A Survey of Voter Attitudes in Pennsylvania

August 18-20, 2014

Commonwealth Foundation
for Public Policy Alternatives

THE TARRANCE GROUP
Do you feel things in Pennsylvania are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

- Right direction: 28%
- Unsure: 13%
- Wrong track: 59%

Q1
Do you think that state spending on K-12 public education in Pennsylvania should be… increased, kept about the same, or decreased?

- Increased: 64%
- Kept the same: 24%
- Decreased: 8%
- Unsure: 5%
In thousands of dollars, how much do you think Pennsylvania spends per K-12 public school student?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>$ per K-12 public school student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
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<tr>
<td>$10,000</td>
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Among those voters who provided a number, 73% of voters estimate $14,000 or less.
The actual state spending per K-12 public school student is about $14,600.

Does hearing this make you more likely or less likely to support increased state spending on education? Or does this information make no difference to you?

- More likely: 36%
- Unsure: 6%
- No difference: 44%
- Less likely: 15%

Q4
What do you think is the average salary for a public school teacher in Pennsylvania?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average salary for a public school teacher in Pennsylvania</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50,000</td>
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Among those voters who provided a number, 82% of voters estimate $62,000 or less
The average salary for a public school teacher in Pennsylvania is more than $63,000 per year.
Does hearing this make you more likely or less likely to support increased state spending on education? Or does this information make no difference to you?

More likely: 20%
Unsure: 6%
No difference: 53%
Less likely: 21%
Currently, the state spends five times more on K-12 education than it does on prisons.

Do you think most voters would be surprised or not surprised if they were told that the state spends five times more on K-12 education than it does on prisons?

- Surprised: 53%
- Not surprised: 39%
- Unsure: 8%
Pennsylvania currently spends $2,900 more per student than the national average spending per student.

Do you think most voters would be surprised or not surprised if they were told that Pennsylvania spends $2,900 more per student than the national average?

- Surprised: 66%
- Not surprised: 28%
- Unsure: 6%
If you had to assign a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F to K-12 public schools in Pennsylvania, what grade would you give them?

- A: 5%
- B: 25%
- C: 41%
- D: 14%
- F: 6%
- Unsure: 8%
In the most recent testing, the US Department of Education found that 60% of 8th graders in Pennsylvania public schools were not able to read at grade level or do math at grade level.

With this in mind, what letter grade… A, B, C, D, or F would you give to K-12 public schools in Pennsylvania?

- A: 2%
- B: 11%
- C: 27%
- D: 26%
- F: 27%
- Unsure: 7%
Do you think that state spending on K-12 public education in Pennsylvania should be... increased, kept about the same, or decreased?

- Increased: 64% (First asked), 55% (After information - ask)
- Kept the same: 24% (First asked), 29% (After information - ask)
- Decreased: 8% (First asked), 13% (After information - ask)
- Unsure: 5% (First asked), 4% (After information - ask)

August 18-20, 2014/ N= 600 Registered voters/ ±4.1% M.O.E.
And, no matter how you feel about the current level of state spending on K-12 education…
Would you personally be willing to pay higher taxes to fund increased spending on K-12 education?

- Yes: 43%
- Unsure: 4%
- No: 54%