

## NATIONAL EDUCATION SURVEYS

### 2010

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**Scholastic Inc.: Primary Sources: America's teachers on America's Schools**

(<http://www.scholastic.com/primarysources/download.asp>)

A survey of over 40,000 teachers commissioned by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Scholastic, Inc. finds that while fewer than 10 percent of teachers believe *all* their students will graduate from high school ready for college and careers, over 70 percent of teachers said preparing all students for careers in the 21st century (which typically require some education and training beyond high school) is one of the most important goals of schools.

**Public Agenda: Are We Beginning to See the Light?**

(<http://www.publicagenda.org/pages/math-and-science-ed-2010>)

According to the Public Agenda Survey, Americans believe that math and science skills are essential for future success, and most parents surveyed want to see their child take advanced math (60%) and science (54%) in high school. Additionally, survey respondents tend to favor a “national curriculum” as a way of improving STEM instruction; 54% say it would improve instruction “a lot.” However, in contrast, 52% of parents say the math and science their child is getting in high school is “fine as it is.”

### 2009

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**ACT: National Curriculum Survey**

(<http://www.act.org/research/policymakers/pdf/NationalCurriculumSurvey2009.pdf>)

ACT's 2009 National Curriculum Survey sheds light on the gap between high school preparation and college expectations. It also details the specific subject-area knowledge and skills that are most important for students to learn to be ready for college-level coursework. Conducted every three to five years by ACT, the survey collects data about what entering college students should know and be able to do to be ready for college-level coursework in English, math, reading, and science – and how well prepared high school teachers and college professors believe their students are for success in college.

**Civic Enterprises: On the Front Lines of Schools: Perspectives of Teachers and Principals on the High School Dropout Problem** (<http://www.civicenterprises.net/pdfs/frontlines.pdf>)

A follow-up to a 2006 survey, "The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts," this survey explores why educators and school administrators think students drop out and the strategies they believe could curb the drop out problem. The report reveals a significant disconnect between student and educator perspectives on this important issue.

**Deloitte: Education Survey Overview: Redefining High School as a Launch Pad**

(<http://files.onset.freedom.com/ocregister/news/2009/12/DeloitteReport.pdf>)

According to this survey, while students and parents view college preparation as the main purpose of high school, most teachers disagree and rank mastery of subject areas and life skills as more important. Of the 401 U.S. high school teachers, counselors, and administrators surveyed, only 9 percent think their primary mission is to prepare students for success in college.

## 2008

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***Civic Enterprises: One Dream, Two Realities: Perspectives of Parents on America's High Schools***  
(<http://www.civicerprises.net/pdfs/onedream.pdf>)

This survey finds that while parents overwhelmingly understand the important role they play in their children's education, far too many remain disconnected from their children's schools and the day-to-day happenings, particularly true of parents with students in low-performing schools. For example, less than half of parents of students at low-performing schools feel they are as involved as they should be, while over two-thirds of parents of students at high-performing schools say the same. However, across the board parents, and in particular Hispanic (90%) and African American (92%) parents, believe the world is a more demanding place (61%) and that college is very important.

## 2007

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***Public Agenda: A Matter of Trust: Ten Key Insights from Recent Public Opinion Research on Attitudes about Education among Hispanic Parents, Students and Young Adults***  
(<http://publicagenda.com/files/pdf/amatteroftrust.PDF>)

This survey delves into what Hispanic parents, students and young adult believe about where our education system is and where it should go. While in some ways, Hispanic families respond to questions about education in similar ways to the broader public, in other ways their responses are unique and enlightening. For example, education and higher education in particular are even more highly prized and respected among Hispanic parents than among parents in general; 86% of Hispanic parents think their students should go to college after high school compared to 54% of all other parents. Hispanic parents are also more concerned about dropout rates, as 75% consider the dropout rate to be a very or somewhat serious problem, compared to just 45% of all other parents. Finally, Hispanic students are more likely than other students to think that if their teachers pushed them harder, they would be more successful.

## 2006

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***Civic Enterprises: The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts***

(<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/united-states/Documents/TheSilentEpidemic3-06Final.pdf>)

Released in March 2006, this poll conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates found that while some students drop out because of significant academic challenges, most dropouts are students who could have, and believe they could have, succeeded in school. This survey of young people who left high school without graduating suggests that despite career aspirations that require education beyond high school and a majority of the students' having grades of "C" or better, circumstances in students' lives and an inadequate response to those circumstances from the schools led to dropping out.

***U.S. Chamber of Commerce: Education Reform: Insight into the Business Community's Views of the U.S. Education System*** ([http://www.uschamber.com/publications/reports/education\\_reform.htm](http://www.uschamber.com/publications/reports/education_reform.htm))

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce conducted a survey of 463 business organizations to determine how well business leaders think the U.S. education system is performing. More than half of respondents believe that schools need to raise the bar on achievement, thorough more rigorous curriculum and more effective assessments, to ensure that the U.S. remains competitive with other countries. Additionally, over 90% of business leaders think that school systems need some or a great deal of input from the business community when setting college- and career-ready standards.

## 2005 and Earlier

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***Achieve: Rising to the Challenge: Are High School Graduates Prepared for College and Work?***

(<http://www.achieve.org/node/548>) In this survey, high school graduates (college bound and not), college professors and employers report that high school graduates are not prepared for college or work, did not feel challenged in high school, and would have worked harder if more was expected of them. Achieve worked with Peter D. Hart Research Associates to poll 1,487 students, 300 college professors and 400 employers.

***Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc.: State of Our Nation's Youth***

(<http://www.horatioalger.com/pdfs/0506SONY.pdf>)

This annual survey of 13–19 year-olds was conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates. The 1,005 young people surveyed say they want to go to college, have more rigorous academics in high school and be given the opportunity to meet these challenges.

***National Governors Association: Redesigning the American High School: Rate Your Future***

(<http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.751b186f65e10b568a278110501010a0/?vgnnextoid=2f5c4c33c7732010VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=92ebc7df618a2010VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD>)

The National Governors Association launched this survey of more than 10,000 teens ages 16 to 18 in winter and spring 2005. The responses are divided into high school students who intend to graduate and those who are not currently in high school or plan to leave early. The survey results provide insight into the experiences of high school students.

***National Association of Manufacturers (NAM): 2005 Skills Gap Report – A Survey of America's Manufacturing Workforce*** ([http://www.nam.org/s\\_nam/bin.asp?CID=89&DID=235731&DOC=FILE.PDF](http://www.nam.org/s_nam/bin.asp?CID=89&DID=235731&DOC=FILE.PDF))

This report, based on an annual survey conducted for NAM, a trade association representing America's manufacturers, finds that over 80 percent of the 800 surveyed employers are experiencing difficulties hiring qualified workers. Another half of employers are dissatisfied with the skills of their current employees. Finding that employers believe these shortages directly impact their ability to meet customer needs, this report stresses the importance of science and math instruction at all levels of education, lifelong learning and training, measurable and more rigorous K-12 standards, and public-private partnerships that encourage education and workforce trend awareness.