

## **OHIOANS' VIEWS ON EDUCATION 2007**

### **FDR GROUP FOR THE THOMAS B. FORDHAM INSTITUTE**

#### **FINAL SURVEY RESULTS**

*Ohioans' Views on Education 2007 Final Survey Results* includes full question wording and data for the total sample of Ohio residents as well as the following subgroups: "Dayton," "5-cities," "African American" and "Parents." These subgroups are defined as follows: Dayton residents reside within Dayton city limits; 5-cities consists of a proportionate sample of residents from five of the largest Ohio cities (Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton and Toledo); African Americans self-identified as either black or African American; and parents have school-age children. The column "Ohio '05" includes total data for the questions that were also asked in *Halfway Out the Door: Ohioans Sound Off on Public Schooling, with a Special Analysis of the Views of African Americans and Dayton Residents*. Results of less than .5 percent are signified by an asterisk (\*); results of zero are signified by a dash (-). Responses may not always total to 100 percent due to rounding. Combining answer categories may produce slight discrepancies between the numbers in the survey results and numbers in the report. The survey is based on 1,000 interviews conducted by telephone with a randomly drawn statewide representative sample of Ohio adults 18 and older. The fielding took place between April 29 and May 8, 2007. The margin of error for the statewide sample (n=1,000) is plus or minus 3 percentage points; the margin of error increases for sub-groups within the sample.

OHIOANS' VIEWS ON EDUCATION 2007 FINAL SURVEY RESULTS	OHIO '07 (n=1000)	OHIO '05 (n=1001)	DAYTON 2007 (n=200)	5 CITIES 2007 (n=200)	AF-AMER 2007 (n=104)	PARENT 2007 (n=340)
<b>1. Which statement is more accurate for the students graduating from your local public schools? A high school diploma:</b>						
Is no guarantee that the typical student has learned the basics	43	42	44	53	35	39
Means that the typical student has at least learned the basics	54	54	52	42	62	58
Don't know	4	4	4	5	4	4
<b>Next, I'm going to read you ideas some people have suggested for improving Ohio's public schools. Please tell me for each of the following proposals whether you would strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose.</b>						
<b>2. Giving local public schools more flexibility to design curriculum?</b>						
NET FAVOR	79	75	83	81	82	80
NET OPPOSE	17	19	14	15	15	16
Strongly favor	45	41	50	52	54	49
Somewhat favor	34	34	33	29	28	31
Somewhat oppose	11	11	9	9	7	11
Strongly oppose	6	8	5	6	9	5
Don't know	4	6	3	5	3	4
<b>3. Giving local public schools more freedom to fire teachers that aren't performing?</b>						
NET FAVOR	85	89	87	84	74	85
NET OPPOSE	12	9	12	13	21	13
Strongly favor	61	70	66	61	58	59
Somewhat favor	24	20	21	23	16	26
Somewhat oppose	7	4	8	7	10	7
Strongly oppose	5	4	3	6	12	5
Don't know	3	2	2	4	5	3
<b>4. Basing a teacher's salary, in part, on students' academic progress on state tests?</b>						
NET FAVOR	49		51	48	52	51
NET OPPOSE	47		46	50	46	45
Strongly favor	23		21	25	30	23
Somewhat favor	26		30	23	22	28
Somewhat oppose	21		19	22	18	20
Strongly oppose	26		27	28	28	25
Don't know	4		4	3	2	4

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<b>5. Increasing the amount of time students spend in the public schools by extending the school year or the school day?</b>						
NET FAVOR	53		62	62	59	53
NET OPPOSE	42		35	34	37	42
Strongly favor	28		33	36	43	26
Somewhat favor	24		30	26	15	27
Somewhat oppose	18		21	13	14	14
Strongly oppose	25		14	21	23	28
Don't know	5		3	4	5	5
<b>6. Enforcing strict school rules on discipline regarding how students behave, talk and dress?</b>						
NET FAVOR	91	91	90	91	81	90
NET OPPOSE	8	8	10	8	17	9
Strongly favor	76	75	76	79	67	74
Somewhat favor	14	16	14	11	14	16
Somewhat oppose	4	4	6	5	5	5
Strongly oppose	4	4	4	4	13	4
Don't know	1	2	1	2	2	1
<b>7. Giving school principals far more freedom to run the schools but terminating their contracts if their schools fail to reach specific goals?</b>						
NET FAVOR	66		62	64	61	63
NET OPPOSE	29		33	30	35	34
Strongly favor	34		35	36	36	32
Somewhat favor	32		27	28	25	31
Somewhat oppose	17		22	16	15	22
Strongly oppose	12		11	15	19	12
Don't know	5		6	6	5	3
<b>8. Keeping in mind that the money for public education has to be paid by taxes, do you think that government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?</b>						
Greatly increase	16		20	19	27	17
Increase	30		34	32	29	32
Stay about the same	41		40	36	35	39
Decrease	7		5	9	6	7
Greatly decrease	2		-	2	2	2
Don't know	4		2	4	2	3

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<b>9. If Ohio decided to spend more money on the public schools, do you think:</b>						
The money would actually get to the classrooms and improve education	21	21	20	22	16	24
The money would actually get lost along the way	71	69	73	71	78	68
Don't know	8	10	6	7	6	9
<b>10. Which of these do you trust most to make decisions about how to spend tax money allocated to Ohio's public schools?</b>						
The individual schools themselves	25		19	28	26	28
Local school districts	43		36	35	32	46
The State Board of Education	18		25	20	21	16
The Governor	5		6	8	10	3
The State Legislature	5		8	6	11	3
Don't know	5		6	4	1	4
<b>11. There's a proposal to make the amount of money that Ohio spends on children's education differ according to each child's individual needs and special circumstances, and to have all of that money follow children to the schools they attend. Would you favor or oppose that approach to paying for public education?</b>						
NET FAVOR	63		69	68	73	65
NET OPPOSE	28		24	23	19	28
Strongly favor	32		34	40	45	36
Somewhat favor	31		35	28	28	29
Somewhat oppose	12		15	10	9	12
Strongly oppose	16		10	13	11	16
Don't know	8		7	10	8	7
<b>12. All of Ohio's 10th graders are required to pass tests in each of the major subjects before they can graduate from high school.* Students who fail will get help and get more chances to pass, but they MUST pass in order to get a diploma. Do you favor or oppose this policy?</b>						
NET FAVOR	82	83	84	80	77	80
NET OPPOSE	17	15	15	19	22	18
Strongly favor	62	60	66	61	62	60
Somewhat favor	20	23	18	19	15	20
Somewhat oppose	5	5	6	7	6	7
Strongly oppose	11	9	9	13	16	11
Don't know	2	2	1	2	1	2
<i>*Question wording in 2005 survey began: "Starting this year...."</i>						

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<b>13. Are you currently the parent or guardian of any school-age children in grades Kindergarten through 12th, or not?</b>						
Yes	34	28	29	28	33	100
No	66	72	71	73	67	-
<i>Base: Parent who favors policy of 10<sup>th</sup> graders passing tests (n=267)</i>						
<b>14. Now suppose your own child was among the students who would not get a high school diploma because he or she couldn't pass the tests. Do you think you would still favor this policy, or would it give you second thoughts?</b>						
Would still favor this policy	89		88	84	85	89
Would give you second thoughts	10		12	14	15	10
Don't know	1		-	2	-	1
<b>15. In Ohio, schools and districts are evaluated by how well students do on standardized tests, and the results are publicized. Schools that do very badly are identified, watched carefully, and must put an improvement plan into action. Do you think that using test scores this way:</b>						
Is mostly HARMFUL because it puts students and educators under unfair pressure	27	28	20	26	28	27
Is mostly GOOD because it calls attention to problems that need to be addressed	63	62	69	61	58	64
[Vol.] Both	6	4	7	8	9	6
Don't know	4	6	5	6	6	4
<b>16. If principals in public district schools could choose which teachers work in their buildings and had more say over work rules, do you think the public schools would:</b>						
Improve	50	54	51	50	42	52
Get worse	11	8	11	11	21	11
Stay the same	31	26	35	30	30	26
Don't know	8	12	4	9	7	11
<b>17. Do you think that teachers' pay should be based on:</b>						
Their performance and how effectively they teach	61		61	67	59	57
Their years of service and the degrees they've earned	16		14	14	20	15
[Vol.] Both	21		24	17	19	25
Don't know	2		2	3	2	3

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<b>18. Which of these two statements comes closer to your own view:</b>						
Ohio's public schools should only hire teachers who have finished a university-based professional training program in education	39		39	43	42	36
Ohio's public schools should be free to hire college graduates who have demonstrated their knowledge and skills in their subject-areas	44		43	44	39	45
[Vol.] Both	13		17	11	14	16
Don't know	4		*	4	6	4
<b>19. How much, if anything, would you say you know about the No Child Left Behind Act – the federal education bill that was passed by Congress in 2001?</b>						
A great deal	14	11	11	18	21	15
A fair amount	37	32	32	31	26	43
Very little	37	42	47	37	36	34
Nothing at all	11	15	11	16	16	8
Don't know	1	1	1	-	1	*
<b>20. As you may know, the No Child Left Behind Act requires states to set standards in math and reading and to test students each year to determine whether the standards are being met. This year, Congress is deciding whether to renew the No Child Left Behind Act. What do you think Congress should do? Should they:</b>						
Renew the Act as is	16		18	20	13	16
Renew with minimal changes	32		30	27	30	36
Renew with major changes	29		31	27	30	27
Not renew at all	15		15	16	20	13
Don't know	9		6	10	8	7
<b>21. Under No Child Left Behind, should there be a single national standard and a single national test for all students in the United States? Or do you think that there should be different standards and tests in different states?</b>						
One test and standard for all students	57		64	55	50	60
Different tests and standards in different states	38		34	40	45	34
Don't know	5		2	5	6	6

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<b>22. How much do you know about charter schools?</b>						
A great deal	7	7	10	12	10	7
Quite a bit	12	10	15	19	17	16
Only some	31	28	29	29	29	27
Very little	31	34	29	28	27	32
Nothing at all	18	21	17	14	16	17
Don't know	*	1	-	-	1	1
<b>23. Charter schools are public schools that have a lot more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are free from many existing regulations. In general, do you favor or oppose this idea?</b>						
NET FAVOR	52	51	49	59	55	55
NET OPPOSE	38	34	43	31	36	33
Strongly favor	23	18	22	30	34	25
Somewhat favor	29	33	26	29	21	31
Somewhat oppose	17	18	20	13	13	15
Strongly oppose	21	16	23	19	23	18
Don't know	10	16	9	11	10	12
<b>Just from what you know or have heard about charter schools, please tell me whether each of the following statements is true or false.</b>						
<b>24. Charter schools can charge tuition. True or false?</b>						
True	46		44	42	41	45
False	39		44	47	51	42
Don't know	15		13	11	9	14
<b>25. Charter schools can select students on the basis of ability. True or false?</b>						
True	50		48	50	49	50
False	34		36	39	46	35
Don't know	16		16	12	6	16
<b>In fact, public charter schools do not charge tuition and do not pick students by ability. Today, Ohio has nearly 300 charter schools that serve more than seventy thousand Ohio kids.</b>						

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<b>26. Which of these approaches do you think Ohio should take toward creating NEW public charter schools?</b>						
Allow no new ones	15		19	15	13	14
Allow as many as possible	9		9	10	14	10
Allow new ones, but only if they are run by organizations with a proven track record of success	68		67	68	63	68
Don't know	9		6	8	11	8
<b>27. Some of Ohio's public charter schools are doing a good job of teaching kids and some are doing a poor job. Do you think that Ohio:</b>						
Should close only the worst ones	63		68	64	61	58
Should close all of them	11		9	10	10	12
Should close none of them	18		18	20	24	20
Don't know	8		5	6	5	10
<b>28. When it comes to funding and resources, do you think that public charter schools should get higher, lower, or the same funding and resources as public district schools?</b>						
Higher	3		3	4	6	4
Lower	17		19	12	19	17
Same	74		71	76	71	73
Don't know	7		7	8	5	7
<b>29. How much do you know about Ohio's school voucher program, the EdChoice Scholarship Program?*</b>						
A great deal	3	7	5	5	5	3
Quite a bit	5	9	4	6	6	7
Only some	22	30	18	30	19	22
Very little	31	32	31	28	34	28
Nothing at all	38	22	42	31	36	39
Don't know	1	1	*	1	-	1
<i>*Question wording in 2005 survey: "How much do you know about school vouchers?"</i>						



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<b>30. Ohio's school voucher program, the EdChoice Scholarship Program, gives parents a voucher of \$3,000 to \$5,000 to help pay tuition if they choose to send their child to a private or church-related school. It is available only to students whose public school has been failing for three years in a row.* Do you favor or oppose this program?</b>						
NET FAVOR	57	55	58	58	55	61
NET OPPOSE	37	37	38	37	43	33
Strongly favor	30	31	30	36	33	34
Somewhat favor	27	24	28	22	22	27
Somewhat oppose	14	13	16	15	19	12
Strongly oppose	23	24	22	22	23	22
Don't know	6	8	5	5	2	7
<i>*Question wording in 2005 survey: "A school voucher program has recently been approved in Ohio. It will give parents a voucher of several thousand dollars to help pay tuition if they choose to send their child to a private or church-related school. It will be available only to students whose public school has been failing for three years in a row."</i>						
<b>31. Governor Strickland has proposed eliminating Ohio's school voucher program, the EdChoice Scholarship Program, except for low-income children in Cleveland. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?</b>						
NET FAVOR	24		19	31	31	23
NET OPPOSE	69		74	65	66	70
Strongly favor	15		13	19	21	15
Somewhat favor	9		6	12	10	9
Somewhat oppose	18		20	15	21	15
Strongly oppose	52		54	50	45	54
Don't know	7		7	4	3	7
<b>32. A different idea would be to expand Ohio's school voucher program to make ALL children in Ohio eligible for it, not just those who are in failing public schools. Do you favor or oppose this idea?</b>						
NET FAVOR	60		69	66	68	63
NET OPPOSE	35		26	30	30	32
Strongly favor	40		46	50	52	44
Somewhat favor	21		23	16	16	19
Somewhat oppose	12		8	11	11	10
Strongly oppose	23		19	20	19	22
Don't know	5		5	4	2	5

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<b>33. Which of these two views about school vouchers comes closer to your own?</b>						
Vouchers are a lifeline for kids who can finally escape failing public schools to more successful schools	55	47	48	59	54	57
Vouchers will help only a few kids and make things worse for most students who are left behind	31	37	33	30	35	28
[Vol.] Both	6	4	10	4	5	7
Don't know	8	12	9	8	6	8
<b>34. Which of these two views about school vouchers comes closer to your own?</b>						
Vouchers will force public schools to get BETTER because they'll have to compete with other schools to hold on to students	55	50	53	55	62	56
Vouchers will make the public schools WORSE because they'll be left with less money and less motivated students	32	38	30	32	27	30
[Vol.] Both	6	3	8	3	3	7
Don't know	8	9	9	10	8	7
<b>35. Some see both public charter schools and school vouchers as ways to give parents more choices about where to send their children and to push public district schools to improve. Others see charters and vouchers as draining resources from public district schools and undermining them. Which comes closer to your view?</b>						
Charters and vouchers give parents more choices and push district schools to improve	54		53	58	55	57
Charters and vouchers drain resources from district schools and undermine them	35		35	33	33	31
[Vol.] Both	3		7	2	6	5
Don't know	8		6	8	6	8
<b>36. As you may know, there's a proposal to expand state-funded pre-school for Ohio's poorest children. In your view, is this a good idea all around, is it a good idea ONLY if it helps underprivileged kids get academically-ready for school, or is it a bad idea all around?</b>						
A good idea all around	50		55	52	63	52
A good idea ONLY if it helps underprivileged kids get academically-ready for school	33		32	33	27	32
A bad idea all around	13		12	11	8	13
Don't know	4		1	5	2	3

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<i>Base: Parent (n=334)</i>						
<b>37. During this current school year, are your children in:</b>						
Elementary school	61		58	69	56	61
Middle school	34		29	37	32	34
High school	39		35	35	50	39
[Vol.] Something else	3		2	2	-	3
<i>Base: Parent (n=337)</i>						
<b>38. If money were not an issue, would you prefer that your child attend:</b>						
Private non-religious school	16	13	16	17	15	16
Private religious school	34	40	36	48	42	34
Public charter school	5	4	9	4	9	5
Public district school	41	37	33	30	27	41
[Vol.] Something else/Depends	2	3	-	-	-	2
Don't know	3	3	6	2	6	3
<b>39. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or something else?</b>						
Republican	31		18	15	2	35
Democrat	33		43	48	69	27
Independent	26		28	26	18	28
Something else	8		9	10	10	8
Don't know	3		2	1	1	2
<i>Base: Independent (n=254)</i>						
<b>40. Do you lean toward the Republican party or Democratic party, or do you not lean either way?</b>						
Lean Republican	19		25	22	-	14
Lean Democratic	22		30	33	28	23
Do not lean either way	57		44	45	67	62
Don't know	2		-	-	6	1
<b>43. What is the highest level of school you have completed?</b>						
Less than high school	6	7	6	5	10	4
High school graduate	30	30	28	25	29	25
Some college or trade school, no degree	19	19	18	22	19	17
Associates degree/2 year degree	12	10	16	13	18	15
Bachelors degree/4 year degree	16	18	18	16	11	21
Graduate/Professional degree	17	16	14	20	14	16

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<b>44. What is your age?</b>						
18-34	17	16	16	24	26	18
35-44	24	18	18	19	16	46
45-54	23	21	27	26	32	28
55-64	19	22	27	19	16	7
65+	17	23	13	13	9	2
<b>45. Do you consider yourself to be:</b>						
White	87	87	65	65		86
Black or African American	11	10	32	32	100	10
Hispanic	1	1	1	1		2
Something else	2	2	3	2		2
<b>46. I'm going to read some ranges of annual household income. Please stop me when I read the one that best describes your total household income in 2006.</b>						
Under \$25,000	14	17	20	19	19	10
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	28	30	27	30	37	25
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	26	26	18	28	25	30
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	15	12	20	13	13	18
\$100,000 or more	13	13	9	8	5	16
Don't know	4	3	6	3	1	2
<b>URBANICITY [From Sample]</b>						
Urban	26	27	96	89	71	22
Suburban	53	53	4	10	27	52
Rural	21	21	-	1	2	26
<b>GENDER</b>						
Male	48	47	46	49	44	47
Female	52	53	54	52	56	53