



To: All Interested Parties

Re: Pa Statewide Poll Results & Key Findings

Date: March 31, 2025

OVERVIEW

PA STATE EDUCATION ASSN.

Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc., rated the #1 most accurate firm in the USA by Real Clear Politicsⁱ for accuracy in the 2020 Presidential Election, conducted its latest Pennsylvania Statewide Voter Attitude Survey on behalf of its client, the Pennsylvania State Education Association, testing attitudes and opinions towards education issues, including elimination of the Federal Department of Education, support/opposition to taxpayer-funded tuition vouchers and a host of other education-related topics.

The poll is a random sample of 700 registered/likely Pennsylvania voters, weighted to state Census data and balanced by geographic region, age, political party affiliation and other factors. Conducted March 17-23 using mostly live telephone agents [with a supplemental cohort of completions conducted online via SP&R's proprietary consumer panel], the poll includes interviews with N=700 likely voters and has a margin of error of +/-3.7% at the 95% confidence level. The key findings of the poll include the following takeaways:

- By a 58:39 margin, voters oppose elimination of the federal Department of Education.
- Voters overwhelmingly **oppose** the reduction of federal funding for important education programs, such as free and/or reduced-price lunches in schools, Title I funds to disadvantaged schools and funding for students with special needs. Moreover, most voters either want funding to increase or remain about the same.
- By a 61:32 margin, voters oppose giving taxpayer-funded tuition vouchers to parents to allow them to send their children to the public or religious school of their choice.
- By a 59:28 margin, more voters believe the greater threat to public schools is the lack of funding and resources needed to teach and fully support students. Most reject the argument that: *"schools are allowing political agendas to be taught in the classroom, spreading "wokeness" and promoting anti-American ideas"*.

Good morning/afternoon/evening, my name is (YOUR FIRST NAME). I am calling on behalf of Susquehanna Polling and Research, a public opinion research firm. May I speak to (name on list) or another registered voter in your household? (If name on list or other voter is not available, TERMINATE CALL).

INTRODUCTION: We are conducting a survey of attitudes and opinions concerning some important issues facing Pennsylvania today. May we have just a few minutes of your time to complete a brief survey?

Great, thank you...

F1. Are you registered to vote as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent or with some other political party?

1. If Republican	294	42%	PROCEED TO Q1
2. If Democrat	315	45%	PROCEED TO Q1
3. If Independent/Other	91	13%	PROCEED TO Q1

4. If Not a Registered Voter	--		THANK AND TERMINATE

Now, turning to some important education issues for a few minutes...

Q1. Some lawmakers in Congress are proposing to eliminate the U.S. Department of Education and shift the biggest programs to other federal agencies, such as the Department of Commerce and Justice and move some to the state and local levels. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose eliminating the U.S. Department of Education? (Test Intensity...)

1. Strongly Support	177	25%
2. Somewhat Support	96	14%
Total Support:	272	39%
3. Neutral/Neither Support nor oppose	22	03%
4. Strongly Oppose	301	43%
5. Somewhat oppose	105	15%
Total Oppose:	406	58%

Q2. Pennsylvania receives \$740 million annually in federal spending for free and reduced lunches in schools. Would you like to see Congress increase funding, keep the funding the same, or reduce funding?

1. Increase funding	239	34%
2. Keep the funding the same	376	54%
3. Reduce funding	53	08%
4. Not sure	31	04%

Q3. Pennsylvania receives \$578 million annually in federal funding for Title I programs that help economically disadvantaged students in nearly all school districts. Would you like to see Congress increase funding, keep the funding the same, or reduce funding?

1. Increase funding	292	42%
2. Keep the funding the same	311	44%
3. Reduce funding	44	06%
4. Not sure	53	08%

Q4. Pennsylvania receives \$428 million annually in federal funding for students with special needs, which supports services for approximately three hundred thousand students across the state. Would you like to see Congress increase funding, keep the funding the same, or reduce funding?

1. Increase funding	281	40%
2. Keep the funding the same	336	48%
3. Reduce funding	42	06%
4. Not sure	40	06%

Q5. In your opinion, what percentage of the budget for K through 12 Pennsylvania public schools should come from the federal government – less than 5%, between 5% and 14%, between 15% and 24%, between 25% and 34%, or 35% or more?

1. Under/less than 5%	96	14%
2. 5-14%	122	17%
3. 15-24%	169	24%
4. 25-34%	58	08%
5. 35% or more	161	23%
6. Not sure	92	13%
7. Refuse	2	00%

Q6. Do you agree or disagree that the employees of the federal Department of Education act in the best interest of the public? (Test Intensity...)

1. Strongly Agree	208	30%
2. Somewhat Agree	104	15%
Total Agree:	312	45%
3. Neutral/Neither Agree nor Disagree	129	18%
4. Strongly Disagree	188	27%
5. Somewhat Disagree	67	10%
Total Oppose:	255	36%
6. Refuse	4	01%

Q7. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose giving taxpayer dollars to parents to pay for tuition at private or religious K-12 schools? (Test Intensity...)

1. Strongly Support	145	21%
2. Somewhat Support	81	12%
Total Support:	226	32%
3. Neutral/Neither Support nor oppose	49	07%
4. Strongly Oppose	350	50%
5. Somewhat Oppose	75	11%
Total Oppose:	425	61%

Q8. Which of the following statements represents a greater threat to K-12 public education, even if neither is exactly right? (ROTATE STATEMENTS – Test Intensity...)

A. Schools are allowing political agendas to be taught in classrooms, spreading “wokeness” and promoting anti-American ideas, or...

B. Schools lack the funding and resources needed to teach and fully support students, leaving them unprepared for the future, or...

1. Strongly Agree/Statement A	167	24%
2. Somewhat Agree/Statement A	30	04%
Total Agree/Statement A:	197	28%
3. Neutral/Agree with Neither Statement A nor Statement B	92	13%
4. Strongly Agree/Statement B	312	45%
5. Somewhat Agree/Statement B	99	14%
Total Agree/Statement B:	411	59%

Now we have just a few questions for demographic purposes...

Q9. What was your age on your last birthday?

1. 18-29	91	13%
2. 30-44	133	19%
3. 45-54	133	19%
4. 55-64	154	22%
5. 65-74	154	22%
6. 75+	35	05%

Q10. What is your highest level of education? (UNAIDED)

1. High school diploma or less	168	24%
2. Some college, but no college degree	133	19%
3. 2-year college degree/technical or trade degree	133	19%
4. 4-year college degree	161	23%
5. Post-graduate degree/masters/doctorate studies	105	15%

Q11. What is your main racial or ethnic background? (UNAIDED; Check All That Apply)

1. African American/African/Black	70	10%
2. Asian American/Asian	28	04%
3. Hispanic/Latino	50	07%
4. Multiracial/Multiethnic	15	02%
5. Native American/Alaska Native	00	00%
6. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	00	00%
7. White (Not Latino/Hispanic)	517	74%
8. Race/ethnicity not represented by above categories	0	00%
9. Refuse	35	05%

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE SURVEY. HAVE A GOOD DAY.

Gender (by observation):

1. Male	336	48%
2. Female	364	52%

Regional Groupings (coded from list):

28	(04%)	1. Northwest [Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Venango, Warren, Forest]
77	(11%)	2. Southwest [Lawrence, Beaver, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland, Indiana, Armstrong, Butler]
91	(13%)	3. The "T"/Central [Jefferson, Elk, McKean, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Centre, Cambria, Somerset, Bedford, Fulton, Franklin, Huntingdon, Blain, Potter, Tioga, Bradford, Susquehanna, Wyoming, Sullivan, Lycoming, Clinton, Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Mifflin]
98	(14%)	4. Northeast/Lehigh Valley [Luzerne, Carbon, Monroe, Schuylkill, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Northampton, Pike, Wayne]
119	(17%)	5. South Central [Perry, Cumberland, Adams, York, Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, Berks, Juniata]
140	(20%)	6. Southeast [Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Bucks]
70	(10%)	7. Allegheny County
77	(11%)	8. Philadelphia

METHODOLOGY, SAMPLE FRAME CONSTRUCTION AND DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

This poll was conducted by Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc¹, with questions sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Education Association. Interviews were conducted March 17 – 23, 2025, with 700 registered voters in Pennsylvania. Survey respondents are randomly contacted using random selection procedures, and all telephone interviews are conducted using live telephone agents. The sample frame was compiled using random telephone sequence methods, and includes both landline and cellular households, purchased from a certified list vendor; all households are pre-screened to eliminate household telephone numbers on the federal Do Not Call registry in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws. Only known registered voters were contacted, compiled from a list of households with prior vote history in 1 of 4 or better elections using PP24, G23, G22 and/or G21 as the base universe. Voters who registered to vote after the 2024 primary election are also included and eligible to participate.

Interviews are closely monitored to ensure a representative sample of the Pennsylvania electorate is achieved based on party registration, geography, gender, age cohort and other demographics; results are sometimes statistically weighted to adjust for coverage bias or non-response error.

A supplemental component of interviews was collected via SP&R's proprietary web panel, owned by Bartlett Research Group, consisting of a database of registered voters in all geographic regions of the Commonwealth. Panel respondents are pre-screened to ensure their eligibility in the survey.

The margin of error for a sample size of 700 interviews is +/-3.7% at the 95% confidence level.

ⁱ <https://www.realclearpolitics.com/rcp-pollster-rankings/2020/>

¹Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc. is a nationally recognized polling and focus group company and conducts polling for political, media and corporate clients in numerous states. SP&R's polling has been featured on many national platforms, including the Rush Limbaugh Radio Show, FOX News Channel, The O'Reilly Factor, the Bill Maher Show and MSNBC. The website realclearpolitics.com rated SP&R the #1 most accurate pollster in the USA for its battleground polling in the "multi state" category in the lead up to the 2020 POTUS national elections.