

Statewide Survey of Adults in Connecticut
Topline Data

prepared for

Center for Education Reform

by

the polling company™, inc.

August 2005

Connecticut Statewide Survey

Field Dates: August 22-24, 2005

Completed Interviews: 500 Adults in Connecticut

Margin of Error: $\pm 4.38\%$

National Survey

Field Dates: January 5-11, 2005

Completed Interviews: 800 Adults Nationwide

Margin of Error: $\pm 3.5\%$

A. Are you 18 years of age or older?

100% YES

B. Is there someone in the household I could speak with who is 18 or older?

100% YES

Charter School Support

1. How would you classify charter schools—as (ROTATE) public schools, private schools, religious/parochial schools, or magnet schools?

USA 01/05	CT 08/05	
20%	26%	PUBLIC SCHOOL
38%	25%	PRIVATE SCHOOL
16%	22%	MAGNET SCHOOL
5%	2%	RELIGIOUS/PAROCHIAL SCHOOL
3%	*	OTHER (VOLUNTEERED)
17%	25%	DO NOT KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)
*	*	REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

2. Do you support or oppose allowing communities to create new public schools - called charter schools - that would be held accountable for student results and would be required to meet the same academic standards/testing requirements as other public schools but not cost taxpayers any additional money? [PROBE: AND DO YOU STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT SUPPORT/OPPOSE?]

USA 01/05	CT 08/05	
78%	78%	TOTAL SUPPORT (NET)
56%	57%	STRONGLY SUPPORT
22%	21%	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT
15%	11%	TOTAL OPPOSE (NET)
6%	4%	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
9%	7%	STRONGLY OPPOSE
6%	10%	DON'T KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)
*	1%	REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

I am now going to read to you a list of descriptive terms. For each, please tell me if you would feel favorable or unfavorable towards a public school that emphasized it. (And is that STRONGLY or just SOMEWHAT favorable/unfavorable?)
[ROTATE QUESTIONS 3-4]

3. "Accountability"

USA 01/05	CT 08/05	
92%	88%	TOTAL FAVORABLE (NET)
74%	70%	STRONGLY FAVORABLE
18%	18%	SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE
3%	4%	TOTAL UNFAVORABLE (NET)
1%	2%	SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE
2%	2%	STRONGLY UNFAVORABLE
5%	7%	DON'T KNOW/DEPENDS (VOLUNTEERED)
-	1%	REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

4. "Innovation"

USA CT
01/05 08/05

86% **86%** **TOTAL FAVORABLE (NET)**

59% 62% STRONGLY FAVORABLE

27% 24% SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE

6% **3%** **TOTAL UNFAVORABLE (NET)**

4% 2% SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE

2% 1% STRONGLY UNFAVORABLE

8% 10% DON'T KNOW/DEPENDS (VOLUNTEERED)

* * REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

Demographics

Now I have a few more questions for statistical purposes...

5. Which of the following categories best describes your age range? (READ LIST)

10% 18-24

18% 25-34

21% 35-44

17% 45-54

13% 55-64

10% 65-74

9% 75+

2% REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

6. Are you currently . . .

60% MARRIED

18% SINGLE

8% DIVORCED

1% SEPARATED

9% WIDOWED

4% REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

7. Do you have any children? (IF YES: HOW MANY?)

62% **TOTAL YES (NET)**

10% YES, 1

29% YES, 2

23% YES, 3 OR MORE

34% NO

3% REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

8. Would you describe your racial or ethnic background as: (READ LIST)

- 75% WHITE/CAUCASIAN
- 9% BLACK/AFRICAN-AMERICAN
- 10% HISPANIC/LATINO
- 2% ASIAN
- 1% MIDDLE EASTERN
- 1% NATIVE AMERICAN

- 2% OTHER (VOLUNTEERED)
- 2% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

9. And regarding your family's annual income...Please tell me which of the following categories best describes your family's total annual household income before taxes. (READ LIST, IF RESPONDENT SAYS "DON'T KNOW," SAY, "ALL WE NEED IS A GENERAL RANGE, NOT A SPECIFIC FIGURE.")

- 12% LESS THAN \$25,000
- 7% \$25,000 TO \$29,999
- 11% \$30,000 TO \$39,999
- 8% \$40,000 TO \$49,999
- 8% \$50,000 TO \$59,999
- 5% \$60,000 TO \$69,999
- 5% \$70,000 TO \$79,999
- 3% \$80,000 TO \$89,999
- 12% \$90,000 OR HIGHER

- 3% DO NOT KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)
- 27% REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

10. Gender

- 48% MALE
- 52% FEMALE

11. County

- 25% FAIRFIELD
- 26% HARTFORD
- 5% LITCHFIELD
- 5% MIDDLESEX
- 24% NEW HAVEN
- 8% NEW LONDON
- 4% TOLLAND
- 3% WINDHAM