



**VCU**

L. Douglas Wilder School of  
Government and Public Affairs

## Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-15

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*A survey of Virginians conducted by the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute*

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### Table of Contents

<b>Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Perspectives on Higher Education .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Campus Policies to Combat Sexual Assault, Promote Campus Safety .....	4
Evaluating the Quality and Performance of Higher Education .....	6
Workforce skills – readiness of high school and college grads; priority skills .....	8
<b>Perspectives on Public Schools (K-12) in Virginia .....</b>	<b>10</b>
School Funding As A Priority .....	10
Willingness to Pay .....	12
Bullying in Schools – Is it a Serious Problem? .....	14
School Safety – Majority See Schools as Safe or Very Safe .....	15
Pre-Labor Day Opening .....	16
Virtual Learning Opportunities for High School Credit .....	17
High-stakes Testing and SOLs: Weighing Costs and Benefits .....	18
What About Consistently Failing Schools? .....	21
Requiring Internships to Bolster Workforce Development .....	22
<b>Methodology of the Commonwealth Education Poll .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Topline Results and Trend Data .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Tables with Subgroup Analysis .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Press Releases .....</b>	<b>69</b>
Press Release I [January 15, 2015]: Overwhelming Majority of Virginians Think Colleges and Universities Should Be Required to Report Sexual Assaults to Police .....	69
Press Release II [January 22, 2015]: Majorities Think Current School Funding is Not Enough and Would Pay More in Taxes to Forestall Cuts; Majority of Virginians Feel Bullying is a Very Serious Problem in Schools .....	71
Release III [January 29, 2015]: Majority of Virginians Favor Increased Online Learning Opportunities for High School Credit; Have Mixed Views on Impact of Standards of Learning .....	73

## **Acknowledgements**

We're grateful to everyone who makes this annual poll possible but we wanted to specifically acknowledge a number of people who played critical roles in the development, publication and dissemination of the findings.

We are always grateful for the support provided by the Virginia General Assembly in its annual appropriations – the poll would not be possible without that support. We're also grateful to our many colleagues here at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, including Dean Niraj Verma, and Dr. Henry Brownstein, Director of the Center for Public Policy, for ongoing support of the Institute and help with dissemination of the poll. Finally, thanks to Mike Porter for assistance in disseminating press releases about the poll.

A particular word of thanks to the following folks who played key roles:

**Survey Director** - Farrah Stone Graham, Ph.D.

**Report Writer** - Grant Rissler, Associate, CEPI; Ph.D. student, Wilder School, VCU

**Poll Design & Planning** (additional persons who provided input into development of the poll):

- Dr. William C. Boshier, Jr., Executive Director, CEPI
- Martha Collier, Associate Director, CEPI
- Joshua Schulhoff, Intern, CEPI; M.A. student, University of Richmond

Additionally, thanks to all the anonymous respondents who took the time to answer the questions contained in this poll and for you, the reader, for making use of the information.

Finally, we also want to acknowledge the bittersweet nature of this poll with the sudden passing of the Institute's founder, Dr. William C. Boshier, Jr., in late November. This was one of the final projects he worked on, with the selection of questions finalized just before his passing. We remember fondly how much he anticipated seeing the results come in – a window into what the public was thinking about education policy. We hope that the continued insight of this poll will be a small continuing part of his enormous legacy of impact on education in Virginia.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robyn McDougale  
Interim Executive Director  
Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute

# Perspectives on Higher Education

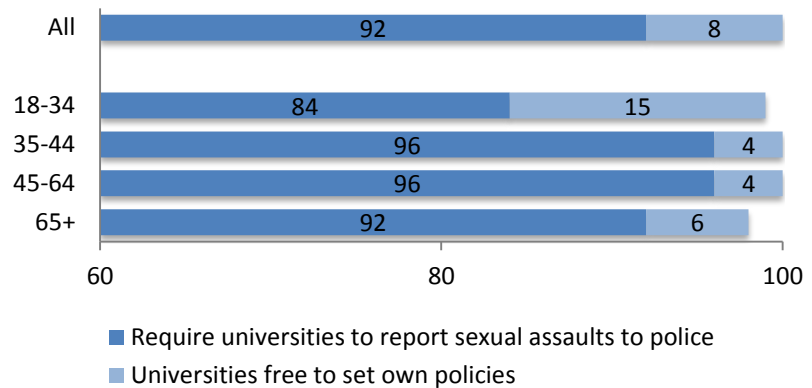
## Campus Policies to Combat Sexual Assault, Promote Campus Safety

In the wake of high-profile media coverage of alleged sexual assaults at a major Virginia university, policy-makers are considering legislative responses, including Senate Bill 712 which would require university faculty or staff to report to police within 48 hours any alleged criminal sexual assaults that come to their attention.

An overwhelming majority of Virginians (92%) believe that colleges and universities should be required to report sexual assaults to the police, likely indicating strong public support for such legislative proposals. Though a large majority (84%) of 18-34 year-olds (the age group most represented on college campuses) also favored a

### Requirement to Report Sexual Assaults

*Which approach to dealing with sexual assaults on college campuses to you most agree with, even if neither is exactly right...? (Percentage saying each)*



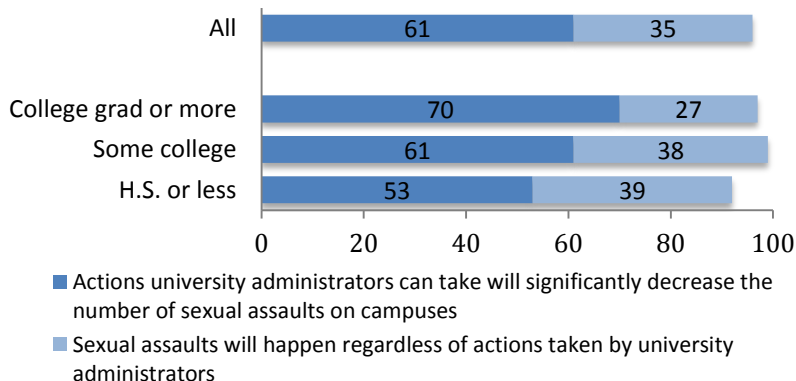
Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

requirement to report, more of that age group said universities should be free to set their own policies.

A majority of Virginians (61%) also believe that actions available to college administrators can significantly decrease the number of sexual assaults, compared to 35% who think sexual assaults will

### Requirement to Report Sexual Assaults

*Which of the following statements comes closer to your overall view, even if neither is exactly right?*



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

happen regardless of administrator actions.

Those with a college degree (70%) said more frequently that administrator actions will make a difference.

Political independents (44%) and respondents in the West region said more often that assaults will happen regardless of actions taken.

Even amidst widespread media attention through the fall toward potential dangers on college campuses, a strong majority of Virginians (66%) believes that Virginia's college and university campuses are safe or very safe, with 11% saying very safe. This is largely unchanged from 2014 when 70% judged campuses safe or very safe. Almost a third of respondents, 32%, said that campuses are not very or not at all safe.

While a majority in each geographic region judged campuses to be safe/very safe, there were differences. A larger portion of respondents from Northern Virginia said campuses were safe or very safe (79%) than did respondents in South Central,

### How Safe are College Campuses?

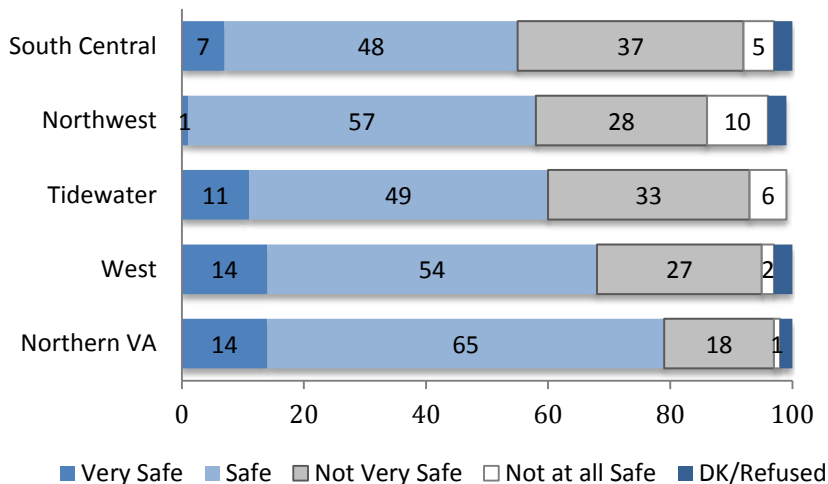
*Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia?*

	2015	2014
Very safe	11	12
Safe	55	58
Not very safe	28	22
Not safe at all	4	3
Don't know/Refused	2	4

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

### How Safe are College Campuses? (Regional breakdown)

*Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia? (Percentage saying each)*



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

Tidewater and Northwest.

In those three regions between 38% and 42% said campuses were not safe or not at all safe. Fully 10% of respondents in the Northwest said campuses were not at all safe.

Additionally, women judged campuses to be safe less frequently than men – 40% of women said they thought campuses were not very safe or not at

all safe compared to 22% of men who said the same.

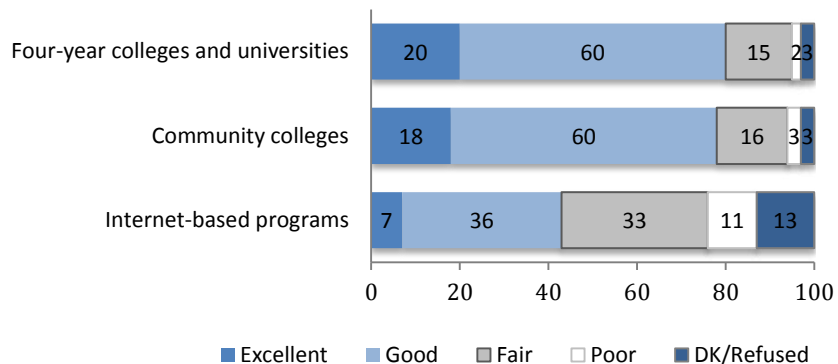
Education and income demographics also were intertwined with perceptions of campus safety. Respondents with a high school diploma or less were less likely to judge campuses as being safe. Forty-one percent said campuses were not very safe or not at all safe compared to 29% of respondents with some college coursework and 25% of respondents with a college degree. Likewise, 41% of respondents with a household income of \$50,000 or less said campuses were not very safe or not at all safe. Those with incomes between \$50,000 and \$100,000 (29%) and those with incomes above \$100,000 (21%) said that campuses were not safe much less frequently.

## Evaluating the Quality and Performance of Higher Education

Amid continued concerns about college affordability and value for price, public evaluation of the quality of three options for pursuing higher education is increasingly relevant. Strong majorities of Virginians think both four-year colleges and universities and community colleges are offering a quality education. Eighty percent say the quality of education at a four-year institution is good or excellent. Likewise, 78% say the same about community colleges. However, internet-based programs, where the degree is completed entirely online, received

### Evaluating Higher Ed Options

*From what you know, how would you rate the quality of education offered by the following...?*



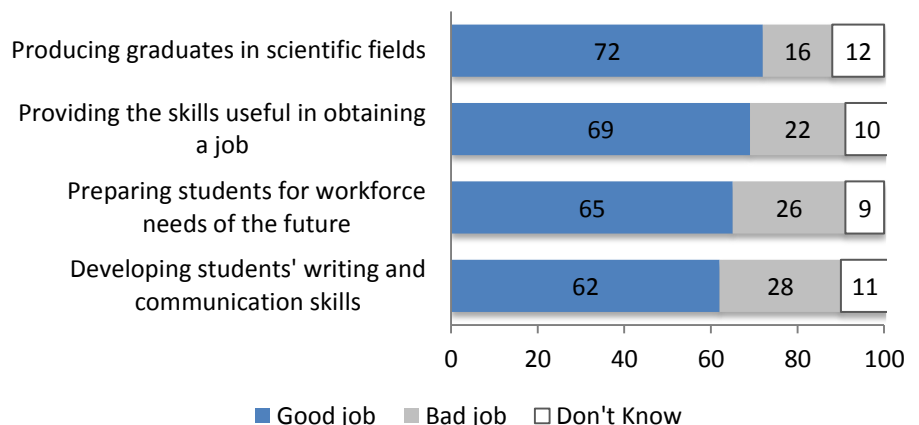
Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

more mixed reviews. A narrow plurality of respondents, 44%, rated the educational quality of internet-based programs as either fair or poor, while 43% rated them as either excellent or good. Thirteen percent said they don't know or refused, potentially indicating that internet-based programs are still a less known option. Among different demographic groups, those with a H.S. diploma or less (48%) or some college (46%), as well as minority respondents (52%), more frequently evaluated online higher-education programs as being good or excellent.

When it comes to specific outcomes, strong majorities say Virginia colleges and universities are doing a good job in all four areas examined. Seventy-two percent of Virginians say colleges and universities are doing a good job in producing graduates in scientific fields and 69% said the same about providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job. Sixty-five percent say the state schools do a good job preparing students for the workforce needs of the future and 62% say the same about developing students' writing and communication skills.

### How are Virginia's Colleges and Universities Doing?

*Overall, do you think the colleges and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or a bad job in following areas?*



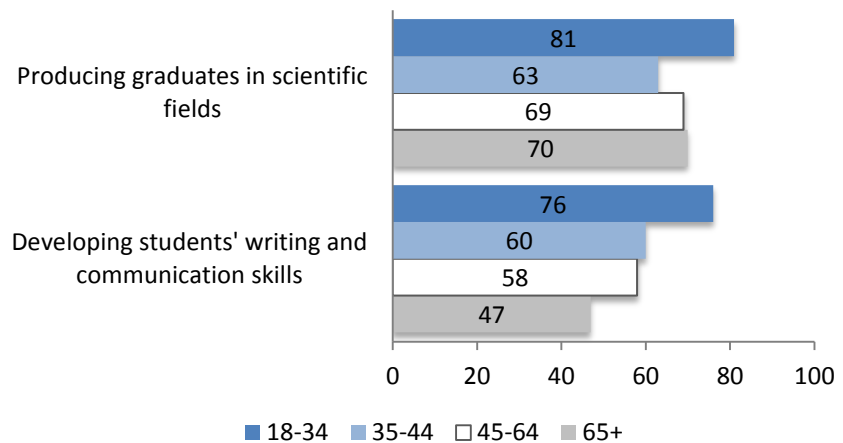
Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

workforce needs for the future. A slightly smaller majority (62%) thinks they are doing a good job developing students' writing and communication skills.

Different age groups evaluated higher education outcomes somewhat differently. Respondents in the 18-34 year-old group were significantly more positive about the performance of colleges and universities in the areas of producing graduates in the scientific fields (81% said good job) and in developing students' writing and communication skills (76% said good job). This was different from other age groups, with the gap in

### Evaluating Higher Education Outcomes

*Overall, do you think the colleges and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job in the following areas...?*



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

perception being greatest when compared to respondents 65 or older where only 47% felt colleges were doing a good job at developing students' writing and communication skills.

Relative to the same outcome area of communication/writing skills, there was also a difference between respondents who are parents of current or past Virginia college students and those who were not. Those who'd had a child attend a Virginia college or university judged schools more harshly in this area – only 52% felt schools were doing a good job compared to 65% of respondents who had not had a child attend a Virginia college or university.

## Workforce skills – readiness of high school and college grads; priority skills

Workforce readiness is a key policy area as well. We asked respondents about how prepared high school and college

students are to move into the next phase of their education or career. A strong majority (70%) think that high school graduates were not prepared for the workplace, strongly or somewhat disagreeing with the statement that high school graduates are ready for work.

Overall, however, Virginians believe that high school graduates are prepared for higher education and college graduates are prepared for the

world of work. Majorities (64% in both cases) agreed that high school graduates are ready for college and that college graduates are ready for work.

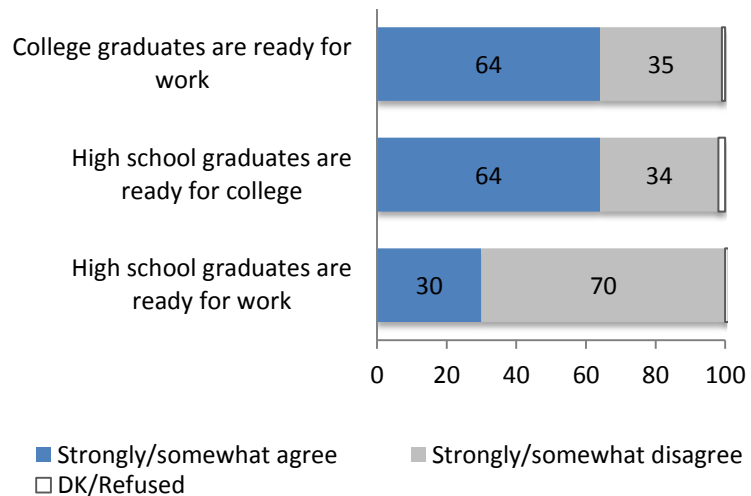
When it comes to whether high school grads are ready for work, those respondents with a lower level of education more frequently thought graduates were ready – 37% somewhat or strongly agreed while 62% disagreed compared to the 73% of college grads who disagreed somewhat or strongly. Younger respondents aged 18-34, however, were the age group most likely to disagree (78%) with the statement that high school graduates were ready for work.

While almost two-thirds of respondents overall think high school graduates are ready for college, several groups stood out for their more frequent agreement with that statement. Seventy percent of minorities agreed while only 61% of white respondents did the same. Likewise, 70% of Democrats agree that high school graduates were ready for college while only 60% of Republicans and 54% of Independents agreed with the same statement.

Democrats (71%) were also more likely to agree that college graduates were ready for the world of work than Republicans (63%) or Independents (51%). Those with household incomes less than \$50,000 were less likely to agree – fifty-four percent (54%) somewhat or strongly agreed compared to

### Ready for the Next Phase?

*Thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements...?*



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015



65% of those with household incomes between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and 67% of those with household incomes greater than \$100,000.

In today's fluctuating job market many young people are struggling to find what makes them competitive. Our survey also asked respondents about what they think students need to have in order to succeed. A majority of Virginians (63%) indicated that it is more important to have specific job knowledge and skills than a college degree from a well-respected university in order to succeed in today. Only 29%

thought that a college degree was more important.

There were several demographic differences on the issue. Women responded that skills were important more often (68%) than men did (57%). Conversely, while a majority of those with college degrees also thought knowledge and skills were more important, a larger proportion of college grads (34%) thought a degree was more important than was the case for those respondents without a college degree (27%).

### What Do Students Need to Succeed?

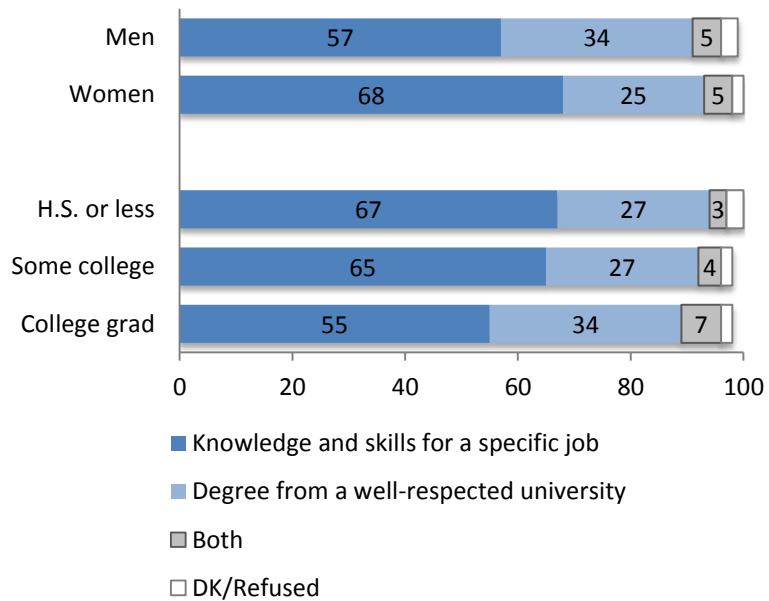
*If you had to choose, which do you think is more important for young people to succeed today-- Earning a college degree from a well-respected university or obtaining the knowledge and skills needed to do a specific job?*

	%
Earning a college degree from a well-respected university	29
Obtaining the knowledge and skills needed to do a specific job	63
Both (VOLUNTEERED)	4
Neither (VOLUNTEERED)	1
Don't Know/Refused	3

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

### Gender and Education Breakdown on What Students Need

*If you had to choose, which do you think is more important for young people to succeed today-- Earning a college degree from a well-respected university or obtaining the knowledge and skills needed to do a specific job?*



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

## Perspectives on Public Schools (K-12) in Virginia

### School Funding As a Priority

While legislators continue to look for ways to make-up for an unexpected shortfall in tax revenue, Virginians remain strongly supportive of funding for the public schools and see it as having a direct impact on school quality.

More than two-thirds of Virginians (68%) say that Virginia schools do

not have enough funds to meet their needs; while only 26% say schools have enough funding now. The portion of respondents who believe schools do not have enough has crept up (9%) over the past five years.

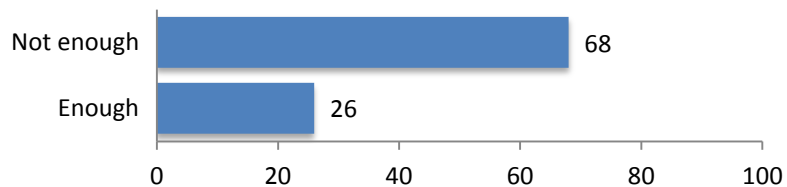
Certain demographic categories were more likely to think that schools don't currently have enough funding. Women (76%) were significantly more likely than men (59%) to think schools were operating below needed funding levels. Likewise, Democrats (74%) more often said schools did not have enough than their Republican (62%) or Independent (60%) counterparts. Differences based on education level and household income were also present:

- Respondents with a high school diploma or less education were most likely (at 74%) to say that schools didn't have enough funding. This compared to 67% of respondents with some college and 62% of respondents with a college degree.
- Respondent from the lower income bracket (\$50,000 or less in household income) were more likely (75%) to feel that schools didn't have enough. This is compared to 69% of those with household incomes between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and only 59% of those with income exceeding \$100,000 who said the same.

Interestingly, there was no statistically significant difference in view between those who were parents of public schools students and those who were not. The same can be said when comparing those who currently or previously worked in the public school system and those who have not. Likewise there was little difference between white and minority perspectives.

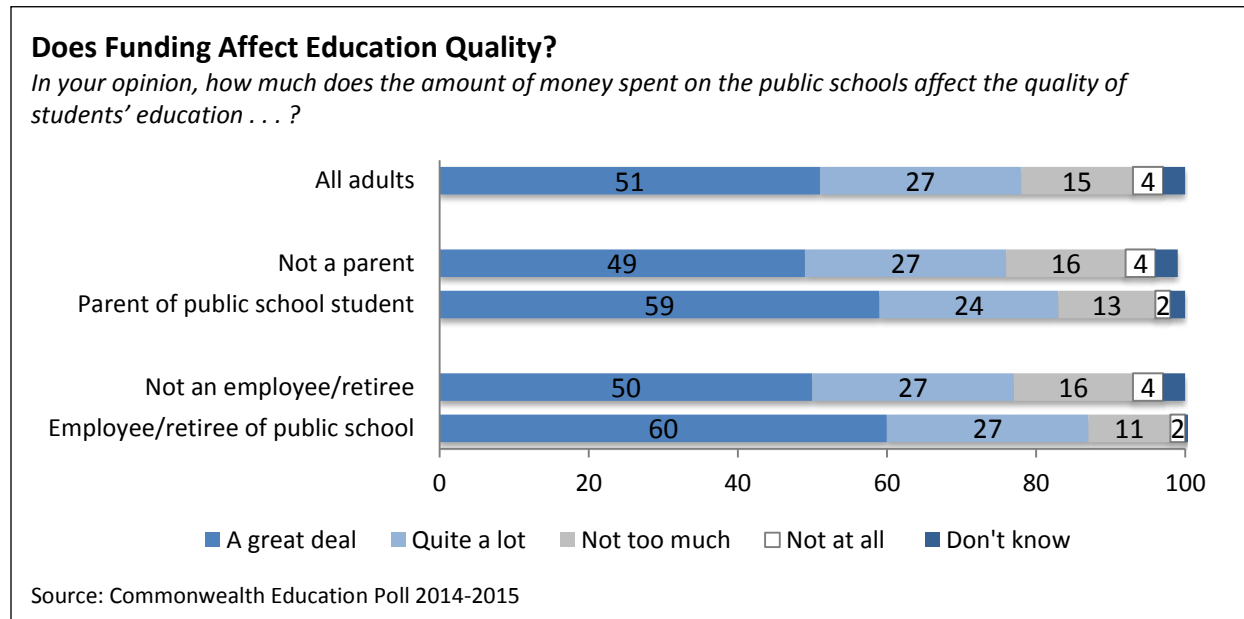
#### **Do Schools Have Enough?**

*Overall, do you think the funding for public schools in Virginia is enough to meet their needs, or not enough to meet their needs?*



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015  
Don't know responses not shown

Perceptions about whether schools have enough are meaningful to conversations about education quality because Virginians also see the amount of funding dedicated to public schools as affecting quality. More than three-quarters of respondents (78%) said that the amount of funding affects quality a great deal or quite a lot, which is similar to responses last year.



Here a direct connection to public schools seems to make a difference in perceptions of the importance of funding. School employees/retirees (60%) and parents of public school students (59%) were more likely to say funding mattered a great deal when compared to non-employee/retiree (50%) and non-parent respondents (49%). Likewise, 58% of minorities said funding mattered a great deal compared to 48% of whites. Age also plays a role – sixty-six percent (66%) of those aged 35-44 said funding mattered a great deal while those aged 18-34 (55%), 45-64 (46%) and 65+ (45%) were less likely to say the same.

## Willingness to Pay

While an opinion that more funds should be directed toward education is one measure of public support for schools, whether respondents are willing to dip into their own financial resources is, perhaps, a stronger indication of support. Fifty-three percent (53%) of Virginians indicate a personal willingness to pay higher taxes in order to increase school funding, while 43% say they are not willing to do so. The proportion willing to pay higher taxes for this purpose is 6% lower than last year.

### Willing to Pay Higher Taxes?

*Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding could be increased?*

	2015	2014	2013	2012
Willing	53	59	60	61
Not willing	43	38	35	35
Don't know/Refused	4	3	5	5

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

Given the well-known divide between the two dominant parties on the question of taxes, it is unsurprising that Democrats (63%) are more likely to be willing to pay higher taxes than are Republicans (47%). Responses from Independents (48% are willing) are more closely aligned with Republicans than they are with Democrats on this question. Likewise, younger respondents were more willing to pay higher taxes to increase funding for schools. Those aged 18-34 (63% willing) and 35-44 (60% willing) were clearly different than those aged 45-64 (46% willing) and those 65 and older (48% willing).

Our poll also asked only those willing to pay more in taxes what kind of tax increase would be best. As in prior years a plurality (44%) of those willing to pay more in taxes for a school funding increase say that a sales tax would be best; smaller proportions say an income tax (22%), real estate property tax (15%) or personal property tax (13%) would be best.

While only a narrow majority would pay more to increase school funding, a strong majority (70%) would be willing to see an increase in their own taxes in order to keep funding for public schools the same. Demographic differences are consistent with those reported above for those willing to pay more to increase funding:

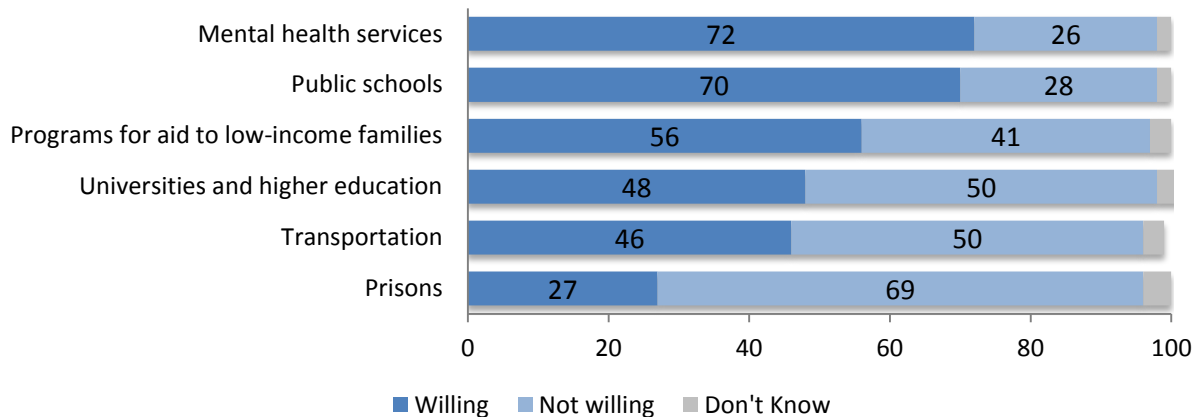
- Democrats (80% of respondents willing) are more ready to pay for stable school funding than Republicans (63%) or Independents (59%).
- Higher proportions of parents of public schools students (78%) and school employees/retirees (78%) are willing to pay more to secure stable funding when compared to those who are not parents of public school students (67%) or employees/retirees (68%).

- Respondents under 45 (both categories had 78% of respondents willing to pay more) were more frequently willing to pay more than older respondents (45-64, 63% willing; 65+, 62% willing).

Public schools would also be among the last areas of state funding the Virginians would want to see cut. In addition to public schools, the Commonwealth Education Poll asked respondents whether or not they are willing to pay more in taxes in order to maintain current funding levels for five other state programs. Compared to public schools, where 70% of respondents said they would be willing to pay more taxes to keep funding at the current level, only mental health services drew more support with 72% being willing to pay more to maintain the current level.

### Comparing Willingness to Pay: Public Schools vs. other State Programs

*As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the program going at its current level?*



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

Fifty-six percent (56%) of Virginians are willing to pay more in taxes for programs that provide aid to low-income families. Views about higher education funding are nearly equally divided with 48% of respondents willing to pay more in taxes for higher education and 50% not willing to do so. Similarly, 46% would pay more in taxes for transportation while 50% would not pay more in taxes to keep these services at its current level. Prison funding garnered the least support; 69% say they are not willing to pay more in taxes to keep prison funding at its current level while 27% are willing to do so.

As with public school funding (80% vs. 63%), Democrats are more likely to be willing to pay higher taxes than Republicans to keep mental health services (79% vs. 68%), higher education (62% vs. 37%), aid to low-income families (68% vs. 44%) and transportation (55% vs. 38%) funding at current levels. Only in regard to prisons (30% vs. 25%) do the party identifiers come out close to even.

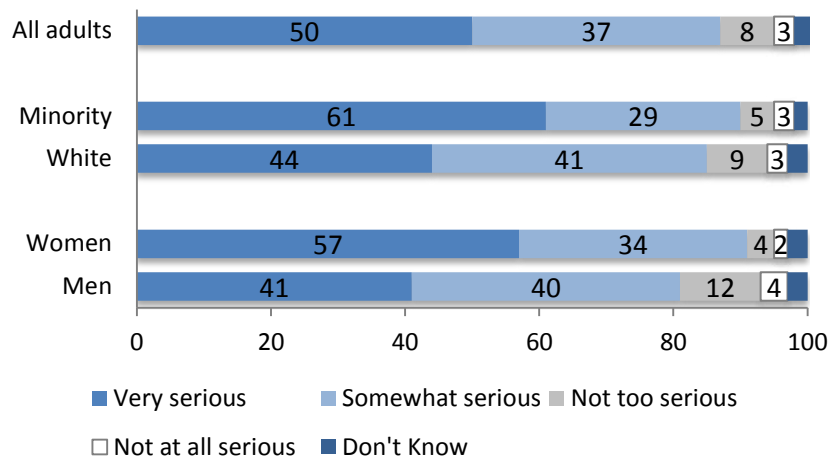
## Bullying in Schools – Is it a Serious Problem?

In the last decade, bullying and harassment in schools has been a major issue of interest to policymakers. Virginia legislators passed a 2005 provision that required school boards to have programs in place that mitigated bullying and required principals to report any incidents to parents of students who suffered bullying. Legislator activity continues in the current session with a bill (HB1537) that authorizes principals to contact parents and request that they receive training on preventing bullying.

Given this interest, we asked respondents

### Majority Sees Bullying and Harassment in School as a Serious Problem; Minorities and Women More Likely to See as Problem

*Based on what you know, how serious of a problem is bullying and harassment in schools?*



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

whether they see bullying and harassment as serious problem in schools. Substantial majorities said they did with 50% saying it was a very serious problem and 37% saying it was a somewhat serious problem. As noted in the graph above, minorities (61%) and women (57%) were more likely to view bullying as a very serious problem than were whites (44%) and men (41%). Those from South Central and Tidewater regions (56%) were also more likely than respondents from other regions to see it as a very serious problem. Responses were also different across income, education and party identification lines:

- Respondents from households with less than \$50,000 in income more frequently saw bullying and harassment as a very serious problem (57%) than did those from households with \$50,000 to \$100,000 in income (46%) and those from households with \$100,000 or more in income (42%).
- Respondents with a high school education or less were more likely to see bullying and harassment as a very serious problem (56%) when compared to those who had some college (49%) and those with a college degree or more (43%).
- Democratic respondents were also more likely to see it as a very serious problem (55%) when contrasted with Independents (49%) and Republicans (42%).

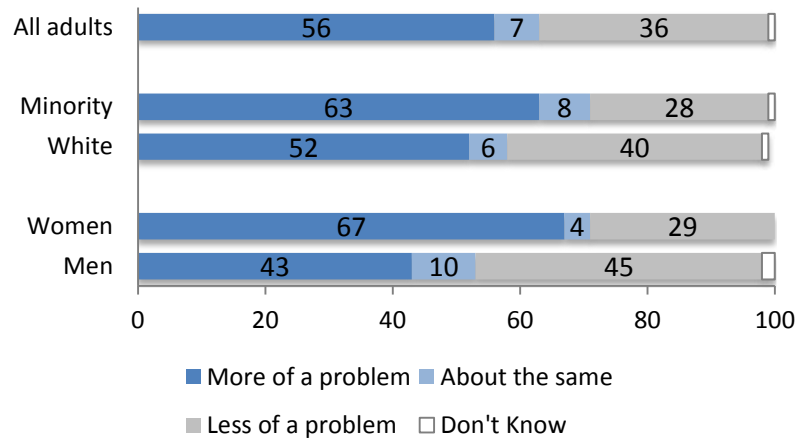
The survey also found that a majority (56%) of respondents think bullying in schools is more of a problem today than it was in the past, while 36% think the reverse is true. Only 7% feel that bullying as a problem is about the same as it was in the past.

Similar to perceptions of whether bullying is a serious problem, women (67%) and minorities (63%) were more likely to see bullying as a greater problem today, compared to 52% of white respondents and only 43% of male respondents. Those aged 65 and older also said more

frequently (69%) that bullying is more of a problem today. In comparison, 55% of those aged 35-44 and 45-64 and only 48% of those aged 18-34 said the same.

### Bullying/Harassment More of a Problem Today than in Past?

*Thinking back to when you were younger, do you think bullying in schools today is . . . ?*



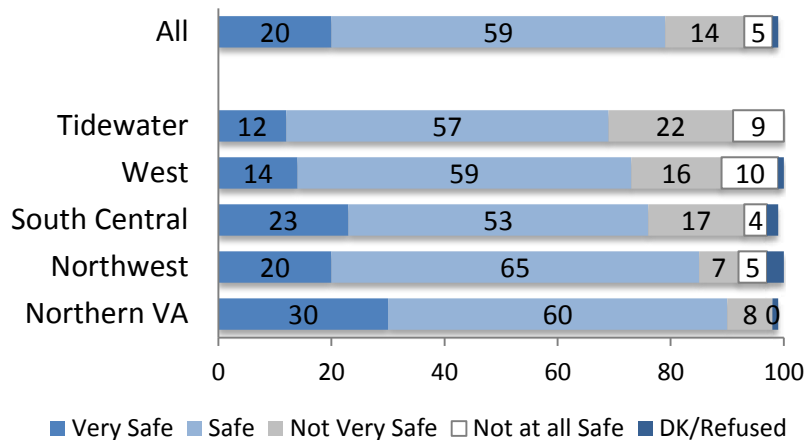
Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

## School Safety – Majority See Schools as Safe or Very Safe

Despite continued attention to issues of violence on school grounds and periodic school shootings, a majority of Virginians feel the schools in their community are safe. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of respondents indicated feeling their community's schools were safe or very safe, with 20% saying they were very safe. Only 19% felt their schools were not very or not at all safe. There were regional differences for those who felt their schools were

### How Safe Are Public Schools?

*In general, do you feel the public schools in your community are very safe, safe, not too safe, or not at all safe?*



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

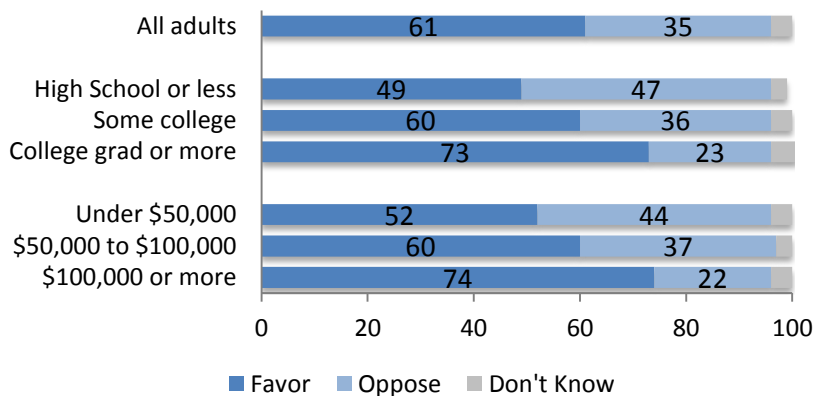
safe or very safe. Respondents from Northern VA (90%) and the Northwest (85%) regions were more likely to say their schools were safe or very safe. In contrast, respondents from Tidewater (31%) and the West region of the state (26%) were more likely to say schools were not very safe or not at all safe. Family income and also race play a role in the safety perceptions of respondents. Those with household income below \$50,000 (26%) were more likely to say schools were not very safe or not at all safe than were higher household income brackets - \$50,000-\$100,000 (19%), \$100,000 or more (13%). Minority respondents (28%) were also more likely to say not very safe or not at all safe compared to white respondents (15%).

## Pre-Labor Day Opening

Each year the question of whether to give local school districts the option of starting school before Labor Day is debated at the Virginia General Assembly. So far such bills have not passed (this year's version is HB 1550), despite public opinion being in favor of such a change. For the third year in a row the

### School Before Labor Day?

*Would you favor or oppose localities having the option to start their public school calendar before Labor Day?*



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

Commonwealth Education Poll finds a solid majority of Virginians (61%) in favor of localities having the option to start earlier than Labor Day while 35% opposed such a policy. Those with higher incomes and higher levels of postsecondary education were the respondents most likely to favor school systems having the option. Seventy-four percent (74%) of respondents with income above \$100,000 favored the policy compared to 60% for those in households with \$50,000 - \$100,000 in income and 52% of those in households with less than \$50,000 in income. A larger proportion of college grads (73%) favored the idea than among those with some college (60%) and with a high school diploma or less (49%).



## Virtual Learning Opportunities for High School Credit

With the rapid evolution of communications technology, more and more options exist for students to learn through virtual or online platforms. Such virtual classrooms are increasingly being examined as an option for high school students who want to earn credit in subjects that their schools may not otherwise be able to provide. We asked respondents whether they favored or opposed this practice. Almost two-thirds of respondents (63%) favored allowing students to earn high school credits online while 33% opposed the practice.

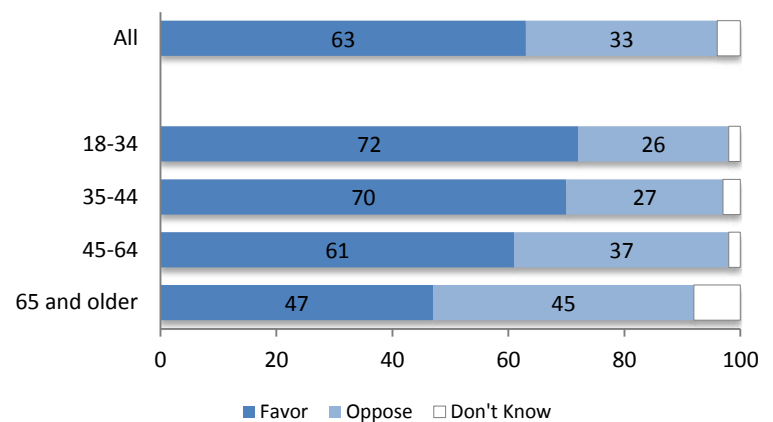
There were significant differences in support by age cohort with younger respondents more in favor of online credits options. Fully 72% of those aged 18-34 supported the practice while only 47% of those aged 65 or older did the same. Those with some college education (71%) were more likely to favor the practice than either those with a college degree (65%) or a high school diploma or less (55%). Minority respondents were also more likely than whites to favor the practice (69% vs. 60%).

A majority of respondents (58%) were also willing to have their own child earn some of their high school credits online, while 33% would not want their children to earn any credits online. Only 8% of respondents would be willing to have their child earn all of their high school credits online.

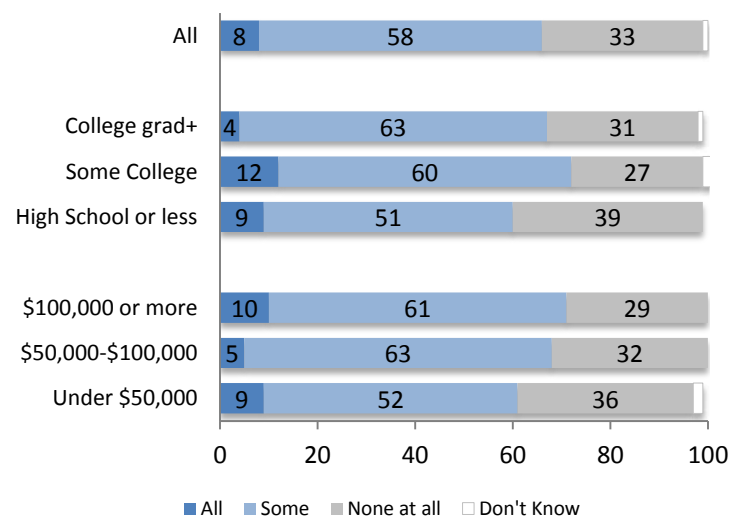
Respondents from the Tidewater region (66%) were most likely to be willing to have their children earn some of their high school degree online, compared to Northern Virginia (61%), Northwest (54%), West (53%) and South Central (50%). Likewise, those with higher education levels and higher household income were more likely to favor some credits being earned online (see chart at right for breakdown.)

### Earning high school credits online

*There are increasing opportunities for students to earn high school credits online over the internet. Generally speaking, do you favor or oppose this practice?*



*Would you be willing to have your child earn all of their high school credits online, just some, or none at all?*



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

## High-stakes Testing and SOLs: Weighing Costs and Benefits

A year after Virginia policy-makers acted to reduce the number of standardized tests, the public continues to register a blend of support and concern about the impacts that Standards of Learning (SOLs) have on the state's education system. Majorities of respondents see the SOLs as a positive in promoting accountability and equity across educational institutions. Fifty-eight percent (58%) see a benefit in accountability, agreeing that the SOLs hold schools accountable for student achievement. Only 37% disagree. A slightly smaller majority, 54%, see an equity benefit, saying that the SOLs make sure that all students in Virginia meet the same academic standards. Minority respondents are more likely to agree that SOLs hold schools accountable (69%) and ensure that all students meet the same standards (60%) when compared to whites where only 54% and 50% agreed with the same respective statements.

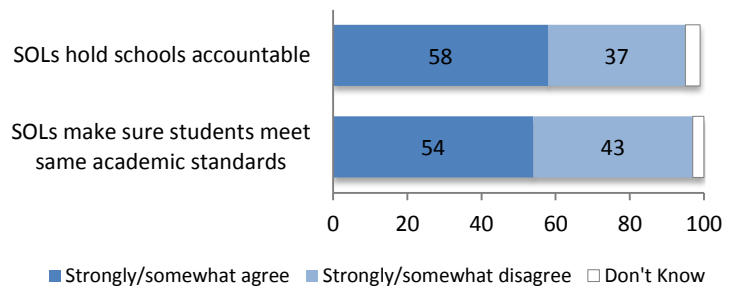
But while respondents overall feel SOLs create accountability for schools with regards to student performance, a majority of Virginians (58%) feel that SOLs don't help improve student achievement. Likewise, more

respondents (38%) feel that increased testing has hurt student performance than feel that it has helped

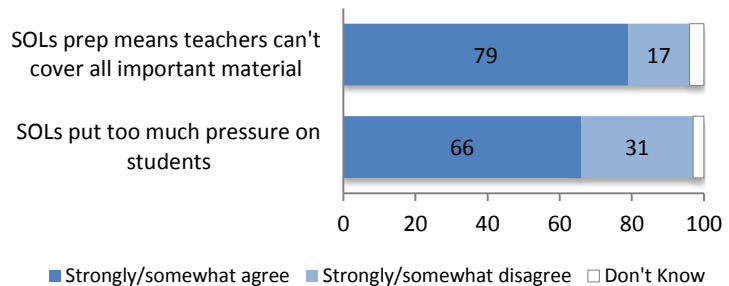
### Are SOLs Worth It?

How much do you agree with the following statements?

#### Benefits of SOLs

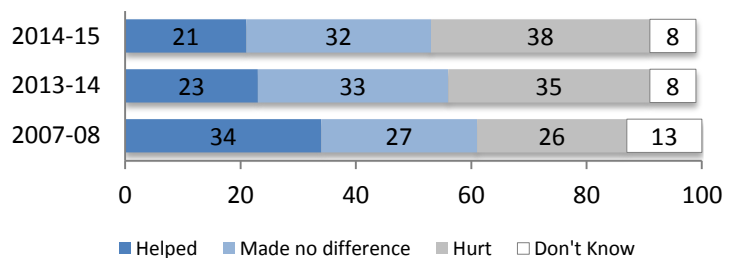


#### Costs of SOLs

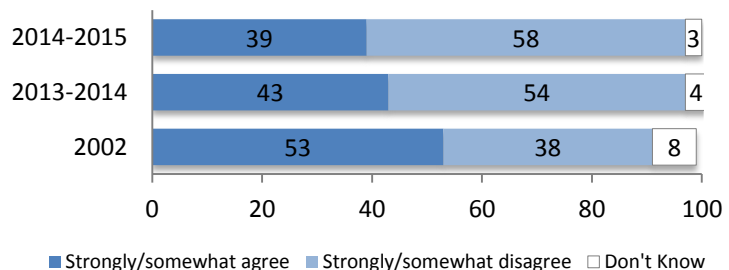


### Does Testing Help?

Has increased testing helped, hurt or made no difference in the performance of students?



How much do you agree? SOLs help improve student achievement.



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-15

(21%). Almost a third of respondents (32%) feel it made no difference one way or the other when it comes to student performance.

Within opinion about the impact of SOLs and testing on student performance or achievement, significant differences exist between several demographic groups. In comparing minority and white perspectives, minorities are more likely to say that testing has helped (31% compared to 17% of whites).

Likewise, those with an education level of high school or less are more likely to say testing helped (31%) than are those with some college (19%) or a college diploma (14%).

Finally those with household incomes below \$50,000 are more likely to say testing has helped (30%) than is the case with the two higher income categories (\$50,000-\$100,000 – 18%; \$100,000 or more – 15%).

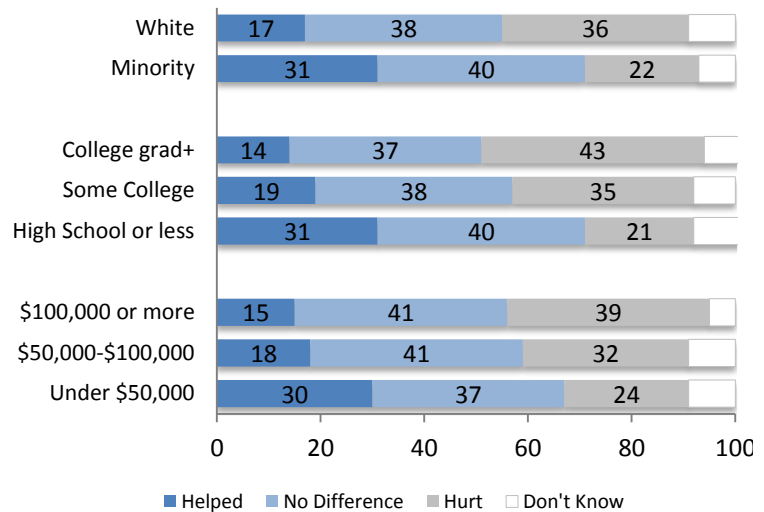
Similar differences exist across racial, educational attainment and household income cohorts when

it comes to whether respondents agree with the statement that SOLs help improve student achievement (see chart above).

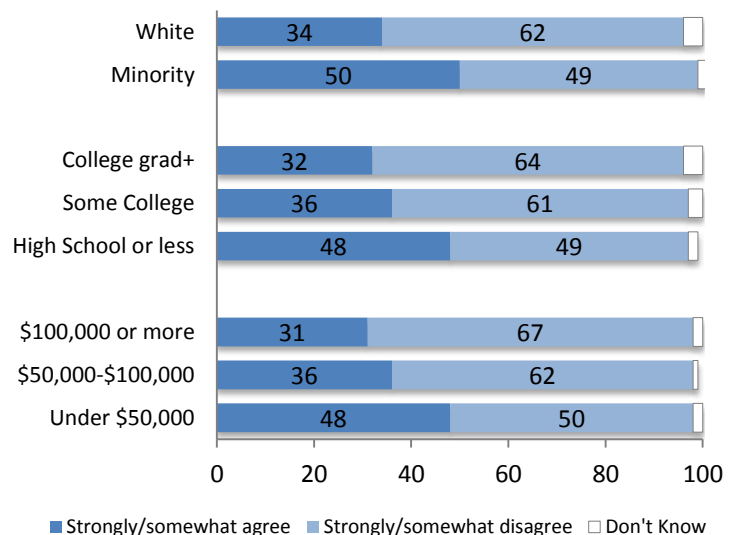
If modest majorities see benefits in accountability from the SOLs and opinion is split on whether testing helps, hurts or makes no difference for student performance, there is a clear sense from the public that SOLs create negative impacts on the classroom experience and for the individual student. More than three-quarters of Virginians (79%) agree that preparations for SOL testing take so much class

### Demographic Differences on the Benefits of Testing

Has increased testing helped, hurt or made no difference in the performance of students?



How much do you agree? SOLs help improve student achievement.



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-15

time that teachers can't cover all the important material. A strong majority (66%) agree that SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students.

When comparing the responses of demographic cohorts, it appears that those who are more closely connected with schools are more likely to feel the SOLs put too much pressure on students. Respondents who are employed or retired from working in schools were more likely to strongly agree that there was too much pressure (56%) than were those who had not worked in the schools (41%).

Likewise, the primary age cohort for school age children (ages 35-44) were more likely (53%) to strongly agree than other age categories. Majorities of parents of public school students (52%) and women (50%) also strongly agreed that SOLs put too much pressure on students compared to lower strong agreement rates among persons who were not parents of a public school student (40%) or men (36%).

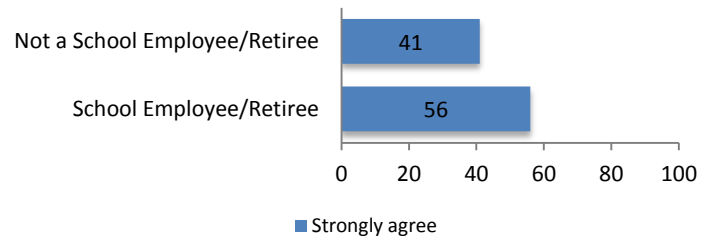
Some demographic categories did not matter as much on this question. Strong majorities of all party affiliations agreed strongly or somewhat that SOLs put too much pressure on students (Democrats, 69%; Independents, 66%; Republicans, 63%).

Similarly there is no significant partisan difference when it comes to the percentage of respondents who felt teachers can't cover all important material because of the time spent preparing for SOLs. Majorities of Republicans (55%), Democrats (53%) and Independents (53%) strongly agreed with the statement. School employees/retirees (67%) are also more likely to strongly agree that teachers can't cover all important material than are non-school employees (51%). Whites (59%) were also more likely to strongly agree than were minorities (42%), though the combined percentage of those who agreed either strongly or somewhat is similar (80% of whites, 79% of minorities.)

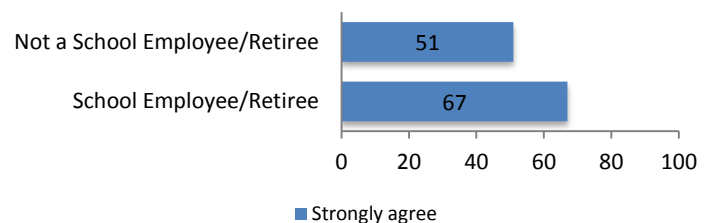
### Involvement in schools increases sense of costs

How much do you agree with the following statements...?

SOL tests put too much pressure on students.



So much time is spent preparing for SOLs, teachers can't cover all important material.



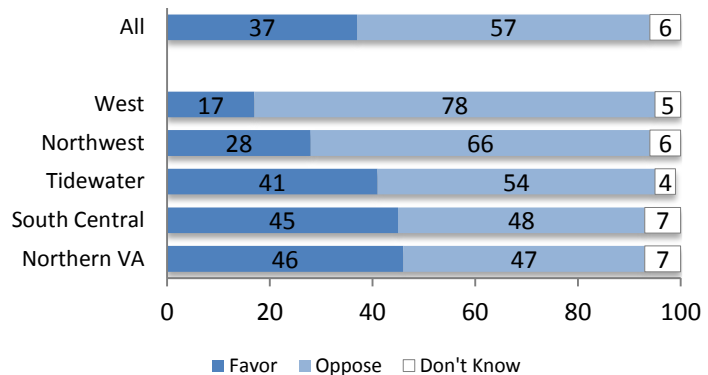
Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-15

## What About Consistently Failing Schools?

Respondents indicated they see SOLs as providing equal standards and accountability to school systems. Policy-makers have also frequently debated what to do when schools consistently fail to meet standards. Among the proposals to deal with such situations are measures that take authority away from the local school system and give it to another official entity. We asked respondents whether they favored or opposed the idea of having consistently failing schools taken over by another entity. A majority, 57% oppose the idea of school takeovers.

### Should Failing Schools be Taken Over?

*Do you favor or oppose having failing schools taken over by another entity?*



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

There was significant variability, however, between different geographic regions. The West (78%) and Northwest (66%) regions are most likely to oppose the takeover of failing schools by another entity. In contrast, South Central (48% oppose) and Northern Virginia regions (47% oppose) are almost evenly split on the question.

Other demographic cohorts demonstrated differences of perspective between them. Women (60%) are more opposed to school takeovers than men (53%). Those respondents with household income of \$50,000 or less also opposed school takeovers more frequently (63%) than did those with income between \$50,000 and \$100,000 (56% oppose) and income above \$100,000 (52% oppose). Respondents with educational attainment of a high school diploma or less are more likely to oppose school takeovers (64%) than are those with higher educational attainment (some college, 54%; college grad or more, 52%). The breakdown of respondents by age shows that opposition increased with age (see table).

### Opinion on school takeovers by age

*Would you favor or oppose having failing schools be taken over by another entity?*

	18-34	35-44	45-64	65+
<i>Favor</i>	48%	39%	34%	24%
<i>Oppose</i>	47%	57%	60%	67%
<i>Don't know</i>	5%	4%	6%	9%

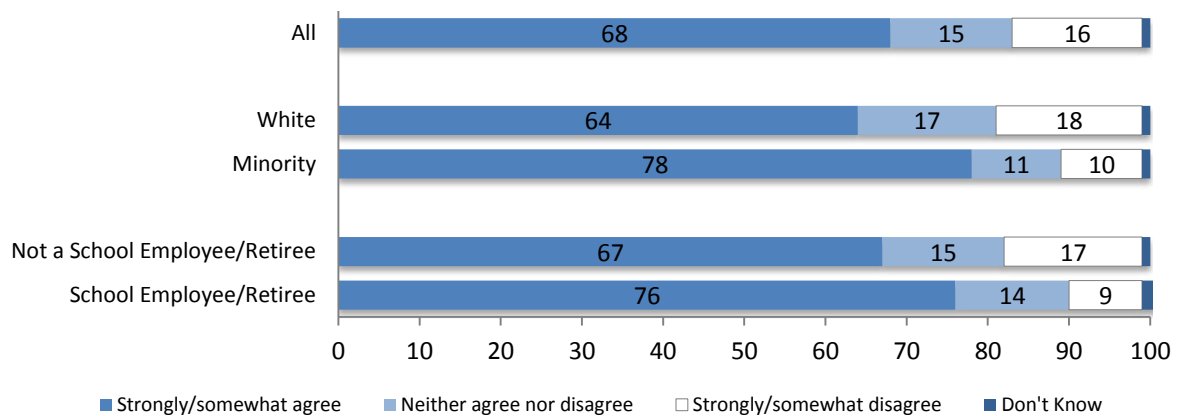
Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

## Requiring Internships to Bolster Workforce Development

Internships are also a way for young people to gain a foothold in the job market. We asked respondents whether they thought public high school students should be required to participate in at least one internship (whether paid or volunteer) during high school. A substantial majority of Virginians (68%) agreed either strongly or somewhat, with agreement being higher than the overall average among minorities (78%), those who have worked in schools (76%) and Democrats (77%).

### Internships and workforce development?

*How much do you agree . . . [public] high school students should be required to participate at least one volunteer or paid internship during high school?*



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

## **Methodology of the Commonwealth Education Poll**

The Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015, sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), obtained telephone interviews with a representative sample of 806 adults, age 18 or older, living in Virginia. Telephone interviews were conducted by landline (403) and cell phone (403, including 178 without a landline phone). The survey was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI). Interviews were done in English by Princeton Data Source from December 27, 2014 to January 3, 2015. Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is  $\pm 4.1$  percentage points.

A combination of landline and cellular random digit dial (RDD) samples was used to represent all adults in Virginia who have access to either a landline or cellular telephone. Both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International, LLC (SSI) according to PSRAI specifications. Numbers for the landline sample were drawn with probabilities in proportion to their share of listed telephone households from active blocks (area code + exchange + two-digit block number) that contained three or more residential directory listings. The cellular sample was not list-assisted, but was drawn through a systematic sampling from dedicated wireless 100-blocks and shared service 100-blocks with no directory-listed landline numbers.

The data are weighted to adjust for unequal probabilities of selection due to multiple adults living in landline households and for frame size of the landline and cell phone sampling frames. In addition, the data are weighted on sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region of residence and population density to reflect the demographic composition of the adult population in Virginia. Percentages reported in the text and tables are weighted, while the number of cases shown in the tables for various subgroups is the actual number of respondents.

Questions answered by the full sample of adults are subject to a sampling error of plus or minus 4.1 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. This means that in 95 out of 100 samples like the one used here, the results obtained should be no more than 4.1 percentage points above or below the figure that would be obtained by interviewing all Virginian residents with telephones. Where the answers of subgroups are reported, the sampling error would be higher. Because of non-response (refusals to participate, etc.), standard calculations of sampling error are apt to understate the actual extent to which survey results are at variance with the true population values. Surveys are also subject to errors from sources other than sampling. While every effort is made to identify such errors, they are often difficult or impossible to measure. Readers making use of the results are urged to be mindful of the limitations inherent in survey research.

# Topline Results and Trend Data

## Commonwealth Education Poll 2014-2015

State-wide survey of Virginians<sup>1</sup>

December 27, 2014-January 3, 2015

Number of Respondents: 806

Q1. In your opinion, how much does the amount of money spent on the public schools affect the quality of students' education – a great deal, quite a lot, not too much, or not at all?

	14-15	13-14	12-13	11-12	10-11	09-10	08-09	2003	2002
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
A great deal	51	50	45	51	42	39	43	42	45
Quite a lot	27	25	22	20	26	30	27	31	26
Not much	15	16	23	16	20	18	20	18	19
Not at all	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	2	4
Don't Know/Refused	3	6	6	9	7	10	7	7	5

Q2. Overall, do you think the funding for public schools in Virginia is enough to meet their needs, or not enough to meet their needs?

	14-15	13-14	12-13	11-12	10-11	09-10	08-09	05	04	03	02	01
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Enough	26	27	25	29	31	27	28	26	20	27	23	21
Not enough	68	65	64	60	59	63	62	64	69	64	67	70
Don't know/Refused	6	8	11	11	10	11	10	9	9	9	9	10

Q3. Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding could be increased?

	14-15	13-14	12-13	11-12	10-11	09-10	08-09	05	04	03	02	01
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Willing	53	59	60	61	55	53	55	55	57	61	60	57
Not willing	43	38	35	35	39	41	37	38	36	34	34	36
Don't know/Refused	4	3	5	5	7	6	8	6	7	5	6	7

### ASK IF WILLING (Q3=1):

Q4. What kind of tax increase do you think would be best – sales tax, income tax, real estate property tax, or personal property tax? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 through 4] (IF R SELECTS MORE THAN ONE, PROBE: "Which ONE do you think would be BEST?" IF STILL COMBO, CODE AS DK/REF.)**

	-----Among those willing to pay higher taxes-----											
	14-15	13-14	12-13	11-12	10-11	09-10	08-09	05	04	03	02	01
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sales tax	44	44	45	40	48	49	48	49	58	54	58	47
Income tax	22	23	22	32	20	18	18	15	13	14	14	16
Real estate property tax	15	17	15	9	15	12	14	13	15	13	10	16
Personal property tax	13	11	10	10	9	12	10	14	7	10	11	13
Don't know/Refused	6	4	8	10	8	9	9	9	7	10	6	9

<sup>1</sup> Percentages may add to 99 or 101 due to rounding. Cells that are blank contain no cases. Cells with a zero percent entry contain cases, but the percentage is less than 0.5%.



**(NOTE FOR INTERVIEWERS:** Real estate property tax is the tax based on the value of a home or other property that you own. Personal property tax is often called the "car tax" because it is based on the value of any cars or other vehicles that you own.)

Q5. As you may know, funding for a variety of state government programs and services is likely to be cut due to the economic downturn. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the program going at its current level. (First, / Next,) **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]... READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN IF NECESSARY:** Would you be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep this program going at its current level?

	Willing	Not willing	DK
	%	%	%
a. Public schools	70	28	2
13-14	70	28	2
12-13	69	27	4
11-12	79	19	2
10-11	69	27	4
09-10	66	31	3
08-09	68	28	3
b. Mental health services	72	26	2
13-14	69	29	2
12-13	70	23	7
11-12	68	27	5
10-11	60	34	6
09-10	61	34	5
08-09	62	31	8
c. Universities and higher education <sup>2</sup>	48	50	3
13-14	49	49	2
12-13	50	46	4
11-12	49	47	4
10-11	50	44	6
09-10	48	49	3
08-09	46	49	5
d. Prisons	27	69	4
13-14	21	74	6
12-13	21	72	7
11-12	26	68	6
10-11	23	71	7
09-10	25	69	6
08-09	24	68	7
e. Programs for aid to low-income families	56	41	3
13-14	62	35	3
12-13	60	35	5
11-12	63	34	3
10-11	60	35	5
09-10	59	36	4
08-09	61	33	7
f. Transportation	46	50	3
13-14	52	45	3
12-13	49	48	4
11-12	50	47	4

<sup>2</sup> "Public" added to the wording in 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.

10-11	48	47	5
09-10	46	50	4
08-09	48	46	5

**NO Q6**

Q7. Over the last decade, there has been a significant increase in standardized testing of students in the public schools to measure academic achievement. Just your impression, or what you may have heard or read, has increased testing helped, hurt, or made no difference in the performance of students in your local public schools?

	<b>Virginia</b>			<b>National trend for comparison PDK/Gallup 2013<sup>3</sup></b>
	<b>14-15</b>	<b>13-14</b>	<b>07-08</b>	
	%	%	%	%
Helped	21	23	34	22
Made no difference	32	33	27	41
Hurt	38	35	26	36
Don't Know/Refused	8	8	13	1

Q8. Now I'm going to read you some statements about Standards of Learning, or S-O-L, which are a standardized testing program for public schools in Virginia. For each statement, please tell me how much you agree or disagree. (First,/Next,) **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]. READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN IF NECESSARY:** Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat DISagree, or strongly disagree?

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Somewhat agree</b>	<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>
	%	%	%	%	%
a. The SOL tests make sure that all students in Virginia meet the same academic standards	17	37	20	23	3
13-14	21	34	19	21	5
b. The SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students	43	23	18	13	3
13-14	37	26	18	15	5
c. The SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement	23	35	20	17	4
13-14	25	37	18	14	6
d. So much class time is spent preparing for the SOL tests that teachers can't cover all the important material	53	26	10	7	4
13-14	55	20	11	8	7
e. The SOL tests help improve student achievement	13	26	27	31	3
13-14	12	31	28	26	4

<sup>3</sup> PDK/Gallup, May 2013, n=1,001 adults.

	Virginia 2002				
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/Refused
	%	%	%	%	%
a. The SOL tests make sure that all students in Virginia meet the same academic standards	22	41	17	13	8
b. The SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students	36	25	20	12	7
c. The SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement	29	45	11	6	9
d. So much class time is spent preparing for the SOL tests that teachers can't cover all the important material	45	27	11	6	11
e. The SOL tests help improve student achievement	13	42	22	16	8

**[READ TO ALL:]** Moving on...

Q9. One strategy for dealing with consistently failing schools has been to have the school administration taken over by another entity, such as the government or another local school district. In general, would you favor or oppose having failing public schools be taken over by another entity?

	14-15	13-14
	%	%
Favor	37	39
Oppose	57	53
Don't Know/Refused	6	8

Q10. Would you favor or oppose localities having the option to start their public school calendar before Labor Day?

	14-15	13-14	12-13
	%	%	%
Favor	61	63	68
Oppose	35	31	24
Don't Know/Refused	4	6	8

Q11. There are increasing opportunities for students to earn high school credits online over the Internet. Generally speaking, do you favor or oppose this practice?

	Virginia 14-15	National trend for comparison PDK/Gallup 2013 <sup>4</sup>
	%	%
Favor	63	56
Oppose	33	44
Don't Know/Refused	4	1

<sup>4</sup> PDK/Gallup, May 2013, n=1,001 adults.

Q12. Even if you do not currently have kids, what would you think about this opportunity for your own child?  
Would you be willing to have your child earn ALL of their high school credits online, just some or none at all?

	<b>14-15</b>
	%
All	8
Some	58
None at all	33
Don't Know/Refused	1

Q13. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement about public schools in this country.  
High school students should be required to participate in at least one volunteer or paid internship during high school. Would you say you **[READ]**

	<b>Virginia 14-15</b>	<b><i>National trend for comparison</i> PDK/Gallup 2014<sup>5</sup></b>
	%	%
Strongly agree	38	40
Agree	30	22
Neither agree nor disagree	15	16
Disagree	10	11
Strongly disagree	6	10
Don't Know/Refused	1	1

Q14. Based on what you know, how serious of a problem is bullying and harassment in schools? Is it **[READ]** ?

	<b>14-15</b>
	%
Very serious	50
Somewhat serious	37
Not too serious	8
Not at all serious	3
Don't Know/Refused	3

Q15. Thinking back to when you were younger, do you think bullying in schools today is more of a problem than it was in the past, less of a problem, or is it about the same?

	<b>14-15</b>
	%
More of a problem	56
About the same	7
Less of a problem	36
Don't Know/Refused	1

Q16. In general, do you feel the public schools in your community are very safe, safe, not very safe, not at all safe?

	<b>14-15</b>	<b>13-14</b>
	%	%
Very safe	20	29
Safe	59	51
Not very safe	14	13
Not at all safe	5	4
Don't Know/Refused	1	3

<sup>5</sup> PDK/Gallup, May-June 2014, n=1,001 adults.

Now, thinking about colleges and universities in Virginia...

Q17. Overall do you think that colleges and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job...?

	<b>Good job %</b>	<b>Bad job %</b>	<b>Don't know %</b>
a. In providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job	69	22	10
13-14	72	18	10
12-13	65	18	16
11-12	68	19	13
b. In developing students' writing and communication skills	62	28	11
13-14	63	25	12
12-13	59	24	17
11-12	57	25	18
c. In producing graduates in scientific fields, such as engineering, math and technology	72	16	12
13-14	72	12	16
12-13	67	12	20
11-12	68	12	21
d. In preparing students for the workforce needs of the future	65	26	9
13-14	69	21	11
12-13	62	21	16
11-12	66	20	14

Q18. Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia?

	<b>14-15 %</b>	<b>13-14 %</b>	<b>12-13* %</b>	<b>11-12* %</b>
Very safe	11	12	22	25
Safe	55	58	58	53
Not very safe	28	22	12	13
Not at all safe	4	3	4	4
Don't Know/Refused	2	4	4	5

\*Response wording was "somewhat safe" instead of "safe."

Q19. If you had to choose, which do you think is more important for young people to succeed today? **[READ]**

	<b>Virginia</b>		<b>National trend for comparison Gallup Oct 2013<sup>6</sup></b>
	<b>14-15</b>	<b>13-14</b>	
Earning a college degree from a well-respected university	29	29	47
Obtaining the knowledge and skills needed to do a specific job	63	59	50
Both (VOLUNTEERED)	4	8	-
Neither (VOLUNTEERED)	1	1	-
Don't Know/Refused	3	4	4

<sup>6</sup> Gallup Organization, Oct 5-6, 2013, n= 1,025.

Q20. Thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. **[INSERT ITEMS; RANDOMIZE]. READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN IF NECESSARY:** Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Somewhat agree</b>	<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>
	%	%	%	%	%
a. Today's HIGH SCHOOL graduate is ready for the world of work	4	26	39	31	1
2013-14	5	28	34	33	1
b. Today's HIGH SCHOOL graduate is ready for college	11	53	23	11	2
2013-14	12	51	24	11	2
c. Today's COLLEGE graduate is ready for the world of work	10	54	25	10	1
2013-14	13	55	20	10	2

Q21. From what you know, how would you rate the quality of education offered by the following? (First,) how about **[INSERT ITEMS; RANDOMIZE]**? **[READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN AS NECESSARY:** OVERALL, would you rate their quality of education as excellent, good, only fair or poor?

	<b>Virginia</b>				
	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>
	%	%	%	%	%
a. Internet-based college programs, in which courses are entirely online	7	36	33	11	13
2013-14	6	30	35	10	19
b. Four-year colleges or universities	20	60	15	2	3
2013-14	23	56	15	2	4
c. Community colleges	18	60	16	3	3
2013-14	20	57	19	1	4

***National trend for comparison- Gallup Oct 2013<sup>7</sup>***

	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>
	%	%	%	%	%
a. Internet-based college programs, in which courses are entirely online	5	29	34	18	13
b. Four-year colleges or universities	16	52	22	8	2
c. Community colleges	13	51	27	6	3

<sup>7</sup> Gallup Organization, Oct 3-6, 2013, n=1,028 adults.

**[READ TO ALL:]** On a slightly different topic...

Q22. Which approach to dealing with sexual assaults on college campuses do you most agree with, even if neither is exactly right? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

**14-15**

%

Colleges and universities should be required to report all sexual assaults to the police

92

Colleges and universities should be free to set their own policies

8

Don't Know/Refused

1

Q23. Which of the following statements comes closer to your overall view, even if neither is exactly right? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

**14-15**

%

There are actions that college and university administrators can take that will significantly decrease the number of sexual assaults on campuses

61

Sexual assaults on campuses will happen regardless of what actions are taken by college and university administrators

35

Don't Know/Refused

5

## Tables with Subgroup Analysis

		Q1. In your opinion, how much does the amount of money spent on the public schools affect the quality of students' education – a great deal, quite a lot, not too much, or not at all?					Number of cases
		A great deal	Quite a lot	Not too much	Not at all	Don't know	
All adults		51%	27%	15%	4%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	52%	27%	11%	3%	7%	116
	Northern VA	48%	29%	18%	2%	3%	226
	West	42%	32%	18%	6%	1%	139
	South Central	55%	24%	12%	4%	5%	147
	Tidewater	59%	20%	15%	4%	1%	178
Gender	Men	48%	25%	19%	5%	4%	413
	Women	55%	28%	12%	2%	3%	393
Age	18-34	55%	29%	11%	4%	1%	159
	35-44	66%	19%	13%	2%	0%	94
	45-64	46%	29%	17%	3%	4%	310
	65 and older	45%	24%	19%	6%	6%	217
Education	H.S. or less	50%	29%	12%	5%	4%	200
	Some college	51%	26%	17%	4%	3%	235
	College grad or more	54%	24%	17%	3%	2%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	49%	31%	14%	4%	3%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	56%	24%	12%	4%	4%	196
	\$100,000 or more	52%	26%	21%	1%	1%	235
Race	White	48%	30%	16%	3%	3%	576
	Minority <sup>8</sup>	58%	22%	13%	4%	3%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	60%	27%	11%	2%	1%	155
	No	50%	27%	16%	4%	3%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	59%	24%	13%	2%	2%	182
	No	49%	27%	16%	4%	3%	623
Party identification	Democrat	58%	29%	9%	3%	2%	339
	Republican	46%	28%	20%	2%	3%	316
	Independent	47%	18%	22%	10%	3%	83

<sup>8</sup> Minority includes all non-white respondents as well as Hispanics of any racial identification.



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Q2. Overall, do you think the funding for public schools in Virginia is enough to meet their needs, or not enough to meet their needs?

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		Enough	Not enough	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		26%	68%	6%	806
VA Region	Northwest	23%	71%	6%	116
	Northern VA	42%	51%	7%	226
	West	23%	70%	7%	139
	South Central	17%	75%	7%	147
	Tidewater	15%	79%	6%	178
Gender	Men	34%	59%	7%	413
	Women	18%	76%	6%	393
Age	18-34	22%	74%	4%	159
	35-44	25%	72%	2%	94
	45-64	28%	65%	7%	310
	65 and older	26%	61%	13%	217
Education	H.S. or less	19%	74%	7%	200
	Some college	26%	67%	7%	235
	College grad or more	33%	62%	5%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	19%	75%	5%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	25%	69%	6%	196
	\$100,000 or more	36%	59%	5%	235
Race	White	26%	67%	7%	576
	Minority	24%	71%	5%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	22%	72%	6%	155
	No	26%	67%	7%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	27%	68%	5%	182
	No	25%	68%	7%	623
Party identification	Democrat	20%	74%	6%	339
	Republican	32%	62%	6%	316
	Independent	31%	60%	8%	83

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		Q3. Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding could be increased?			
		Willing	Not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		53%	43%	4%	806
VA Region	Northwest	52%	46%	3%	116
	Northern VA	53%	43%	4%	226
	West	47%	50%	2%	139
	South Central	52%	43%	5%	147
	Tidewater	61%	35%	4%	178
Gender	Men	52%	45%	3%	413
	Women	54%	41%	5%	393
Age	18-34	63%	33%	4%	159
	35-44	60%	37%	2%	94
	45-64	46%	51%	4%	310
	65 and older	48%	46%	6%	217
Education	H.S. or less	53%	44%	3%	200
	Some college	47%	47%	6%	235
	College grad or more	59%	38%	3%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	55%	41%	3%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	53%	43%	4%	196
	\$100,000 or more	59%	39%	2%	235
Race	White	53%	44%	3%	576
	Minority	57%	39%	4%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	59%	38%	3%	155
	No	52%	44%	4%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	56%	41%	4%	182
	No	52%	44%	4%	623
Party identification	Democrat	63%	35%	3%	339
	Republican	47%	51%	2%	316
	Independent	48%	42%	10%	83

		Q5a. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the - Public schools - program going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		70%	28%	2%	806
VA Region	Northwest	68%	31%	1%	116
	Northern VA	69%	28%	2%	226
	West	63%	35%	2%	139
	South Central	72%	26%	1%	147
	Tidewater	75%	22%	3%	178
Gender	Men	66%	33%	1%	413
	Women	73%	24%	3%	393
Age	18-34	78%	21%	0%	159
	35-44	78%	21%	1%	94
	45-64	63%	34%	3%	310
	65 and older	62%	34%	4%	217
Education	H.S. or less	70%	29%	1%	200
	Some college	67%	30%	3%	235
	College grad or more	73%	25%	2%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	73%	25%	2%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	72%	26%	2%	196
	\$100,000 or more	69%	30%	0%	235
Race	White	69%	30%	1%	576
	Minority	74%	23%	4%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	78%	19%	3%	155
	No	68%	30%	2%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	78%	20%	2%	182
	No	67%	31%	2%	623
Party identification	Democrat	80%	19%	2%	339
	Republican	63%	35%	2%	316
	Independent	59%	40%	1%	83

		Q5b. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the - Mental health services - program going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		72%	26%	2%	806
VA Region	Northwest	70%	28%	2%	116
	Northern VA	75%	23%	2%	226
	West	64%	32%	4%	139
	South Central	75%	23%	2%	147
	Tidewater	74%	25%	1%	178
Gender	Men	67%	30%	3%	413
	Women	77%	22%	2%	393
Age	18-34	77%	21%	2%	159
	35-44	73%	27%	0%	94
	45-64	67%	30%	3%	310
	65 and older	73%	23%	4%	217
Education	H.S. or less	71%	27%	2%	200
	Some college	75%	23%	2%	235
	College grad or more	70%	27%	3%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	77%	21%	2%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	72%	25%	2%	196
	\$100,000 or more	70%	28%	2%	235
Race	White	72%	26%	2%	576
	Minority	75%	24%	2%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	76%	21%	3%	155
	No	71%	27%	2%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	71%	27%	2%	182
	No	72%	25%	2%	623
Party identification	Democrat	79%	20%	1%	339
	Republican	68%	29%	3%	316
	Independent	69%	31%	1%	83

		Q5c. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the – universities and higher education - program going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		48%	50%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	38%	60%	1%	116
	Northern VA	56%	40%	4%	226
	West	41%	58%	1%	139
	South Central	46%	51%	3%	147
	Tidewater	50%	47%	3%	178
Gender	Men	44%	54%	2%	413
	Women	52%	45%	3%	393
Age	18-34	61%	39%	0%	159
	35-44	46%	53%	1%	94
	45-64	41%	54%	5%	310
	65 and older	40%	56%	4%	217
Education	H.S. or less	43%	55%	2%	200
	Some college	48%	48%	4%	235
	College grad or more	54%	44%	2%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	54%	45%	1%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	44%	52%	4%	196
	\$100,000 or more	48%	51%	1%	235
Race	White	42%	57%	2%	576
	Minority	61%	34%	4%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	55%	43%	2%	155
	No	46%	51%	3%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	52%	45%	3%	182
	No	46%	51%	3%	623
Party identification	Democrat	62%	37%	2%	339
	Republican	37%	61%	2%	316
	Independent	37%	62%	1%	83

		Q5d. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the – Prisons - program going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		27%	69%	4%	806
VA Region	Northwest	33%	64%	2%	116
	Northern VA	29%	65%	5%	226
	West	27%	71%	2%	139
	South Central	27%	68%	5%	147
	Tidewater	20%	77%	3%	178
Gender	Men	27%	70%	3%	413
	Women	27%	68%	4%	393
Age	18-34	33%	65%	2%	159
	35-44	27%	70%	3%	94
	45-64	21%	74%	5%	310
	65 and older	29%	66%	5%	217
Education	H.S. or less	28%	69%	3%	200
	Some college	27%	69%	5%	235
	College grad or more	27%	69%	4%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	28%	69%	3%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	23%	74%	3%	196
	\$100,000 or more	31%	65%	4%	235
Race	White	28%	69%	3%	576
	Minority	27%	69%	4%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	36%	63%	1%	155
	No	25%	71%	4%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	23%	72%	5%	182
	No	29%	68%	3%	623
Party identification	Democrat	30%	68%	2%	339
	Republican	25%	71%	4%	316
	Independent	24%	74%	3%	83

		Q5e. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the – Programs for aid to low-income families - program going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		56%	41%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	57%	41%	2%	116
	Northern VA	61%	36%	3%	226
	West	49%	45%	6%	139
	South Central	53%	43%	4%	147
	Tidewater	57%	42%	2%	178
Gender	Men	56%	41%	3%	413
	Women	56%	41%	3%	393
Age	18-34	71%	28%	1%	159
	35-44	51%	47%	2%	94
	45-64	47%	48%	5%	310
	65 and older	54%	42%	4%	217
Education	H.S. or less	55%	41%	3%	200
	Some college	54%	43%	3%	235
	College grad or more	59%	38%	3%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	67%	31%	2%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	54%	42%	4%	196
	\$100,000 or more	49%	48%	3%	235
Race	White	54%	43%	3%	576
	Minority	64%	34%	2%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	57%	38%	5%	155
	No	56%	41%	3%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	56%	41%	3%	182
	No	56%	41%	3%	623
Party identification	Democrat	68%	30%	2%	339
	Republican	44%	51%	4%	316
	Independent	52%	46%	2%	83

		Q5f. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the - Transportation - program going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		46%	50%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	39%	58%	2%	116
	Northern VA	54%	44%	2%	226
	West	43%	53%	5%	139
	South Central	42%	55%	3%	147
	Tidewater	46%	49%	5%	178
Gender	Men	50%	49%	2%	413
	Women	43%	52%	5%	393
Age	18-34	54%	44%	2%	159
	35-44	44%	55%	1%	94
	45-64	43%	54%	4%	310
	65 and older	42%	50%	9%	217
Education	H.S. or less	46%	49%	5%	200
	Some college	45%	53%	2%	235
	College grad or more	47%	50%	3%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	50%	47%	4%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	40%	58%	2%	196
	\$100,000 or more	53%	45%	2%	235
Race	White	45%	52%	2%	576
	Minority	51%	45%	4%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	49%	47%	4%	155
	No	46%	51%	3%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	44%	54%	3%	182
	No	47%	49%	4%	623
Party identification	Democrat	55%	43%	2%	339
	Republican	38%	59%	4%	316
	Independent	42%	53%	5%	83



		Q7. Just your impression, or what you may have heard or read, has increased testing helped, hurt, or made no difference in the performance of students in your local public schools?				
		Helped	Made no difference	Hurt	Don't Know	Number of cases
All adults		21%	32%	38%	8%	806
VA Region	Northwest	18%	44%	30%	8%	116
	Northern VA	22%	41%	30%	7%	226
	West	18%	41%	35%	5%	139
	South Central	23%	31%	36%	9%	147
	Tidewater	23%	35%	32%	10%	178
Gender	Men	21%	40%	31%	9%	413
	Women	22%	37%	34%	7%	393
Age	18-34	25%	34%	35%	6%	159
	35-44	16%	36%	42%	6%	94
	45-64	20%	40%	32%	9%	310
	65 and older	23%	46%	20%	12%	217
Education	H.S. or less	31%	40%	21%	9%	200
	Some college	19%	38%	35%	8%	235
	College grad or more	14%	37%	43%	7%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	30%	37%	24%	9%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	18%	41%	32%	9%	196
	\$100,000 or more	15%	41%	39%	5%	235
Race	White	17%	38%	36%	9%	576
	Minority	31%	40%	22%	7%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	16%	39%	43%	2%	155
	No	23%	38%	30%	9%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	24%	35%	34%	7%	182
	No	20%	40%	32%	8%	623
Party identification	Democrat	24%	36%	33%	7%	339
	Republican	20%	40%	31%	9%	316
	Independent	13%	42%	38%	7%	83

		Q8a. For each statement, please tell me how much you agree or disagree. The SOL tests make sure that all students in Virginia meet the same academic standards					Number of cases
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	
All adults		17%	37%	20%	23%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	8%	41%	17%	29%	6%	116
	Northern VA	19%	42%	19%	16%	3%	226
	West	13%	36%	20%	29%	3%	139
	South Central	24%	31%	23%	20%	2%	147
	Tidewater	18%	32%	22%	25%	2%	178
Gender	Men	16%	39%	19%	22%	4%	413
	Women	18%	35%	21%	23%	2%	393
Age	18-34	20%	37%	21%	21%	1%	159
	35-44	13%	32%	24%	29%	2%	94
	45-64	16%	40%	20%	22%	3%	310
	65 and older	17%	35%	18%	23%	8%	217
Education	H.S. or less	15%	43%	16%	24%	2%	200
	Some college	21%	30%	23%	22%	3%	235
	College grad or more	15%	37%	22%	22%	4%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	20%	40%	21%	18%	2%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	15%	38%	21%	25%	0%	196
	\$100,000 or more	16%	34%	19%	26%	4%	235
Race	White	13%	37%	21%	24%	4%	576
	Minority	24%	36%	19%	20%	1%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	14%	31%	25%	28%	3%	155
	No	18%	38%	19%	22%	3%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	20%	39%	21%	19%	1%	182
	No	16%	36%	20%	24%	4%	623
Party identification	Democrat	15%	41%	21%	21%	2%	339
	Republican	18%	37%	18%	23%	3%	316
	Independent	14%	28%	26%	29%	3%	83

		Q8b. For each statement, please tell me how much you agree or disagree. The SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students.					Number of cases
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	
All adults		43%	23%	18%	13%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	39%	25%	17%	13%	6%	116
	Northern VA	38%	25%	20%	14%	3%	226
	West	49%	21%	14%	13%	2%	139
	South Central	46%	24%	17%	12%	1%	147
	Tidewater	45%	20%	20%	12%	2%	178
Gender	Men	36%	21%	21%	18%	4%	413
	Women	50%	24%	15%	8%	2%	393
Age	18-34	44%	23%	21%	13%	0%	159
	35-44	53%	16%	20%	8%	4%	94
	45-64	40%	28%	16%	13%	3%	310
	65 and older	37%	21%	17%	17%	8%	217
Education	H.S. or less	47%	20%	18%	13%	2%	200
	Some college	45%	23%	15%	13%	3%	235
	College grad or more	38%	26%	21%	11%	3%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	46%	22%	17%	14%	2%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	40%	26%	19%	12%	3%	196
	\$100,000 or more	43%	22%	21%	12%	2%	235
Race	White	42%	22%	20%	12%	3%	576
	Minority	45%	25%	15%	14%	2%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	56%	16%	18%	9%	2%	155
	No	41%	24%	18%	14%	3%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	52%	21%	15%	10%	2%	182
	No	40%	24%	19%	14%	3%	623
Party identification	Democrat	43%	26%	17%	12%	2%	339
	Republican	44%	19%	21%	13%	4%	316
	Independent	46%	20%	13%	20%	2%	83

		Q8c. For each statement, please tell me how much you agree or disagree. The SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement					Number of cases
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	
All adults		23%	35%	20%	17%	4%	806
VA Region	Northwest	21%	36%	22%	15%	5%	116
	Northern VA	21%	41%	19%	13%	6%	226
	West	16%	33%	21%	26%	3%	139
	South Central	31%	31%	19%	17%	2%	147
	Tidewater	27%	30%	22%	17%	4%	178
Gender	Men	21%	35%	22%	18%	4%	413
	Women	25%	35%	19%	17%	4%	393
Age	18-34	26%	36%	22%	14%	1%	159
	35-44	24%	25%	24%	22%	5%	94
	45-64	20%	40%	18%	19%	3%	310
	65 and older	23%	35%	19%	14%	10%	217
Education	H.S. or less	23%	38%	20%	16%	3%	200
	Some college	25%	34%	21%	17%	4%	235
	College grad or more	22%	33%	21%	18%	6%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	29%	35%	23%	10%	3%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	17%	39%	19%	20%	4%	196
	\$100,000 or more	24%	31%	20%	22%	3%	235
Race	White	21%	33%	22%	19%	5%	576
	Minority	29%	40%	17%	13%	2%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	26%	29%	17%	26%	3%	155
	No	23%	36%	21%	16%	4%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	30%	32%	20%	16%	2%	182
	No	21%	36%	20%	18%	5%	623
Party identification	Democrat	24%	34%	23%	15%	3%	339
	Republican	27%	31%	18%	19%	5%	316
	Independent	11%	46%	19%	20%	4%	83

		Q8d. For each statement, please tell me how much you agree or disagree. So much class time is spent preparing for the SOL tests that teachers can't cover all the important material					Number of cases
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	
All adults		53%	26%	10%	7%	4%	806
VA Region	Northwest	55%	19%	17%	6%	4%	116
	Northern VA	49%	35%	9%	3%	4%	226
	West	55%	22%	9%	9%	4%	139
	South Central	55%	23%	7%	11%	3%	147
	Tidewater	55%	25%	8%	8%	4%	178
Gender	Men	48%	30%	11%	7%	4%	413
	Women	58%	23%	9%	7%	4%	393
Age	18-34	53%	30%	8%	9%	1%	159
	35-44	62%	18%	10%	6%	4%	94
	45-64	54%	27%	9%	6%	4%	310
	65 and older	44%	23%	15%	9%	9%	217
Education	H.S. or less	49%	27%	13%	9%	2%	200
	Some college	54%	26%	7%	9%	4%	235
	College grad or more	58%	26%	9%	2%	5%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	49%	28%	10%	9%	3%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	61%	23%	7%	5%	4%	196
	\$100,000 or more	55%	30%	8%	5%	3%	235
Race	White	59%	21%	9%	7%	5%	576
	Minority	42%	37%	11%	8%	2%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	67%	21%	4%	6%	2%	155
	No	51%	27%	11%	7%	4%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	51%	31%	9%	7%	2%	182
	No	54%	24%	10%	7%	4%	623
Party identification	Democrat	53%	28%	9%	7%	3%	339
	Republican	55%	26%	9%	7%	4%	316
	Independent	53%	21%	12%	11%	2%	83

		Q8e. For each statement, please tell me how much you agree or disagree. The SOL tests help improve student achievement					Number of cases
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	
All adults		13%	26%	27%	31%	4%	806
VA Region	Northwest	12%	30%	20%	35%	3%	116
	Northern VA	15%	27%	30%	24%	4%	226
	West	13%	19%	30%	35%	3%	139
	South Central	15%	26%	23%	35%	2%	147
	Tidewater	11%	27%	26%	33%	3%	178
Gender	Men	15%	28%	26%	28%	3%	413
	Women	12%	24%	27%	34%	3%	393
Age	18-34	13%	26%	34%	27%	0%	159
	35-44	10%	24%	23%	40%	2%	94
	45-64	13%	26%	25%	33%	3%	310
	65 and older	17%	26%	23%	25%	9%	217
Education	H.S. or less	17%	31%	22%	27%	2%	200
	Some college	12%	24%	28%	33%	3%	235
	College grad or more	10%	22%	30%	34%	4%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	19%	29%	28%	22%	2%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	9%	27%	25%	37%	1%	196
	\$100,000 or more	11%	20%	31%	36%	2%	235
Race	White	12%	22%	29%	33%	4%	576
	Minority	17%	33%	23%	26%	2%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	12%	22%	22%	42%	2%	155
	No	13%	26%	27%	30%	3%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	16%	24%	25%	33%	1%	182
	No	12%	26%	27%	31%	4%	623
Party identification	Democrat	13%	27%	29%	30%	1%	339
	Republican	15%	23%	26%	33%	4%	316
	Independent	7%	22%	31%	34%	5%	83

Q9. One strategy for dealing with consistently failing schools has been to have the school administration taken over by another entity, such as the government or another local school district. In general, would you favor or oppose having failing public schools be taken over by another entity?

		Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		37%	57%	6%	806
VA Region	Northwest	28%	66%	6%	116
	Northern VA	46%	47%	7%	226
	West	17%	78%	5%	139
	South Central	45%	48%	7%	147
	Tidewater	41%	54%	4%	178
Gender	Men	43%	53%	4%	413
	Women	32%	60%	8%	393
Age	18-34	48%	47%	5%	159
	35-44	39%	57%	4%	94
	45-64	34%	60%	6%	310
	65 and older	24%	67%	9%	217
Education	H.S. or less	31%	64%	6%	200
	Some college	38%	54%	8%	235
	College grad or more	43%	52%	4%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	33%	63%	4%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	38%	56%	6%	196
	\$100,000 or more	43%	52%	4%	235
Race	White	35%	60%	6%	576
	Minority	43%	53%	4%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	36%	60%	4%	155
	No	38%	57%	6%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	34%	57%	9%	182
	No	39%	57%	5%	623
Party identification	Democrat	42%	55%	3%	339
	Republican	33%	61%	6%	316
	Independent	39%	52%	9%	83

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Q10. Would you favor or oppose localities having the option to start  
their public school calendar before Labor Day?

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		Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		61%	35%	4%	806
VA Region	Northwest	55%	39%	7%	116
	Northern VA	65%	31%	4%	226
	West	61%	35%	5%	139
	South Central	57%	40%	3%	147
	Tidewater	60%	37%	3%	178
Gender	Men	63%	33%	4%	413
	Women	58%	38%	4%	393
Age	18-34	59%	37%	4%	159
	35-44	64%	35%	1%	94
	45-64	62%	34%	4%	310
	65 and older	57%	35%	8%	217
Education	H.S. or less	49%	47%	3%	200
	Some college	60%	36%	4%	235
	College grad or more	73%	23%	5%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	52%	44%	4%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	60%	37%	3%	196
	\$100,000 or more	74%	22%	4%	235
Race	White	65%	30%	5%	576
	Minority	52%	45%	3%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	63%	34%	3%	155
	No	60%	36%	4%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	51%	44%	4%	182
	No	64%	32%	4%	623
Party identification	Democrat	62%	36%	2%	339
	Republican	61%	33%	5%	316
	Independent	57%	38%	5%	83

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Q11. There are increasing opportunities for students to earn high school credits online over the Internet. Generally speaking, do you favor or oppose this practice?

		Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		63%	33%	4%	806
VA Region	Northwest	52%	40%	7%	116
	Northern VA	66%	31%	3%	226
	West	62%	34%	4%	139
	South Central	61%	36%	3%	147
	Tidewater	69%	28%	3%	178
Gender	Men	64%	33%	3%	413
	Women	63%	33%	4%	393
Age	18-34	72%	26%	2%	159
	35-44	70%	27%	3%	94
	45-64	61%	37%	2%	310
	65 and older	47%	45%	8%	217
Education	H.S. or less	55%	41%	4%	200
	Some college	71%	25%	3%	235
	College grad or more	65%	32%	3%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	61%	36%	3%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	65%	33%	2%	196
	\$100,000 or more	66%	32%	2%	235
Race	White	60%	36%	4%	576
	Minority	69%	29%	2%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	67%	29%	4%	155
	No	63%	34%	3%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	68%	29%	3%	182
	No	62%	35%	4%	623
Party identification	Democrat	67%	30%	3%	339
	Republican	62%	36%	3%	316
	Independent	54%	39%	7%	83

Q12. Even if you do not currently have kids, what would you think about this opportunity for your own child? Would you be willing to have your child earn ALL of their high school credits online, just some, or none at all?

		All	Some	None at all	Don't Know	Number of cases
All adults		8%	58%	33%	1%	806
VA Region	Northwest	6%	54%	37%	2%	116
	Northern VA	6%	61%	32%	0%	226
	West	5%	53%	41%	1%	139
	South Central	16%	50%	32%	2%	147
	Tidewater	9%	66%	24%	1%	178
Gender	Men	8%	57%	34%	1%	413
	Women	9%	58%	32%	1%	393
Age	18-34	11%	59%	28%	2%	159
	35-44	13%	64%	24%	0%	94
	45-64	6%	59%	34%	1%	310
	65 and older	5%	47%	47%	1%	217
Education	H.S. or less	9%	51%	39%	0%	200
	Some college	12%	60%	27%	2%	235
	College grad or more	4%	63%	31%	1%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	9%	52%	36%	2%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	5%	63%	32%	0%	196
	\$100,000 or more	10%	61%	29%	0%	235
Race	White	5%	59%	35%	1%	576
	Minority	14%	55%	30%	1%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	9%	55%	35%	0%	155
	No	8%	58%	32%	1%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	13%	57%	30%	1%	182
	No	7%	58%	34%	1%	623
Party identification	Democrat	10%	57%	31%	1%	339
	Republican	6%	58%	35%	0%	316
	Independent	7%	59%	31%	3%	83

		Q13. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement about public schools in this country. High school students should be required to participate in at least one volunteer or paid internship during high school. Would you say you . . .[READ]						
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		38%	30%	15%	10%	6%	1%	806
VA Region	Northwest	25%	33%	22%	12%	8%	1%	116
	Northern VA	42%	31%	11%	9%	5%	2%	226
	West	32%	30%	13%	17%	6%	2%	139
	South Central	38%	28%	19%	8%	7%	1%	147
	Tidewater	46%	30%	15%	6%	3%	0%	178
Gender	Men	35%	30%	18%	10%	7%	35%	413
	Women	41%	31%	12%	9%	4%	41%	393
Age	18-34	47%	26%	12%	10%	6%	0%	159
	35-44	37%	28%	19%	9%	5%	1%	94
	45-64	34%	35%	17%	9%	6%	0%	310
	65 and older	30%	33%	14%	13%	6%	4%	217
Education	H.S. or less	31%	30%	18%	14%	6%	2%	200
	Some college	41%	33%	13%	7%	6%	1%	235
	College grad or more	42%	29%	15%	9%	5%	0%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	36%	31%	13%	11%	8%	1%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	35%	37%	14%	10%	5%	0%	196
	\$100,000 or more	45%	27%	18%	7%	2%	0%	235
Race	White	35%	29%	17%	13%	5%	1%	576
	Minority	46%	32%	11%	5%	5%	1%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	40%	36%	14%	5%	4%	2%	155
	No	38%	29%	15%	11%	6%	1%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	41%	32%	14%	5%	7%	1%	182
	No	37%	30%	16%	12%	5%	1%	623
Party identification	Democrat	43%	34%	10%	8%	4%	1%	339
	Republican	34%	30%	20%	10%	4%	1%	316
	Independent	29%	21%	19%	18%	14%	0%	83

		Q14. Based on what you know, how serious of a problem is bullying and harassment in schools? Is it . . . [READ]					Number of cases
		Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not too serious	Not at all serious	Don't know	
All adults		50%	37%	8%	3%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	42%	40%	11%	4%	3%	116
	Northern VA	45%	39%	9%	3%	4%	226
	West	49%	40%	6%	3%	3%	139
	South Central	56%	34%	6%	1%	3%	147
	Tidewater	56%	32%	8%	4%	0%	178
Gender	Men	41%	40%	12%	4%	3%	413
	Women	57%	34%	4%	2%	3%	393
Age	18-34	51%	32%	9%	6%	3%	159
	35-44	50%	41%	5%	2%	3%	94
	45-64	45%	42%	10%	2%	2%	310
	65 and older	55%	31%	6%	3%	4%	217
Education	H.S. or less	56%	34%	5%	3%	2%	200
	Some college	49%	34%	10%	4%	3%	235
	College grad or more	43%	43%	9%	2%	4%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	57%	33%	2%	6%	2%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	46%	39%	14%	1%	1%	196
	\$100,000 or more	42%	41%	11%	3%	2%	235
Race	White	44%	41%	9%	3%	3%	576
	Minority	61%	29%	5%	3%	2%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	51%	33%	9%	1%	5%	155
	No	49%	38%	8%	4%	2%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	53%	33%	7%	4%	3%	182
	No	48%	38%	8%	3%	3%	623
Party identification	Democrat	55%	37%	5%	2%	1%	339
	Republican	42%	40%	11%	4%	3%	316
	Independent	49%	32%	9%	6%	4%	83

		Q15. Thinking back to when you were younger, do you think bullying in schools today is more of a problem than it was in the past, less of a problem, or is it about the same?				
		More of a problem	About the same	Less of a problem	Don't Know	Number of cases
All adults		56%	7%	36%	1%	806
VA Region	Northwest	50%	10%	39%	1%	116
	Northern VA	55%	9%	34%	2%	226
	West	58%	7%	35%	1%	139
	South Central	61%	2%	36%	1%	147
	Tidewater	53%	7%	39%	1%	178
Gender	Men	43%	10%	45%	2%	413
	Women	67%	4%	29%	0%	393
Age	18-34	48%	11%	41%	0%	159
	35-44	55%	4%	40%	1%	94
	45-64	55%	6%	37%	2%	310
	65 and older	69%	4%	26%	1%	217
Education	H.S. or less	58%	9%	33%	0%	200
	Some college	54%	8%	37%	1%	235
	College grad or more	55%	3%	40%	2%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	58%	10%	32%	1%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	52%	8%	39%	1%	196
	\$100,000 or more	52%	4%	42%	1%	235
Race	White	52%	6%	40%	1%	576
	Minority	63%	8%	28%	1%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	61%	7%	32%	0%	155
	No	54%	7%	37%	1%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	53%	8%	38%	1%	182
	No	57%	7%	36%	1%	623
Party identification	Democrat	60%	6%	33%	1%	339
	Republican	55%	9%	35%	1%	316
	Independent	41%	7%	53%	0%	83

		Q16. In general, do you feel the public schools in your community are very safe, safe, not very safe, not at all safe?					Number of cases
		Very Safe	Somewhat Safe	Not Very Safe	Not At All Safe	Don't know	
All adults		20%	59%	14%	5%	1%	806
VA Region	Northwest	20%	65%	7%	5%	3%	116
	Northern VA	30%	60%	8%	0%	1%	226
	West	14%	59%	16%	10%	1%	139
	South Central	23%	53%	17%	4%	2%	147
	Tidewater	12%	57%	22%	9%	0%	178
Gender	Men	21%	60%	12%	6%	1%	413
	Women	20%	57%	16%	5%	2%	393
Age	18-34	19%	54%	18%	8%	1%	159
	35-44	23%	59%	12%	6%	0%	94
	45-64	22%	61%	12%	3%	1%	310
	65 and older	18%	61%	12%	5%	4%	217
Education	H.S. or less	20%	55%	15%	8%	1%	200
	Some college	22%	58%	16%	4%	1%	235
	College grad or more	20%	64%	11%	3%	2%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	18%	55%	18%	8%	1%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	17%	64%	13%	6%	0%	196
	\$100,000 or more	29%	58%	11%	2%	0%	235
Race	White	21%	64%	10%	5%	1%	576
	Minority	20%	51%	22%	6%	2%	191
School employee or retiree?	Yes	28%	57%	12%	1%	2%	155
	No	19%	59%	15%	6%	1%	647
Parent of public school student?	Yes	28%	56%	12%	4%	0%	182
	No	18%	60%	15%	6%	2%	623
Party identification	Democrat	22%	55%	15%	5%	2%	339
	Republican	19%	61%	14%	5%	0%	316
	Independent	11%	70%	9%	8%	2%	83

Q17a. Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in providing skills that will be useful in obtaining a job?

		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		69%	22%	10%	806
VA Region	Northwest	69%	19%	12%	116
	Northern VA	71%	16%	13%	226
	West	69%	24%	7%	139
	South Central	70%	23%	7%	147
	Tidewater	63%	28%	9%	178
Gender	Men	68%	22%	10%	413
	Women	69%	21%	10%	393
Age	18-34	68%	24%	8%	159
	35-44	69%	19%	12%	94
	45-64	70%	21%	9%	310
	65 and older	66%	22%	11%	217
Education	H.S. or less	72%	19%	8%	200
	Some college	67%	24%	9%	235
	College grad or more	66%	22%	12%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	71%	24%	6%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	69%	22%	9%	196
	\$100,000 or more	71%	19%	10%	235
Race	White	69%	21%	10%	576
	Minority	72%	21%	7%	191
Parent of VA college student	Yes	68%	23%	9%	276
	No	69%	21%	10%	529
Party identification	Democrat	71%	22%	7%	339
	Republican	69%	20%	12%	316
	Independent	63%	29%	9%	83

		Q17b.Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in developing students' writing and communication skills?			
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		62%	28%	11%	806
VA Region	Northwest	46%	38%	16%	116
	Northern VA	65%	25%	10%	226
	West	63%	27%	10%	139
	South Central	62%	25%	13%	147
	Tidewater	66%	27%	7%	178
Gender	Men	59%	30%	12%	413
	Women	65%	26%	10%	393
Age	18-34	76%	19%	5%	159
	35-44	60%	29%	11%	94
	45-64	58%	30%	12%	310
	65 and older	47%	37%	16%	217
Education	H.S. or less	64%	24%	12%	200
	Some college	62%	30%	9%	235
	College grad or more	60%	30%	10%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	66%	25%	8%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	63%	28%	10%	196
	\$100,000 or more	65%	28%	7%	235
Race	White	62%	27%	11%	576
	Minority	64%	29%	7%	191
Parent of VA college student	Yes	52%	37%	11%	276
	No	65%	24%	10%	529
Party identification	Democrat	67%	26%	7%	339
	Republican	59%	30%	11%	316
	Independent	54%	31%	15%	83



Q17c. Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in producing graduates in scientific fields, such as engineering, math and technology?

		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		72%	16%	12%	806
VA Region	Northwest	65%	19%	16%	116
	Northern VA	79%	12%	9%	226
	West	77%	15%	8%	139
	South Central	64%	17%	19%	147
	Tidewater	68%	20%	12%	178
Gender	Men	73%	17%	10%	413
	Women	71%	16%	14%	393
Age	18-34	81%	13%	7%	159
	35-44	63%	20%	17%	94
	45-64	69%	17%	14%	310
	65 and older	70%	17%	13%	217
Education	H.S. or less	73%	14%	13%	200
	Some college	75%	15%	10%	235
	College grad or more	66%	21%	13%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	75%	17%	9%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	71%	17%	12%	196
	\$100,000 or more	70%	16%	13%	235
Race	White	72%	16%	12%	576
	Minority	74%	16%	10%	191
Parent of VA college student	Yes	67%	18%	15%	276
	No	73%	16%	11%	529
Party identification	Democrat	76%	14%	10%	339
	Republican	70%	16%	14%	316
	Independent	60%	28%	11%	83

		Q17d.Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in preparing students for the workforce needs of the future?			
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		65%	26%	9%	806
VA Region	Northwest	55%	32%	13%	116
	Northern VA	64%	25%	11%	226
	West	68%	21%	10%	139
	South Central	65%	28%	7%	147
	Tidewater	68%	27%	6%	178
Gender	Men	66%	25%	9%	413
	Women	64%	27%	9%	393
Age	18-34	66%	29%	66%	159
	35-44	67%	22%	67%	94
	45-64	64%	25%	64%	310
	65 and older	62%	26%	62%	217
Education	H.S. or less	69%	21%	69%	200
	Some college	63%	30%	63%	235
	College grad or more	61%	28%	61%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	67%	27%	6%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	64%	28%	8%	196
	\$100,000 or more	66%	26%	8%	235
Race	White	66%	25%	9%	576
	Minority	64%	30%	6%	191
Parent of VA college student	Yes	63%	28%	9%	276
	No	66%	25%	9%	529
Party identification	Democrat	69%	25%	5%	339
	Republican	63%	25%	11%	316
	Independent	58%	31%	11%	83

		Q18. Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia?					Number of cases
		Very Safe	Safe	Not Very Safe	Not At All Safe	Don't know	
All adults		11%	55%	28%	4%	2%	806
VA Region	Northwest	1%	57%	28%	10%	3%	116
	Northern VA	14%	65%	18%	1%	2%	226
	West	14%	54%	27%	2%	3%	139
	South Central	7%	48%	37%	5%	3%	147
	Tidewater	11%	49%	33%	6%	0%	178
Gender	Men	14%	61%	19%	3%	2%	413
	Women	7%	50%	35%	5%	2%	393
Age	18-34	14%	53%	27%	5%	0%	159
	35-44	12%	54%	23%	5%	5%	94
	45-64	9%	65%	22%	2%	2%	310
	65 and older	6%	41%	44%	6%	3%	217
Education	H.S. or less	8%	49%	34%	7%	2%	200
	Some college	10%	59%	26%	3%	2%	235
	College grad or more	13%	60%	22%	3%	2%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	9%	47%	34%	7%	3%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	9%	60%	27%	2%	1%	196
	\$100,000 or more	14%	64%	19%	2%	2%	235
Race	White	11%	57%	26%	3%	3%	576
	Minority	11%	52%	30%	6%	1%	191
Parent of VA college student	Yes	6%	60%	29%	4%	1%	276
	No	12%	54%	27%	4%	3%	529
Party identification	Democrat	9%	57%	27%	6%	1%	339
	Republican	12%	56%	27%	2%	3%	316
	Independent	16%	50%	31%	3%	1%	83

		Q19. If you had to choose, which do you think is more important for young people to succeed today?					
		Earning a college degree from a well-respected university	Obtaining the knowledge and skills needed to do a specific job	Both (VOL.)	Neither (VOL.)	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		29%	63%	4%	1%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	22%	69%	3%	2%	4%	116
	Northern VA	33%	55%	11%	0%	2%	226
	West	32%	64%	2%	1%	2%	139
	South Central	25%	68%	1%	1%	5%	147
	Tidewater	31%	64%	4%	0%	1%	178
Gender	Men	34%	57%	5%	1%	3%	413
	Women	25%	68%	5%	0%	2%	393
Age	18-34	28%	67%	3%	0%	2%	159
	35-44	29%	60%	8%	2%	1%	94
	45-64	30%	63%	4%	1%	1%	310
	65 and older	27%	59%	5%	0%	8%	217
Education	H.S. or less	27%	67%	3%	0%	3%	200
	Some college	27%	65%	4%	1%	2%	235
	College grad or more	34%	55%	7%	1%	2%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	27%	66%	3%	1%	4%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	29%	64%	5%	1%	1%	196
	\$100,000 or more	35%	58%	5%	1%	1%	235
Race	White	29%	65%	3%	1%	3%	576
	Minority	32%	58%	7%	1%	2%	191
Parent of VA college student	Yes	31%	60%	4%	0%	4%	276
	No	28%	64%	5%	1%	2%	529
Party identification	Democrat	34%	59%	5%	0%	1%	339
	Republican	27%	67%	3%	0%	2%	316
	Independent	19%	69%	6%	2%	4%	83

		Q20a. Thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Today's HIGH SCHOOL graduate is ready for the world of work					
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		4%	26%	39%	31%	1%	806
VA Region	Northwest	2%	29%	38%	31%	0%	116
	Northern VA	3%	27%	42%	27%	1%	226
	West	5%	34%	36%	23%	2%	139
	South Central	5%	20%	35%	40%	0%	147
	Tidewater	6%	21%	40%	33%	0%	178
Gender	Men	3%	26%	45%	26%	1%	413
	Women	5%	26%	33%	35%	1%	393
Age	18-34	2%	19%	45%	33%	0%	159
	35-44	6%	28%	25%	40%	0%	94
	45-64	5%	30%	37%	26%	1%	310
	65 and older	3%	28%	41%	26%	2%	217
Education	H.S. or less	3%	34%	40%	22%	1%	200
	Some college	5%	21%	37%	37%	0%	235
	College grad or more	4%	22%	39%	34%	1%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	5%	30%	34%	31%	1%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	3%	23%	48%	25%	0%	196
	\$100,000 or more	5%	26%	33%	35%	1%	235
Race	White	3%	27%	39%	30%	1%	576
	Minority	6%	26%	37%	30%	1%	191
Parent of VA college student	Yes	3%	24%	40%	33%	1%	276
	No	4%	27%	39%	30%	1%	529
Party identification	Democrat	4%	26%	36%	33%	1%	339
	Republican	5%	28%	39%	27%	0%	316
	Independent	3%	18%	47%	32%	0%	83

		Q20b. Thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Today's HIGH SCHOOL graduate is ready for college					
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		11%	53%	23%	11%	2%	806
VA Region	Northwest	7%	47%	31%	12%	2%	116
	Northern VA	14%	56%	19%	10%	1%	226
	West	12%	50%	21%	13%	4%	139
	South Central	10%	53%	22%	14%	1%	147
	Tidewater	8%	54%	28%	9%	1%	178
Gender	Men	9%	56%	21%	12%	2%	413
	Women	12%	50%	25%	11%	2%	393
Age	18-34	11%	52%	23%	13%	1%	159
	35-44	12%	59%	17%	13%	0%	94
	45-64	11%	55%	24%	8%	2%	310
	65 and older	8%	47%	29%	11%	5%	217
Education	H.S. or less	13%	51%	25%	9%	3%	200
	Some college	10%	56%	20%	11%	2%	235
	College grad or more	8%	52%	25%	13%	1%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	13%	48%	26%	11%	2%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	6%	58%	23%	11%	1%	196
	\$100,000 or more	13%	56%	20%	10%	1%	235
Race	White	11%	50%	26%	11%	2%	576
	Minority	10%	60%	19%	11%	0%	191
Parent of VA college student	Yes	9%	51%	22%	16%	3%	276
	No	11%	54%	24%	10%	1%	529
Party identification	Democrat	13%	57%	19%	11%	1%	339
	Republican	11%	49%	28%	9%	3%	316
	Independent	2%	52%	25%	20%	0%	83

		Q20c. Thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Today's COLLEGE graduate is ready for the world of work					Number of cases
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	
All adults		10%	54%	25%	10%	1%	806
VA Region	Northwest	7%	56%	28%	9%	1%	116
	Northern VA	6%	58%	27%	9%	0%	226
	West	15%	55%	17%	11%	1%	139
	South Central	15%	47%	23%	14%	1%	147
	Tidewater	9%	52%	28%	10%	1%	178
Gender	Men	9%	51%	27%	12%	1%	413
	Women	12%	56%	23%	9%	1%	393
Age	18-34	11%	53%	25%	11%	0%	159
	35-44	9%	57%	19%	15%	0%	94
	45-64	11%	58%	20%	11%	1%	310
	65 and older	10%	44%	37%	6%	3%	217
Education	H.S. or less	14%	51%	22%	12%	1%	200
	Some college	11%	52%	28%	9%	1%	235
	College grad or more	5%	59%	25%	10%	1%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	15%	49%	25%	9%	2%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	7%	58%	24%	12%	0%	196
	\$100,000 or more	9%	58%	21%	11%	0%	235
Race	White	9%	53%	25%	11%	1%	576
	Minority	13%	55%	23%	8%	0%	191
Parent of VA college student	Yes	9%	54%	28%	8%	1%	276
	No	11%	54%	24%	11%	1%	529
Party identification	Democrat	12%	58%	22%	7%	1%	339
	Republican	9%	54%	26%	10%	1%	316
	Independent	4%	47%	32%	17%	0%	83

		Q21a. From what you know, how would you rate the quality of education offered by the following? Internet-based college programs, in which courses are entirely online					Number of cases
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know	
All adults		7%	36%	33%	11%	13%	806
VA Region	Northwest	8%	30%	35%	8%	19%	116
	Northern VA	5%	34%	31%	15%	15%	226
	West	8%	38%	32%	9%	13%	139
	South Central	9%	32%	35%	13%	12%	147
	Tidewater	5%	43%	34%	10%	9%	178
Gender	Men	6%	33%	35%	14%	12%	413
	Women	7%	38%	31%	9%	15%	393
Age	18-34	9%	35%	34%	16%	5%	159
	35-44	6%	43%	33%	3%	15%	94
	45-64	5%	38%	31%	10%	16%	310
	65 and older	4%	27%	33%	13%	22%	217
Education	H.S. or less	9%	39%	29%	10%	13%	200
	Some college	6%	40%	29%	11%	15%	235
	College grad or more	5%	28%	41%	14%	12%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	10%	36%	33%	13%	9%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	5%	36%	33%	12%	12%	196
	\$100,000 or more	5%	36%	33%	11%	15%	235
Race	White	4%	33%	36%	11%	15%	576
	Minority	12%	40%	27%	12%	9%	191
Parent of VA college student	Yes	5%	35%	30%	10%	21%	276
	No	7%	36%	34%	12%	10%	529
Party identification	Democrat	6%	37%	36%	12%	9%	339
	Republican	9%	36%	29%	10%	17%	316
	Independent	3%	35%	30%	17%	14%	83



		Q21b. From what you know, how would you rate the quality of education offered by the following? Four-year colleges or universities					Number of cases
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know	
All adults		20%	60%	15%	2%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	17%	61%	16%	2%	4%	116
	Northern VA	24%	58%	13%	1%	4%	226
	West	20%	57%	18%	1%	3%	139
	South Central	16%	65%	17%	2%	0%	147
	Tidewater	18%	62%	12%	3%	4%	178
Gender	Men	19%	59%	18%	2%	3%	413
	Women	21%	62%	11%	2%	3%	393
Age	18-34	27%	56%	12%	2%	2%	159
	35-44	15%	65%	16%	1%	2%	94
	45-64	18%	61%	16%	2%	3%	310
	65 and older	18%	61%	15%	2%	4%	217
Education	H.S. or less	19%	60%	18%	1%	2%	200
	Some college	20%	60%	12%	3%	5%	235
	College grad or more	20%	62%	13%	2%	2%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	22%	55%	19%	2%	2%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	14%	67%	13%	4%	3%	196
	\$100,000 or more	26%	62%	10%	0%	2%	235
Race	White	17%	64%	14%	2%	3%	576
	Minority	27%	55%	15%	1%	3%	191
Parent of VA college student	Yes	20%	59%	14%	3%	3%	276
	No	20%	61%	15%	2%	3%	529
Party identification	Democrat	23%	60%	12%	2%	3%	339
	Republican	19%	63%	14%	1%	3%	316
	Independent	12%	54%	27%	6%	2%	83

		Q21c. From what you know, how would you rate the quality of education offered by the following? Community colleges					Number of cases
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know	
All adults		18%	60%	16%	3%	3%	806
VA Region	Northwest	17%	55%	22%	3%	2%	116
	Northern VA	16%	63%	16%	2%	3%	226
	West	25%	56%	14%	1%	5%	139
	South Central	13%	57%	23%	6%	1%	147
	Tidewater	21%	66%	8%	3%	3%	178
Gender	Men	14%	61%	20%	3%	2%	413
	Women	22%	60%	12%	2%	4%	393
Age	18-34	15%	61%	19%	3%	1%	159
	35-44	19%	57%	17%	3%	4%	94
	45-64	17%	65%	13%	2%	3%	310
	65 and older	24%	54%	15%	2%	4%	217
Education	H.S. or less	18%	61%	17%	1%	2%	200
	Some college	16%	63%	13%	4%	3%	235
	College grad or more	20%	57%	17%	2%	4%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	18%	60%	18%	3%	1%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	18%	63%	14%	4%	2%	196
	\$100,000 or more	18%	63%	15%	2%	3%	235
Race	White	16%	62%	16%	2%	3%	576
	Minority	21%	58%	15%	3%	3%	191
Parent of VA college student	Yes	22%	59%	11%	4%	4%	276
	No	17%	61%	18%	2%	2%	529
Party identification	Democrat	18%	61%	17%	2%	2%	339
	Republican	22%	60%	12%	2%	4%	316
	Independent	12%	57%	22%	8%	2%	83

		Q22. Which approach to dealing with sexual assaults on college campuses do you most agree with, even if neither is exactly right?			
		Colleges and universities should be required to report all sexual assaults to the police	Colleges and universities should be free to set their own policies	Don't know/refused	Number of cases
All adults		92%	8%	1%	806
VA Region	Northwest	93%	6%	1%	116
	Northern VA	90%	10%	0%	226
	West	91%	8%	2%	139
	South Central	91%	8%	1%	147
	Tidewater	94%	6%	0%	178
Gender	Men	91%	8%	1%	413
	Women	92%	7%	0%	393
Age	18-34	84%	15%	0%	159
	35-44	96%	4%	0%	94
	45-64	96%	4%	0%	310
	65 and older	92%	6%	2%	217
Education	H.S. or less	95%	5%	1%	200
	Some college	90%	9%	1%	235
	College grad or more	91%	8%	0%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	91%	7%	1%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	87%	13%	0%	196
	\$100,000 or more	94%	5%	1%	235
Race	White	93%	7%	1%	576
	Minority	90%	10%	0%	191
Parent of VA college student	Yes	92%	7%	1%	276
	No	92%	8%	0%	529
Party identification	Democrat	92%	8%	0%	339
	Republican	93%	6%	1%	316
	Independent	89%	10%	1%	83

		Q23. Which of the following statements comes closer to your overall view, even if neither is exactly right?			
		There are actions that colleges and university administrators can take that will significantly decrease the number of sexual assaults on campuses	Sexual assaults on campuses will happen regardless of what actions are taken by college and university administrators	Don't know/ Refused	Number of cases
All adults		61%	35%	5%	806
VA Region	Northwest	58%	37%	4%	116
	Northern VA	64%	33%	3%	226
	West	47%	43%	10%	139
	South Central	63%	33%	4%	147
	Tidewater	69%	29%	2%	178
Gender	Men	59%	36%	5%	413
	Women	62%	34%	4%	393
Age	18-34	59%	39%	2%	159
	35-44	63%	37%	0%	94
	45-64	59%	35%	6%	310
	65 and older	64%	24%	12%	217
Education	H.S. or less	53%	39%	8%	200
	Some college	61%	38%	2%	235
	College grad or more	70%	27%	3%	363
Family Income	Under \$50,000	60%	33%	7%	245
	50K to under \$100,000	60%	38%	2%	196
	\$100,000 or more	62%	36%	2%	235
Race	White	60%	35%	5%	576
	Minority	64%	33%	3%	191
Parent of VA college student	Yes	62%	33%	5%	276
	No	61%	35%	4%	529
Party identification	Democrat	67%	29%	4%	339
	Republican	57%	39%	4%	316
	Independent	50%	44%	6%	83

## **Press Releases**



L. Douglas Wilder School of  
Government and Public Affairs

### **COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL 2014-15**

*A survey of Virginians conducted by the  
Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute*

**Embargoed until 1pm, Thursday, January 15, 2015**

**Contact:**

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### **Press Release I [January 15, 2015]: Overwhelming Majority of Virginians Think Colleges and Universities Should Be Required to Report Sexual Assaults to Police**

In the wake of significant media coverage about sexual assaults on college campuses, a new poll indicates strong support among Virginians for legislative proposals which would require university faculty or staff to report to police within 48 hours any alleged criminal sexual assaults that come to their attention. According to the 2015 Commonwealth Education Poll, an overwhelming majority of Virginians (92%) believe that colleges and universities should be required to report sexual assaults to the police. Support for the idea dropped to 84% among the youngest demographic group, those aged 18-34.

“Rarely is there such a strong consensus on any issue in our public discourse about such a charged issue,” said Dr. Robyn McDougle, Interim Executive Director of the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute and Associate Professor at the Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University. “Lawmakers in an election year will pay close attention to this type of overwhelming sentiment.”

A majority of Virginians (61%) also believe that actions available to college administrators can significantly decrease the number of sexual assaults, compared to 35% who think sexual assaults will happen regardless of administrator actions. The belief that actions can make a difference was stronger among college graduates where 70% agreed that actions taken by administrators could reduce the number of sexual assaults.

Even with significant media coverage in recent months regarding campus sexual assaults a strong majority of Virginians (66%) believes that Virginia’s college and university campuses are safe or very safe, with 11% saying very safe. This is statistically unchanged from 2014 when 70% of those canvassed by the same poll judged campuses safe or very safe. Respondents from Northern Virginia were most likely (79%) to think campuses are safe or very safe. Women, however, judged campuses to be safe less frequently than men – 40% of women said they thought campuses were not very safe or not at all safe compared to 22% of men who said the same.

In other findings on higher education, the poll demonstrates that large majorities of Virginians believe the state's four-year universities (80%) and community colleges (78%) are providing their students with good or excellent quality educations. Views of the quality of strictly on-line higher education providers are more mixed.

Strong majorities also say Virginia colleges and universities are doing a good job in four specific outcome areas:

- Producing graduates in scientific fields – 72%
- Providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job - 69%
- Preparing students for the workforce needs for the future – 65%.
- Developing students' writing and communication skills – 62%

Those who'd had a child attend a Virginia college or university judged schools more harshly in the area of developing writing and communication skills – only 52% felt schools were doing a good job compared to 65% of respondents who had not had a child attend a Virginia college or university.

In the area of workforce preparedness, the poll found a strong majority (70%) think that high school graduates are not prepared for the workplace, strongly or somewhat disagreeing with the statement that high school graduates are ready for work. Overall, however, Virginians believe that high school graduates are prepared for higher education (64%) and college graduates are prepared for the world of work (64%).

Counter to the conventional wisdom that a college degree is crucial for success in today's economy, 63% of those polled said they thought job-specific skills and knowledge were more important than a degree from a well-respected university for succeeding in the world today. Likewise, a substantial majority of Virginians (68%) agreed either strongly or somewhat that public high school students should be required to participate in at least one internship (whether paid or volunteer) during high school. Agreement with the idea was higher than the overall average among minorities (78%), those who have worked in schools (76%) and Democrats (77%).

"Most people don't think high school graduates are ready to succeed in the workplace," said Dr. Robyn McDougle. "Attending college is obviously critical for many in launching a career, but these responses remind us that what you learn and how those knowledge and skills align with the needs of employers may be a bigger factor in starting a successful career than simply getting a degree."

These findings are part of a new statewide survey conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University. The Commonwealth Education Poll was conducted by landline and cell telephone from December 27, 2014 to January 3, 2015 with a random sample of 806 adults in Virginia. The margin of error for the poll is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points. This poll is conducted annually by VCU's Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute (CEPI).

For a PDF of the 29-page report including complete question wording and detailed tables of results see <http://cepi.vcu.edu/publications/polls/>.



L. Douglas Wilder School of  
Government and Public Affairs

## COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL 2014-15

*A survey of Virginians conducted by the  
Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute*

### **Press Release II [January 22, 2015]: Majorities Think Current School Funding is Not Enough and Would Pay More in Taxes to Forestall Cuts; Majority of Virginians Feel Bullying is a Very Serious Problem in Schools**

**Embargoed until 9am, Thursday, January 22, 2015**

**Contact:**

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Farrah Stone Graham, Ph.D. – Survey Director, Phone 804 828 1989; Cell 804 305 3447; E-mail: [stonefn@vcu.edu](mailto:stonefn@vcu.edu)

While legislators continue to look for ways to make-up for an unexpected shortfall in tax revenue, Virginians remain strongly supportive of funding for the public schools and see it as having a direct impact on school quality. More than two-thirds of Virginians (68%) say that Virginia schools do not have enough funds to meet their needs; while only 26% say schools have enough funding now.

More than three-quarters of respondents (78%) also said that the amount of funding affects the quality of schools a great deal or quite a lot. School employees/retirees (at 60%) and parents of public school students (at 59%) were more likely to say funding mattered a great deal when compared to non-employee/retiree (50%) and non-parent respondents (49%). Likewise, 58% of minorities said funding mattered a great deal compared to 48% of whites.

Virginians are willing to pay more in taxes to support school funding levels. Seven-in-ten respondents (70%) said they would be willing to pay more in taxes to keep public schools funded at the current level and 53% are willing to pay more so that school funding can be increased. Of those willing to pay more to increase funding for public schools, 44% favored a sales tax as the best vehicle for a tax increase while 22% preferred an increased income tax.

Larger proportions of Virginians are willing to pay more in taxes to protect funding for public schools (70%) and mental health services (72%) than would do so to keep programs for aid to low-income families (56%), funding for higher education (48%) and transportation (46%) at current level. Only about a quarter of state residents (27%) are willing to pay more to keep funding for prisons at current levels.

“The gap in relative support between mental health services and public education on one extreme and prisons on the other may well explain why the Governor and General Assembly leaders in October cut more than 500 state jobs in the Department of Corrections while sparing K-12 education,” said McDougale. “While those cuts are no less painful for the people laid off, it appears the decision was aligned with the public’s sense of priorities.”

In other poll results, half of Virginians (50%) think bullying and harassment is a “very serious problem” in schools, with another 37% saying they think it is a “somewhat serious” problem. A majority (56%) also thinks that bullying and harassment is more of a problem today than it was when they were younger.

Minorities (61%) and women (57%) were more likely to view bullying as a very serious problem than were whites (44%) and men (41%). Those from South Central and Tidewater regions (56%) were also more likely than respondents from other regions to see it as a very serious problem. Lower income, those with high school or less education and Democratic respondents also more frequently said bullying and harassment was a very serious problem.

“Since the inappropriateness of bullying became a required part of state-mandated character education programs in 2005, state and local school officials have invested significant energy and resources in preventing bullying,” said Robyn McDougle, interim executive director, Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute and associate professor at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. “This shows that the public is likely supportive of those efforts but also that they feel bullying and harassment continues to be a sobering and very real part of school life.”

Even with the concerns about bullying, a majority of Virginians feel the schools in their community are safe. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of respondents indicated feeling their community’s schools were safe or very safe, with 29% saying they were very safe. Only 19% felt their schools were not very or not at all safe. There were regional differences for those who felt their schools were safe or very safe. Respondents from Northern VA (90%) and the Northwest regions (85%) were more likely to say their schools were safe or very safe. In contrast, respondents from Tidewater (31%) and the West region of the state (26%) were more likely to say schools were not very safe or not at all safe. Family income and also race play a role in the safety perceptions of respondents. Those with household income below \$50,000 (26%) were more likely to say schools were not very safe or not at all safe than were higher household income brackets - \$50,000-\$100,000 (19%), \$100,000 or more (13%). Minority respondents (28%) were also more likely to say not very safe or not at all safe compared to white respondents (15%).

In another perennial policy issue before the General Assembly, for the third year in a row the Commonwealth Education Poll finds a solid majority of Virginians (61%) are in favor of localities having the option to start earlier than Labor Day while 35% opposed such a policy. Those with higher incomes and higher levels of postsecondary education were the respondents most likely to favor school systems having the option.

These findings are part of a new statewide survey conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University. The Commonwealth Education Poll was conducted by landline and cell telephone from December 27, 2014 to January 3, 2015 with a random sample of 806 adults in Virginia. The margin of error for the poll is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points. This poll is conducted annually by VCU’s Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute (CEPI). Portions of the poll related to higher education were released on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Portions of the poll regarding SOLs, school accountability and virtual/online education will be released on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

For a PDF of the 25-page report including complete question wording and detailed tables of results see <http://cepi.vcu.edu/publications/polls/>.





L. Douglas Wilder School of  
Government and Public Affairs

## COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL 2014-15

*A survey of Virginians conducted by the  
Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute*

### **Release III [January 29, 2015]: Majority of Virginians Favor Increased Online Learning Opportunities for High School Credit; Have Mixed Views on Impact of Standards of Learning**

**Embargoed until 9am, Thursday, January 22, 2015**

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With the rapid evolution of communications technology, more and more options exist for students to learn through virtual or online platforms. Such virtual classrooms are increasingly touted as an option for high school students who want to earn credit in subjects that their schools may not otherwise be able to provide. According to a new Commonwealth Poll by Virginia Commonwealth University's [Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute](http://www.cepi.edu), almost two-thirds of respondents (63%) favored allowing students to earn high school credits online while 33% opposed the practice.

There were significant differences in support by age cohort with younger respondents more in favor of online credits options. Fully 72% of those aged 18-34 supported the practice while only 47% of those aged 65 or older did the same.

A majority of respondents (58%) were also willing to have their own child earn some of their high school credits online, while 33% would not want their children to earn any credits online. But only 8% of respondents would be willing to have their child earn all of their high school credits online.

"Most Virginians are supportive of online learning as an option during a student's high school career," said Robyn McDougale, interim executive director, Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute and associate professor at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. "But a vast majority of respondents also clearly want their own children to have in-person instruction and face-to-face interaction during their high school experience."

A year after Virginia policy-makers acted to reduce the number of standardized tests, the public continues to register a blend of support and concern about the impacts that Standards of Learning (SOLs) have on the state's education system.

Majorities of respondents see the SOLs as a positive in promoting accountability and equity across educational institutions. Fifty-eight percent (58%) see a benefit in accountability, agreeing that the SOLs hold schools accountable for student achievement. Only 37% disagree. A slightly smaller majority, 54%, see an equity benefit, saying that the SOLs make sure that all students in Virginia meet the same academic standards. Minority respondents are more likely to agree that SOLs hold schools accountable

(69%) and ensure that all students meet the same standards (60%) when compared to whites, where only 54% and 50% agreed with the same respective statements.

But while respondents overall feel SOLs create accountability for schools with regards to student performance, a majority of Virginians (58%) feel that SOLs don't help improve student achievement itself. Likewise, more respondents (38%) feel that increased testing has hurt student performance than feel that it has helped (21%). Almost a third of respondents (32%) feel it made no difference one way or the other when it comes to student performance.

There is also a clear sense from the public that SOLs create negative impacts on the classroom experience and for the individual student. More than three-quarters of Virginians (79%) agree that preparations for SOL testing take so much class time that teachers can't cover all the important material. A strong majority (66%) agree that SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students.

"The public has a complex view of the SOLs, standardized testing and accountability standards," McDougle said. "They appear to like the accountability it provides for measuring whether the adults in a school system are doing their jobs well, but they are concerned about the impact it has on kids and classrooms. When it gets down to the level of the impact on an individual student, most question if the system is helping. If policy-makers look for ways to reduce the stress of high-stakes testing but keep the ability to compare performance across school systems and leverage that for improved performance, they are likely to find support from the broader public."

Within opinion about the impact of SOLs and testing on student performance or achievement, significant differences exist between several demographic groups. In comparing minority and white perspectives, minorities are more likely to say that testing has helped (31% compared to 17% of whites). Likewise, those with an education level of high school or less are more likely to say testing helped (31%) than are those with some college (19%) or a college diploma (14%). Finally those with household incomes below \$50,000 are more likely to say testing has helped (30%) than is the case with the two higher income categories (\$50,000-\$100,000 – 18%; \$100,000 or more – 15%).

Another frequently debated policy area is whether schools that consistently fail to meet standards should be taken over by another entity. The poll found for the second year that a majority of Virginians (57%) oppose the idea of school takeovers. There was significant variability, however, between different geographic regions. The West (78%) and Northwest (66%) regions are most likely to oppose the takeover of failing schools by another entity. In contrast, South Central (48% oppose) and Northern Virginia regions (47% oppose) are almost evenly split on the question.

In other findings on potential innovations in high school education, a substantial majority of Virginians (68%) agreed either strongly or somewhat, that public high school students should be required to participate in at least one internship (whether paid or volunteer) during high school. Agreement is higher than the overall average among minorities (78%), those who have worked in schools (76%) and Democrats (77%). Results regarding internships were previously released on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

These findings are part of a new statewide survey conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University. The Commonwealth Education Poll was conducted by landline and cell telephone from December 27, 2014 to January 3, 2015 with a random sample of 806 adults in Virginia. The margin of error for the poll is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points. This poll is conducted annually by VCU's Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute (CEPI).

For a PDF of the full release including complete question wording and detailed tables of results see <http://cepi.vcu.edu/publications/polls/>.