The State of Education in Illinois in 2020

As part of its mission to, “effect excellence and equity in public education,” the Illinois Education Association (IEA) has released its second “IEA State of Education Report.”

The IEA State of Education Report is both:

- A report card detailing the public’s changing views of the job politicians, administrators, teachers and support staff who are leading Illinois’ public schools.
- An analytical assessment of the public’s priorities for improving public education in our state.

A complete, unredacted set of the topline answers is attached to this report.

About the Report
The IEA State of Education Report is based on surveys conducted in a bi-partisan manner by Normington Petts & Associates and We Ask America. As with the first State of Education Report (released in April 2019), these findings are based on a poll of 1,000 adults from across Illinois with a demographic distribution that mirrors data from the U.S. Census. Respondents answered questions from Nov. 13 to Nov. 21. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percent with a 95 percent confidence.

About IEA
IEA is the largest educators’ organization in Illinois. As the largest union in the state, the IEA has more than 135,000 members made up of Illinois elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty and staff, educational support professionals, retired educators and college students preparing to become teachers.

IEA believes that every student in Illinois is entitled to a high-quality education in a high-quality public school. To that end, IEA works to attract, retain, train and support the best education professionals possible. Our advocacy efforts ensure administrators and politicians are held accountable for the decisions they make that affect education outcomes in Illinois.

For more information about IEA and the 2020 State of Education Report please contact: IEA Media Relations Director Bridget Shanahan at bridget.shanahan@ieanea.org.
Key Report Findings

- **The public continues to have a pessimistic view of Illinois and the state of its public schools.**
- **Having high quality public schools is viewed as a top priority: above reducing crime and lowering taxes.**
- **While there still is no consensus on how to fix schools, public school teachers and education support staff are widely viewed as the solution, and not the problem, to improving Illinois’ public schools.**
- **There is strong belief that teachers and education support professionals are underpaid, and this contributes to the problem of attracting and retaining high quality educators.**
- **The public is very supportive of creative ways to attract and retain educators.**
- **Teacher pensions should be paid in full, and most believe that it should be easier for teachers to receive their full pensions.**

The public continues to have a pessimistic view of Illinois and the state of its public schools.

When tested in March 2019, public perception of the direction of the state was pessimistic with 26 percent saying that Illinois was generally headed in the right direction, but 62 percent saying things were off on the wrong track. Since that time, perception has improved slightly, with 29 percent now saying things in Illinois are generally headed in the right direction, but still largely pessimistic with 57 percent saying things are off on the wrong track.

Illinoisans also continue to have an uninspiring opinion about public schools. Overall, the public views the schools in their local community better than public schools statewide and even nationally. More than half (53 percent) would give their local public schools an A or B grade, for an overall average of a C+. Nationally, public schools are given a C grade, while Illinois public schools are given a C-.
Having high quality public schools is viewed as a top priority: above reducing crime and lowering taxes

Despite giving the schools relatively low marks, the public overwhelmingly rate “having high quality public schools” as a top priority. In fact, a higher percentage of Illinoisans (83 percent) rank high quality schools above reducing crime (78 percent), balancing the state budget (76 percent) and lowering taxes (68 percent). Cleaning up corruption in state government (85 percent) was the only priority that topped high quality public schools. Reforming the state’s pension system was the lowest priority tested (54 percent).

While there still is no consensus on how to fix schools, public school teachers and paraprofessionals are widely viewed as the solution, not the problem, to improving Illinois’ public schools.

Overall, there is no single universal action that stands out for fixing public schools. However, the change most mentioned by the public includes an increase in funding. Indeed, two thirds (66 percent) of Illinoisans believe public schools need more funding while just 5 percent feel funding should decrease.

Other actions receiving broad support include smaller class sizes, more resources for the classrooms and more quality teachers.

While the public lacks a consensus on how to fix public schools, there is an overwhelming belief that teachers are best equipped to determine education standards and should have the strongest voice in how Illinois public schools are run.
More than one-third (35 percent) listed teachers as best equipped to determine the education standards for children at local public schools, followed by the local school district at 27 percent, local school administrators at 14 percent and 16 percent split between those saying the state or federal government.

A total of 97 percent of respondents said it is important for teachers to have a strong voice in how schools are run, with 78 percent saying it is very important. Ninety-three percent said it is important for parents to have a strong voice, while just 26 percent said it was important for politicians to have a strong voice in how public schools in Illinois are run. Clearly, teachers and not politicians should be taking the lead on improving public education.
There is strong belief that teachers and paraprofessionals are underpaid, and this contributes to the problem of attracting and retaining high quality educators.

The number one word that comes to the public’s mind when they think about Illinois public school teachers is “underpaid,” at 16 percent. While there is strong support (65 percent total) for the recent legislation placing the minimum teacher salary at $40,000 per year, 52 percent still believe public school teachers are paid too little.

Overall, the public grades Illinois public schools at a C on attracting and retaining the best educators and 76 percent agree if Illinois paid teachers higher salaries, we would attract better quality teachers.

Additionally, a massive 81 percent say that paraprofessionals, making an average of just $10 per hour, are paid too little. The connections are plain: Better pay for teachers and paraprofessionals leads to attracting and retaining more high-quality educators and more high-quality educators are needed to improve public education.
The public is very supportive of creative ways to attract and retain educators.

While the public thinks public school teachers and paraprofessionals are underpaid and this has caused a problem with attracting and retaining high quality educators, they are open to creative solutions like student loan forgiveness.

When asked whether they would support “a program that forgives the student loans of Illinois residents who attend Illinois universities and teach in Illinois public schools for 10 years,” 69 percent of Illinoisans support this idea, with nearly half (48 percent) saying they strongly support it.

Teacher pensions should be paid in full, and most believe that it should be easier for teachers to receive their full pensions.

Because teachers do not receive Social Security, the public believes it is imperative that they be allowed to keep their full pensions. Three-quarters (75 percent) of Illinoisans say that teachers should keep their full pensions, while just 11 percent say they should see their pensions cut some and only 6 percent saying they should be eliminated.
Furthermore, the public thinks lawmakers made it too difficult for teachers to become eligible for their full pension when they changed the law on anyone hired after 2011 having to work until they were 67 years old. Sixty-two percent of the public say they support recently hired teachers only having to work until the age of 60, and not 67.
Appendix
Hello, my name is ______________ and I’m calling from ____, a national public opinion research firm. We are not trying to sell you anything or asking for a donation. We are conducting a survey in Illinois on a number of public issues and your telephone number was selected at random. Are you age 18 or older?

1. Would you say things in Illinois today are generally headed in the RIGHT DIRECTION or would you say things are off on the WRONG TRACK?

   RIGHT DIRECTION .......................................... 29%
   WRONG TRACK .............................................. 57
   (DON'T KNOW) ................................................ 14

2. Now, I am going to read you a list of priorities for Illinois. Please tell me how important each one is to you, personally, on a scale of zero to ten where a zero means not a priority at all and ten means it is your top priority. You can choose any number from zero to ten. The first one is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>[RANDOMIZE]</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>8-9</th>
<th>6-7</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>2-4</th>
<th>0-1</th>
<th>[DK]</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Having high quality public schools ..................... 59%</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Cleaning up corruption in state government .............. 69%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Lowering taxes ......................................... 52%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Reforming the state pension systems ...................... 35%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Balancing the state budget .............................. 51%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Reducing crime ......................................... 58%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D and Fail to show the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools were graded the same way. What grade would you give the [READ ITEM]? And what about the?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>[DO NOT RANDOMIZE]</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>[DK]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. The public schools in the nation as a whole ............. 2%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. The public schools in Illinois as a whole ............... 2%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. The public schools in your local community .............. 16%</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Now I want you to think about Illinois public school teachers and I want you to tell me the ONE WORD or phrase that first comes to mind.

TOTAL POSITIVE ..................63%
TOTAL NEGATIVE................16%

POSITIVE PERSONAL CHAR ...32%
Dedicated ............................. 7%
Hard-working ......................... 7%
Good ...................................... 5%
Trying ..................................... 2%
Excellent ............................... 1%
Great ...................................... 1%
Important ............................... 1%
Committed ............................. 1%
Caring .................................... 1%
Brave ..................................... 1%
Determined ............................ <1%
Be Better ............................... <1%
Motivated ............................. <1%
Helpful ................................. <1%
Hero ....................................... <1%
Doing Well ............................ <1%
Funny .................................... <1%
Competent ............................ <1%
Smart ..................................... <1%
Diligent ................................. <1%
Resilient ............................... <1%
Kind ...................................... <1%
Polite ..................................... <1%
Concerned ............................ <1%
Gratitude .............................. <1%
Skilled .................................. <1%
Servant ................................. <1%
Patient ................................. <1%
Driven ................................... <1%
Amazing ............................... <1%
Proud ..................................... <1%
Deserving .............................. <1%
Respect .................................. <1%
Exceptional ............................ <1%
Difficult Job .......................... <1%
Good Intentions ........................ <1%
I Like Them ............................ <1%
Knowledgeable ........................ <1%
Possibililties .......................... <1%
Potential .............................. <1%
Courteous ............................. <1%
Compassionate ........................ <1%
Devoted ................................. <1%
Enduring ............................... <1%
Phenomenal ........................... <1%
Quality .................................. <1%
Qualified .............................. <1%
Improving ............................. <1%
Conscientious ........................ <1%
Strong .................................. <1%
Leaders ................................. <1%
Wonderful .............................. <1%
Persevering ........................... <1%
Educated ............................... <1%
Essential .............................. <1%
Responsible .......................... <1%
Professional .......................... <1%
Reasonable ........................... <1%
Confident ............................. <1%
Experienced .......................... <1%
Passionate ........................... <1%
Trusting ............................... <1%

PAY ..................................................... 16%

NEGATIVES ............................. 12%
Greedy .................................. 2%
Lazy ...................................... 1%
Not Good ............................... 1%
Incompetent .......................... <1%
Poor ....................................... <1%
Inadequate ............................ <1%
Selfish ................................. <1%
Need More Education ............. <1%
Strict ...................................... <1%
Corrupt ................................. <1%
Limited ................................... <1%
Ill-equipped ........................... <1%
Garbage .................................. <1%
Crazy ..................................... <1%
Needy ..................................... <1%
Entitled ................................. <1%
Out Of Touch .......................... <1%
Judgmental ............................ <1%
Privileged .............................. <1%
Liberal .................................... <1%
Dumb ..................................... <1%
Stubborn ................................. <1%
Disgruntled ........................... <1%
Unenthusiastic ....................... <1%
Uncaring ............................... <1%
Harsh ..................................... <1%
Disgrace .................................. <1%
Complainers .......................... <1%
Do Nothing ............................ <1%
 Favoritism ............................ <1%
Sloppy .................................... <1%
Arrogant ............................... <1%
Two Faced .............................. <1%
Coddled ................................. <1%
Indifferent ............................ <1%
Lack Discipline ........................ <1%
Insufficient ........................... <1%
Non Efficient .......................... <1%
Dissatisfied ........................... <1%
Babysitter .............................. <1%
Undertrained .......................... <1%
Louzy .................................... <1%
Unfit ..................................... <1%
Stupid .................................... <1%
Chaos ..................................... <1%
Lacking ................................. <1%
Self Centered ......................... <1%
Rude ..................................... <1%
Biased ..................................... <1%
Untrained .............................. <1%
Pampered .............................. <1%
Lost ....................................... <1%
Non Diversified ...................... <1%
Political .............................. <1%
Mediocre .............................. <1%
Not Educators ................. <1%
Over Demanding ..................... <1%
I Hate Them ........................... <1%
Misallocated ........................... <1%
Lack Of Quality ....................... <1%
Disenchanted ......................... <1%
Failing ................................. <1%
Ignorant ............................... <1%
Not Qualified .......................... <1%
Lacking Ambition .................... <1%
Not Prepared ........................... <1%
Combative ............................. <1%
Hypocrites ............................ <1%

Need Help .................................. 1%
Overwhelmed .......................... 1%
Frustrated ............................. 1%
It's A Hard Job ....................... <1%
Under Served ......................... <1%
Under Funded ......................... <1%
Screwed .................................. <1%
Tired ...................................... <1%
Held Back .............................. <1%
Disappointed ......................... <1%
Hands Tied ............................. <1%
Struggling ............................. <1%
More Funding ......................... <1%
Support ................................. <1%
Challenged ........................... <1%
Stressed ............................... <1%
Not Supported ........................ <1%
Busy ...................................... <1%

NOT Appreciated Enough .......... 4%
Under-appreciated ................... 2%
Under Rated .......................... <1%
Under-valued .......................... <1%
Cheated ............................... <1%
Not Treated Fairly .................... <1%
Disrespected ......................... <1%
Need Respend ......................... <1%
I Feel Sorry For Them ............. <1%
Under Attack ........................... <1%
Abused .................................. <1%
Divided .................................. <1%
Not Recognized Enough .......... <1%

OVERPAID ......................... 4%
Over Paid .............................. 3%
Paid Well ............................... <1%
Worry About Pay Not Students .... <1%
Waste Of Taxpayers Money ....... <1%
Paycheck .............................. <1%
Not Earning Their Pay ............. <1%
Spoiled ............................... <1%

NEUTRAL ........................................ 4%
Okay ...................................... 1%
Fair/Alright ......................... <1%
Average ............................... <1%
Unequal .............................. <1%
Teachers ............................... <1%
Satisfactory ......................... <1%
Human .................................. <1%
Adequate .............................. <1%
Communication ...................... <1%
Acceptable ............................ <1%
Under Utilized ....................... <1%
Moderate ............................. <1%
Unique ................................. <1%
Educators ............................. <1%

UNION/CONTRACT ISSUES ........4%
Union ................................. 1%
Strikes ................................. 1%
Pensions ............................... 1%
Tenure ................................. <1%

NOT ENOUGH TEACHERS ........1%
Need More Teachers ................ <1%
Under Staffed ........................ <1%
Class Size ......................... <1%

OTHER ..................................... 5%
No Kids In School .................. <1%
Relative Is Teacher ................. <1%
All Other Mentions .................. 4%
Don't know ........................... <9%
Thinking about the public schools in Illinois, if you could change just one thing about them, what would it be. Try to be specific. [RECORD VERBATIM. ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE.]

**CURRICULUM** 13%
Curriculum 5%
Common Core Teaching 2%
Back To ABCs/Basics 1%
More Trade Experience 1%
Change The Way They Teach 1%
Teach The Real History 1%
Of America 1%

**OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM** 4%
School Lunches 2%
Better After-School Programs 1%
Dress Code 1%
More About The Kids Learning 1%
Rather Than Football And Stuff 1%
More School Work Less 1%
Outside Activity 1%
Extra Curricular Work 1%
Extra Work 1%
More After School Programs 1%
No More Play Time 1%

**BEHAVIOR/DISCIPLINE** 4%
More Discipline 3%
Less Crime 1%
Students Coddled Too Much 1%

**MORE EQUALITY** 3%
Try To Even Out The 2%
Quality Of Education Statewide 1%
Equality For All Students 1%
Lack Of Diversity 1%
More Diversity 1%
Consistency 1%

**CHANGE SCHEDULE** 3%
Longer School Year 1%
More School Hours 1%
Short School Days 1%
Start School Earlier 1%
Less Days Out Of School 1%
Length Of Education 1%

**TESTING** 3%
Less Focus On Just SAT 1%
And More Real World Experience 1%
Stop Teaching To The 1%
Standardized Testing 1%
Teach To National Tests 1%
Get Rid Of No Child Left Behind 1%
More Tests 1%

**BEETTER RESOURCES** 2%
Access To School Supplies 2%
More Books Than Internet 1%

**CHANGE FUNDING MECHANISM** 2%
Fiscal Responsible 1%
Way They Are Funded 1%
Fees They Charge 1%
Lower Taxes 1%
Property Taxes 1%

**CHANGE SCHOOL/TEACHER EVALUATION** 2%
Teacher Responsible 1%
For Student Progress 1%
Better Teacher Evaluations 1%
Accountability In The 1%
School Districts Performance 1%

**SAFETY/SECURITY** 2%
Security 2%

**FEWER TEACHER PERKS** 2%
Get Rid Of Unions 1%
Unions 1%
No Tenure 1%
Right To Work 1%
Lower Pay 1%

**CHANGE STUDENT EVALUATION** 2%
Grading System 1%
Students Need More 1%
Time With Their Work 1%
Needed More One On One Time 1%
Less Homework 1%

**POLITICS** 1%
Get Politics Out 1%
Become More Conservative 1%
How School Board Is Elected 1%
Educate Kids Without 1%
The Politics 1%

**MORE PARENT INVOLVEMENT** 1%
More Involvement From Parents 1%

**ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES** 1%
The Administration Network 1%
Fire All Of The Superintendents 1%
Less Supervisors 1%
Leadership 1%

**BETTER FACILITIES** 1%
Building Repairs/ Maintenance 1%
More Classrooms 1%
Metal Detectors 1%

**SPECIAL NEEDS** 1%
Sensitive To Special Needs 1%

**GENERIC IMPROVEMENT** 1%
Transportation 1%
Drugs In School 1%
Stricter Policies For 1%
High School Corruption 1%

**OTHER** 8%
Needs Change 1%
Putting The Interests 1%
Of Children First 1%
Their Priorities 1%
Be More Honest 1%
Reliability 1%
Better Learning 1%
Environment 1%
Listen To The Teachers 1%
Communication 1%
Redistrict 1%
Better Attitude Towards Teacher 1%
Schools Are Like Prisons 1%
Attendance 1%
Always Room For Better 1%
They're Doing Well/ Fine 1%
All Other Mentions 4%
Everything 1%
Don't Know 12%
Now I want you to think about how to improve Illinois public schools. I want you to tell me the ONE WORD or phrase that first comes to mind. [RECORD VERBATIM. ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE]

MORE FUNDING....................... 14%
   Funding........................................ 13%
   Invest More In Education .......... 1%
   More Funding To The Arts .......... <1%
   State Needs To Support............. <1%
   Public Schools More

CLASS SIZE............................. 11%
   More Teachers............................. 5%
   Reduce Classroom Sizes............. 5%
   More One On One Time.............. 2%
   More Classrooms...................... <1%
   Enrollment............................... <1%
   Overcrowded............................. <1%

DISCIPLINE............................. 7%
   Discipline.................................... 3%
   Be Concerned About Children .... 1%
   Listen........................................... 1%
   Honestly...................................... 1%
   Get Rid Of Cell Phones............ <1%
   Commitment.................................. <1%
   Attendance.................................. <1%
   Respect...................................... <1%
   Attitude.................................... <1%

TEACHER QUALITY.................... 6%
   Better Teachers......................... 4%
   Teachers That Care..................... 1%
   About Teaching............................
   Qualified Staff.......................... 1%
   Better Education For ................ <1%
   The Teachers............................... 
   Better Teachers Who................. <1%
   Are Trained More....................... <1%
   Teachers Show Up And ............... <1%
   Actually Work.............................

CURRICULUM ......................... 6%
   Curriculum................................. 2%
   Need To Go Back To................. 1%
   Teaching The Basics....................
   Vocational Classes................... 1%
   Focus On Academics................... 1%
   Common Core.............................. 1%
   Do Not Restrict....................... <1%
   Teacher From Teaching.............. <1%
   Emphasis On Teaching............... <1%
   People To Live Within Their Means...
   Music........................................ <1%
   Hands On.................................... <1%
   More Homework........................... <1%
   More Class Offerings............... <1%
   Teaching The Old Ways............... <1%
   Do Math...................................... <1%
   Better Science........................... <1%
   Teaching The Facts Not............. <1%
   Their Point Of View................... <1%
   Challenging For Kids................ <1%
   To Meet Their Needs................... <1%
   Grading System......................... <1%
   Flexibility............................... <1%

TEACHER PAY......................... 5%
   Better Pay............................... 4%
   Better Pension Plans............... 1%

SPEND FUNDS DIFFERENTLY............ 5%
   Control Cost More..................... 1%
   Distribute Funds..................... 1%
   Equally Across State................ <1%
   Better Use Of Money.................. 1%
   Smarter Funding...................... 1%
   Tax Issues................................. <1%
   Equality.................................... <1%

GENERIC IMPROVEMENT.............. 4%
   Support...................................... 1%
   Quality..................................... 1%
   Consistency.............................. 1%
   Higher Priority....................... <1%
   Collaboration......................... <1%

BIG CHANGE............................ 3%
   Revamping................................. 1%
   Change...................................... 1%
   They Need To Start All Over And...<1%
   Scrap The Whole Public School System
   Privatize.................................. <1%
   Restructure It........................... <1%
   More Diversity......................... <1%
   Innovate.................................. <1%
   The Entire System..................... <1%

LEADERS............................... 3%
   Better Leadership..................... 1%
   Corruption.............................. 1%
   Too Much Overhead................... <1%
   Administration...........................
   School Boards.......................... <1%
   Board Member Selection...............<1%
   Local Control........................... <1%
   Remove Greed............................ <1%

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM............ 2%
   School Food............................... 1%
   After School............................. 1%
   Activities...............................
   Transportation...........................<1%
   Organized Relaxation Time........ 1%
   Less Focus On Sports................. <1%
   More Nurses.............................. <1%
   Extra Curricular Work............... <1%
   Study More Less Play............... <1%

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT............... 2%
   More Parent And....................... 1%
   Teacher Involvement..................<1%
   Make Parents More Responsible.... <1%
   Keep Parents Out Of It.............<1%
   They Need To Work With............. <1%
   The Parents More

SPECIFIC POLICY..................... 2%
   PROPOSALS...............................
   Need God Back In The Schools..... 1%
   Freedom Of School Choice......... <1%
   Pledge of Allegiance............... <1%
   Consolidation......................... <1%
   Vouchers................................. <1%

Public Schools Should.............. <1%
   Not Be Funded By Property Taxes...
   Break Up Chicago Public............ <1%
   School Systems Into Smaller Districts
   Have School Uniforms.............. <1%
   Eliminate Charter Schools......... <1%
   Competition......................... <1%

MODERNIZE............................ 2%
   Keep Updated Books And............ 1%
   Computers............................... 1%

SAFETY AND SECURITY.............. 2%
   Safety...................................... 1%
   Security................................. <1%
   Metal Detectors....................... <1%
   Background Checks................... <1%

ACCOUNTABILITY...................... 2%
   Accountability......................... 1%
   Grade Teachers On.................... <1%
   Students Performance............... <1%
   Higher Expectations................. <1%

SCHEDULE ......................... 2%
   Year Long School...................... 1%
   Longer Hours........................... <1%
   Too Many Days Off.................... <1%
   Summer School For.................... <1%
   Lower Grades...........................
   4 Day Week............................... <1%

LESS POLITICAL...................... 2%
   Less Political........................... 1%
   Less Regulation....................... <1%
   Change Politics....................... <1%

FEWER TEACHER PERKS.............. 1%
   Get Rid Of Unions.............. .......... 1%
   No Pension............................. <1%
   Get Rid Of Tenure.................... <1%

FACILITIES............................ 1%
   Upkeep Of Schools In................. 1%
   The Lower Class Area

TESTING.............................. <1%
   Get Rid Of Testing.....................<1%
   No Child Left Behind............... <1%
   More Testing......................... <1%

OTHER..................................... 7%
   Community............................... 1%
   Fairness.................................. <1%
   Awareness.............................. <1%
   Not Higher Taxes..................... <1%
   Average................................. <1%
   Adequate................................. <1%
   Inefficient............................. <1%
   All Other Mentions................... <1%
   Don't Know............................. 11%
7. Using our grades of A, B, C, D and Fail again, how would you grade Illinois public schools on [READ ITEM]? And what about…?

[DO NOT RANDOMIZE]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>[DK]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Preparing students with the skills they need to succeed after graduating</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Meeting the social and emotional needs of students</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Attracting and retaining the best educators</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. People have different ideas about what Illinois schools should be preparing kids for. I am going to read some ideas about things Illinois schools could be preparing kids for and I want you to tell me how important each one is to you, personally, on a scale of zero to ten where a zero means not a priority at all and ten means it is your top priority. You can choose any number from zero to ten.

[RANDOMIZE]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>8-9</th>
<th>6-7</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>2-4</th>
<th>0-1</th>
<th>[DK]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. To get a job after high school graduation</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. To get into and succeed in college</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. To have the basics of a skilled trade</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Having good morals and good character</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. To be a critical thinker</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. To work together in groups and teams</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. To have life skills like cooking, personal finance and nutrition</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Would you encourage your child or another member of your family to begin a career as a public school teacher?

YES .......................................................... 52%

NO .................................................................. 43

(DON'T KNOW) .............................................. 5

10. Do you think funding for public schools in Illinois should increase, decrease or stay about the same?

INCREASE ....................................................... 66%

DECREASE ................................................................ 5

STAY THE SAME ............................................. 23

(DON'T KNOW) .................................................. 5

11. Do you think that public school teachers in your community are paid too little, too much or about right?

TOO LITTLE..................................................... 52%

TOO MUCH ................................................................ 8

ABOUT RIGHT ................................................... 33

(DON'T KNOW) .................................................. 7

12. Please say how much you agree or disagree with each statement. [READ ITEM] Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree?

[RANDOMIZE]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>STRG AGREE</th>
<th>SMWT AGREE</th>
<th>SMWT DIS</th>
<th>STRG DIS</th>
<th>[DK]</th>
<th>TOTL AGREE</th>
<th>TOTL DIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. If we paid teachers in Illinois higher salaries, we would attract better quality teachers</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. I support the new law that sets the minimum teacher salary in Illinois at 40 thousand dollars per year</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. As you may know, teachers in Illinois do not pay into and therefore do not collect Social Security when they retire. Do you think that Illinois teachers should receive their full pension, see their pensions cut some or see their pensions eliminated?

FULL PENSION.................................................. 75%

CUT SOME ................................................................ 11

ELIMINATED ....................................................... 6

(DON'T KNOW)...................................................... 9
14. Right now, teachers hired after the year 2011 in Illinois must work in a classroom until age 67 in order to be eligible to receive their pensions, no matter how many years they have been teaching. Do you strongly oppose, somewhat oppose, somewhat support or strongly support recently hired teachers being able to receive their pensions at age 60 instead of waiting until 67?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Oppose</th>
<th>Somewhat Oppose</th>
<th>Somewhat Support</th>
<th>Strongly Support</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Oppose: 32%
Total Support: 62%

15. The average public school teacher in Illinois graduates from college with 40 thousand dollars in student loan debt. Do you strongly oppose, somewhat oppose, somewhat support or strongly support a program that forgives the student loans of Illinois residents who attend Illinois universities and teach in Illinois public schools for 10 years?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Oppose</th>
<th>Somewhat Oppose</th>
<th>Somewhat Support</th>
<th>Strongly Support</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Oppose: 27%
Total Support: 69%

16. As you may know, public schools in Illinois have support staff in classrooms called paraprofessionals. These paraprofessionals work with physically, behaviorally and developmentally challenged students. They get paid an average of 10 dollars per hour. Do you think that paraprofessionals in your community are paid too little, too much or about right?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Too Little</th>
<th>Too Much</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>81%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. Who do you believe is best equipped to determine the education standards for children at your local public school?

[Randomize]

Teachers: 35%
Your Local School District: 27%
Your Local School Administrators: 14%
The State Government: 8%
The Federal Government: 8%
(Don't Know): 8%

18. Please say how important it is for each of these groups to have a strong voice in how public schools in Illinois are run. [Read Item] Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important or not important at all for them to have a strong voice in how public schools in Illinois are run?

[Randomize]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Very Imp</th>
<th>Somewhat Imp</th>
<th>Not Very</th>
<th>Not At All</th>
<th>DK</th>
<th>Total Imp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
a. Parents              | 62%      | 31           | 4        | 1         | 2  | 93%       |
b. Students             | 37%      | 39           | 13       | 9         | 2  | 76%       |
c. Administrators       | 44%      | 45           | 6        | 3         | 3  | 89%       |
d. Teachers             | 78%      | 19           | 1        | 1         | 2  | 97%       |
e. The school board     | 43%      | 45           | 6        | 3         | 3  | 87%       |
f. Politicians          | 6%       | 20           | 24       | 48        | 2  | 26%       |
[READ]: Now I’d like to ask a few questions for statistical purposes only.

100. SEX (OBSERVATION: DO NOT ASK)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

101. What is your age? (RECORD IN PROPER CATEGORY) (READ CODES IF NECESSARY)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70+</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

102. What is the last grade you completed in school?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOME GRADE SCHOOL (1-8)</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOME HIGH SCHOOL (9-11)</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOME COLLEGE BUT NO DEGREE</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSOCIATES DEGREE</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BACHELORS DEGREE</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRADUATE SCHOOL/PROFESSIONAL</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(DON'T KNOW/REFUSED)</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

103. Do you now, or have you ever had, a child living at home with you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

104. [IF Q103=1] Which of the following is true for you [READ ITEM]?

[DO NOT RANDOMIZE]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>[DK]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

105. Have you, or anyone in your household, now or at some time in the past, worked in the Illinois PUBLIC schools, K through 12, as a teacher, principal or in another school job?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>[DK]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

106. Are you registered to vote in Illinois?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>[DK]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
107. Even if you are not registered to vote, do you generally think of yourself – as a [RANDOMIZE] DEMOCRAT, an INDEPENDENT or a REPUBLICAN?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Affiliation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STRONG DEMOCRAT</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEAK DEMOCRAT</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IND/LEAN DEMOCRAT</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEPENDENT</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IND/LEAN REPUBLICAN</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEAK REPUBLICAN</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRONG REPUBLICAN</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(DON'T KNOW)</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL WITH LEANS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Affiliation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEMOCRAT</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEPENDENT</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPUBLICAN</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL WITHOUT LEANS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Affiliation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEMOCRAT</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEPENDENT</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPUBLICAN</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

110. To make sure we have a representative sample, could you please tell me your race? [IF NECESSARY] Well, most people consider themselves BLACK, WHITE, HISPANIC or ASIAN-AMERICAN.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLACK</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISPANIC</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIAN-AMERICAN</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(OTHER)</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(DON'T KNOW/REFUSED)</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

112. Last question. Just for statistical purposes, in which of the following categories is your total household income? Just stop me when I read the right one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LESS THAN $15,000</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000 – 34,999</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000 – 49,999</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 – 74,999</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 – 99,999</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000-$150,000</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORE THAN $150,000</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(DON'T KNOW/REFUSED)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for taking the time to complete this interview.

Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CITY OF CHICAGO</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REST OF COOK COUNTY</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLAR COUNTIES</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REST OF CHICAGO MM</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOWNSTATE NORTH</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOWNSTATE SOUTH</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>