Education Survey of Alabama Registered Voters
February 27-28, 2019
587 respondents, 4.57% margin of error

ExcelinEd.org

March, 2019
Which one of the following do you believe is the most important issue facing Alabama today?
Are you a parent or guardian of a child who is currently enrolled in any grade from Pre-Kindergarten through High School in the state of Alabama?

- Yes: 22%
- No: 78%
What grade is your child in?

- Preschool: 10.24%
- Kindergarten: 18.20%
- 1st Grade: 13.06%
- 2nd Grade: 7.36%
- 3rd Grade: 11.21%
- 4th Grade: 10.64%
- 5th Grade: 13.36%
- 6th Grade: 5.63%
- 7th Grade: 16.07%
- 8th Grade: 14.27%
- 9th Grade: 14.03%
- 10th Grade: 13.70%
- 11th Grade: 11.33%
- 12th Grade: 11.33%
Type of school respondents’ children attend

What type of school do your children attend?

- Public school (run by a public school district): 86.08%
- Religious private school: 13.99%
- Non-religious private school: 3.40%
- Charter school: 0.58%
- Homeschool: 2.56%
- Online school: 2.03%
Type of school respondents would send their child to if they could choose among all

If it were your decision and you could select any type of school for your child, what type of school would you select for them to obtain the best education?

- Public school (run by a public school district): 44.43%
- Private School: 33.34%
- Charter School: 9.33%
- Homeschool: 9.57%
- Online School: 1.03%
- Don’t Know: 2.31%
Respondents’ view of Alabama K-12 quality

Many schools are graded using the letters A, B, C, D, or F, with A being the highest and F being the lowest. If you had the chance to grade Alabama’s overall K-12 public school system, what grade would you give it?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>3.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>24.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>45.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>17.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>4.27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Is K-12 education in Alabama moving in the right direction?

Generally speaking, would you say K-12 education in Alabama is moving in the right direction, or is it on the wrong track?

- **Right direction**: 48.10%
- **Wrong track**: 41.81%
- **Don’t know**: 9.33%
What defines success in K-12 education

Which one or two of the following best defines success in K-12 education?
What does “essential life skills” mean?

Follow up for those who selected “Establishment of essential life skills”: Which one of the following would you define as “essential life skills”?

- Personal finances and financial literacy: 69.22%
- Basic home improvement tasks: 26.65%
- Cooking a meal: 20.49%
- Securing employment: 30.23%
- Enabling students to discover and develop their unique talents: 32.45%
- Workforce readiness: 40.10%
- Reading, writing, and math at 8th grade level: 46.46%
Generally speaking, do you support giving parents the opportunity to choose where they send their child to school rather than assigning children to schools based on zip code?

- Yes: 76.48%
- No: 21.74%
In your view, what are the biggest obstacles to improving Alabama’s K-12 system? (Select up to 3)
Support for charter schools

As you may know, Alabama allows a small number of "charter schools" which are public schools that are operated by non-profits or for-profit companies and provide students an alternative to their district schools. These schools are allowed more freedom to operate than traditional public schools. Some in the legislature have proposed making it easier for charter schools to open and operate in the state. In general, do you support or oppose the expansion of charter schools in Alabama?

- Strongly support: 31.17%
- Somewhat support: 30.27%
- Somewhat oppose: 11.37%
- Strongly oppose: 17.37%
- Don't Know: 9.24%
Support for Alabama Accountability Act (tax-credit scholarships)

In 2013 the state legislature passed the Alabama Accountability Act, which is a thirty million dollar annual scholarship program that allows families to move their children out of failing schools and into other non-failing public schools or private schools of their choice. This program is funded through individual and corporate tax credits. In general, do you support or oppose the Alabama Accountability Act?

- Strongly support: 39.97%
- Somewhat support: 29.98%
- Somewhat oppose: 7.62%
- Strongly oppose: 16.01%
- Don't Know: 5.97%
As you may know, some states have passed “open enrollment” education policies. These policies allow students enrolled in public school to transfer to any other public school without a complicated application process. The policy is based on a first come, first served system where schools accept all students who have applied until they no longer have the ability to accommodate them. In general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of an open-enrollment education policy?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very favorable</td>
<td>27.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat favorable</td>
<td>34.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat unfavorable</td>
<td>13.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very unfavorable</td>
<td>11.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know</td>
<td>12.91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following are two statements on open-enrollment. Although neither may reflect exactly how you feel, which statement comes closer to what you believe?

- Open-enrollment is good for a state because it allows families to choose the public school that best meets the needs of their children while keeping funding in the public education.
  - 65.19%

- Open-enrollment is bad for a state because it removes badly-needed funding from low-income and low-achieving public schools when students transfer away.
  - 29.11%

- Don’t Know
  - 4.86%
Support for passing open enrollment policies in Alabama

Based on what you know, do you support or oppose Alabama passing legislation that would allow for open-enrollment for every student here in the state?

- Strongly support: 34.00%
- Somewhat support: 33.15%
- Somewhat oppose: 10.65%
- Strongly oppose: 15.15%
- Don't Know: 6.80%
Views on means testing open enrollment policies

Now, some in the state want to limit open-enrollment to select students, for example providing the program only to low-income students. Do you support or oppose limiting it to select students?

- Strongly support: 8.00%
- Somewhat support: 12.08%
- Somewhat oppose: 24.91%
- Strongly oppose: 48.67%
- Don’t Know: 5.93%
Demographics of Respondents
Respondents’ level of education

For statistical purposes only, what is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school: 3.81%
- Graduated high school: 16.50%
- Some College: 23.94%
- Completed technical or vocational school: 6.53%
- Associate’s degree: 8.67%
- 4-year college degree/Bachelor’s degree: 20.82%
- Post-graduate degree: 18.66%
## Respondents’ political leanings

Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or something else?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong Republican</td>
<td>29.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not-so-strong Republican</td>
<td>7.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Republican</td>
<td>10.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>10.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Democrat</td>
<td>10.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not-so-strong Democrat</td>
<td>6.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong Democrat</td>
<td>19.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>3.02%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional respondent demographics

**Age**
- 18-29: 19%
- 30-44: 24%
- 45-64: 34%
- 65+: 23%

**Race**
- White: 70.81%
- Black: 26.91%
- Hispanic: 1.07%
- Asian: 1.08%
- Other: 0.13%

**Income**
- 0-50k: 38%
- 50k-100k: 24%
- 100-150k: 11%
- 150k: 8%
- Unknown: 19%

**Gender**
- Male
- Female

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