



## Coalition to INVEST IN TEXAS SCHOOLS

### **The Coalition to Invest in Texas Schools Overview of Texans' Support of Public Education Issues**

Several polls on education have been released over the last few weeks, asking a variety of questions such as satisfaction with the quality of education, the importance of education as a state issue, and whether funding should be increased. While the poll sources vary, the results are very consistent.

Voters agree that ***education or improving school performance is the most important issue*** facing the state of Texas today.

- 32 percent, according to a Coalition poll<sup>1</sup> in January (second was jobs at 12 percent)
- 44 percent, according to a Texas State Teachers Association (TSTA) poll<sup>2</sup> in February (second was health care at 25 percent)
- 19 percent, according to a Texas Conservative Coalition (TCC) poll<sup>3</sup> in January (tied with lowering the cost of health insurance)

Voters want to ***continue to see increased academic standards***. According to the adequacy study conducted by Texas A&M University, “other things being equal...it costs more to produce higher levels of educational outcomes.”

- 63 percent want an increase in state academic standards<sup>2</sup>
- 24 percent want higher academic standards, tied as second priority for the legislature with teacher pay and benefits and smaller class sizes<sup>3</sup>
- 79 percent agreed that spending more money for education will result in a more well-educated workforce in Texas which will lead to an improved economy<sup>1</sup>

Voters ***support increased funding*** at the state level for public K-12 education in Texas.

- 73 percent, according to the Coalition poll<sup>1</sup>
- 69 percent, according to the TSTA poll<sup>2</sup>
- 85 percent believe it is important for each district in the state to have access to roughly the same amount of money to educate its students<sup>1</sup>

Voters ***favor local control*** for public schools.

- 48 percent believe control for public schools should be shared between parents, local school boards, and state officials<sup>3</sup>
- 39 percent believe control of public schools should rest on parents and local school boards<sup>3</sup>

Voters have a ***favorable opinion about the quality of public education*** provided in Texas, or believe quality is improving.

- 52 percent have a favorable opinion (39 percent unfavorable)<sup>1</sup>
- 60 percent say schools are in good shape or are improving and need to continue to do so (69 percent of parents of school-aged parents agreed with this statement)<sup>2</sup>
- 84 percent of parents gave their child's school a grade of “A” or “B”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Coalition poll conducted by Public Strategies Inc. on Jan. 15-18 with a sample of 800 registered voters. Margin of error is +/-3.5 percent.

<sup>2</sup> TSTA poll conducted by The Tarrance Group, Inc., and Harstad Strategic Research, Inc., on Feb. 11-17 with a sample of 804 registered voters. Margin of error is +/-3.5 percent.

<sup>3</sup> TCC poll conducted by Wilson Research Strategies on Jan. 14-18 and Jan. 23-24 with a sample of 1,000 adults over age 18 who “vote most of the time” or more. Margin of error is +/-3.2 percent.

