	n=405	n=373

Age (Calculated using birth year)

In what year were you born?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
18 - 24	13	12
25 - 34	18	17
35 - 44	20	20
45 - 54	19	20
55 - 64	15	16
65 and older	16	17
	n=405	n=373