



# CONCERNING KIDS A SKILLMAN FOUNDATION STUDY

EDUCATION SURVEY RESULTS  
SEPTEMBER 2002

Conducted by



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF EDUCATION SURVEY RESULTS

## *Concerning Kids: A Skillman Foundation Study*

### Quality of Public Schools

- Metro Detroit residents believe the State of Michigan is not doing enough to help schools that are not meeting minimum academic performance requirements. Nearly eight in ten (78%) think the state is doing a fair or poor job of helping schools meet minimum requirements.
- Over half of tri-county residents grade the quality of public schools in their school district with a grade of “B” or better, compared to nearly three in ten City of Detroit residents.
- Residents of the City of Detroit grade the overall quality of their public schools lower than other public schools statewide.
- A clear majority of Metro Detroit residents strongly agree that reducing class size and a statewide core curriculum that mandates what is taught within each subject area will improve student performance in public schools.
- Majorities in the tri-county area think student achievement standards are about right, while the majority (63%) of City of Detroit thinks student achievement standards are too low. However, most respondents across all areas surveyed think social promotion is a major problem in their local public schools.
- Although the majority of respondents think MEAP tests should be required at all schools not just public schools, most Metro Detroit residents also think MEAP tests are a fair or poor way of determining whether a public school is meeting minimum requirements for academic performance.
- Also, majorities think MEAP test scores will see a lot or some improvement if the dollar amount spent per student in their communities’ public schools is increased.

### Financing of Public Schools

- Financing and quality of teachers are the top two most important issues facing public schools across the Metro Detroit region. About two in ten Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland residents report financing and lack of money as the most important issue facing their public school district, and quality of teachers as the second most important issue. Nearly one-quarter City of Detroit residents report the quality of teachers as the most important issue in their public school district, and financing as second.
- Metro Detroit residents’ are now equally divided on a tax increase to pay for increased spending to improve public schools. Nearly half of residents are in favor of a tax increase, and nearly half are opposed. In terms of specific tax increase, more than seven in ten Metro Detroit residents oppose increasing property tax, sales tax, or state income tax to pay for increased spending to improve public schools, but favor increasing the tobacco tax.

- State spending on public education is too little. Most residents believe the State of Michigan is spending “too little” money on public school education. Nearly three-quarters of City of Detroit residents report this, compared to roughly half of Macomb, Wayne, and Oakland residents.
- Local spending on public education is about right, except in Detroit. Most of Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland residents believe their local or town government is spending “about the right amount” of money on public education. The majority of City of Detroit residents think the City is spending “too little.”

### **School Reform**

- Most Wayne, Oakland, and City of Detroit residents believe that public schools across the nation need major reform. When Metro Detroiters were asked about school reform in their county, majorities in Wayne and the City of Detroit compared to roughly one-quarter of Macomb and Oakland residents feel major reform is needed.
- Effectiveness of the statewide school reform process rates low. The average effectiveness rating for the tri-county area on a scale of zero to ten, where zero is “not effective at all” and 10 is “very effective”, the mean effectiveness score is 4.53.
- Similar to the statewide score, the average score for the effectiveness of school reform in the City of Detroit is low, 4.45. Yet, nearly two-thirds of Detroit residents favor the school reform process in the City.
- Nearly three-quarters of City of Detroit residents prefer the elected school board model to the appointed board structure.
- Although nearly three-quarters of Detroit residents are paying a lot or some attention to the school reform process in the City, overall awareness of specific City of Detroit school reform initiatives is low.

### **Quality of Teachers and Principals**

There are statistically significant differences between tri-county residents and City of Detroit residents in their ratings of the quality of local teachers and principals.

- More than 6 in 10 tri-county residents grade the overall quality of public school teachers in their district with a “B” or better, while only slightly more than one-third City of Detroit residents give a grade of “A” or “B”.
- Nearly 6 in 10 tri-county residents give a grade of “B” or better when grading the overall quality of principals in the district they live in, compared to only slightly more than one-third of City of Detroit residents.
- City of Detroit respondents are more likely to think the amount public school teachers are paid has a major effect on the quality of education than tri-county residents.
- More respondents in Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland think public school teachers in their district are being paid “about the right amount” than Detroit residents.

- Over 8 in 10 tri-county residents and 9 in 10 City residents believe it is very important that teachers are certified in the subject areas they are teaching. When asked if having uncertified teachers teaching subject areas they are not trained in is a major problem, minor problem, or not a problem at all in the district they live in, City residents are more likely to report this is a major problem.

# I. QUALITY OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

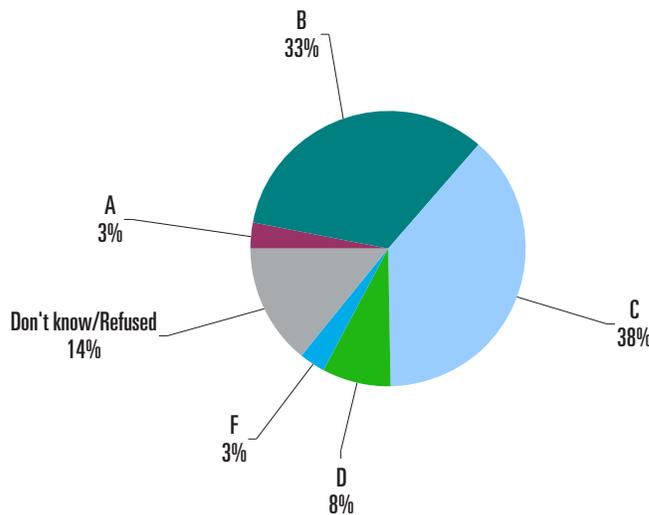
## A. Public Schools in the State of Michigan

Metro Detroit residents give mixed grades when rating Michigan’s public schools. Over one-third Metro Detroit residents grade the overall quality of public schools in the State of Michigan with a “B” or better. Opinions regarding the overall quality of public schools statewide are similar across all regions surveyed, with just over one-third Wayne (35%), Macomb (35%), Oakland (36%), and 4 in 10 City of Detroit residents giving a grade of “B” or better.

Similarly, over one-third Metro Detroit residents give a grade of “C” to the overall quality of public schools statewide in Michigan. Over one-third of Wayne (36%) and City of Detroit (35%) residents and roughly 4 in 10 Macomb (41%) and Oakland (40%) residents give a grade of “C”. About 1 in 10 respondents in each of the four areas surveyed give a failing grade of “D” or “F”, 12 % in Wayne, 9% in Macomb, 10% in Oakland, and 13% of respondents in the City of Detroit.

### Q2. If you had to grade the overall quality of public schools in the State of Michigan, would you give them, an A, B, C, D, or F?

Base: Total (N=1605)



## B. Public Schools in the Metro Detroit Region

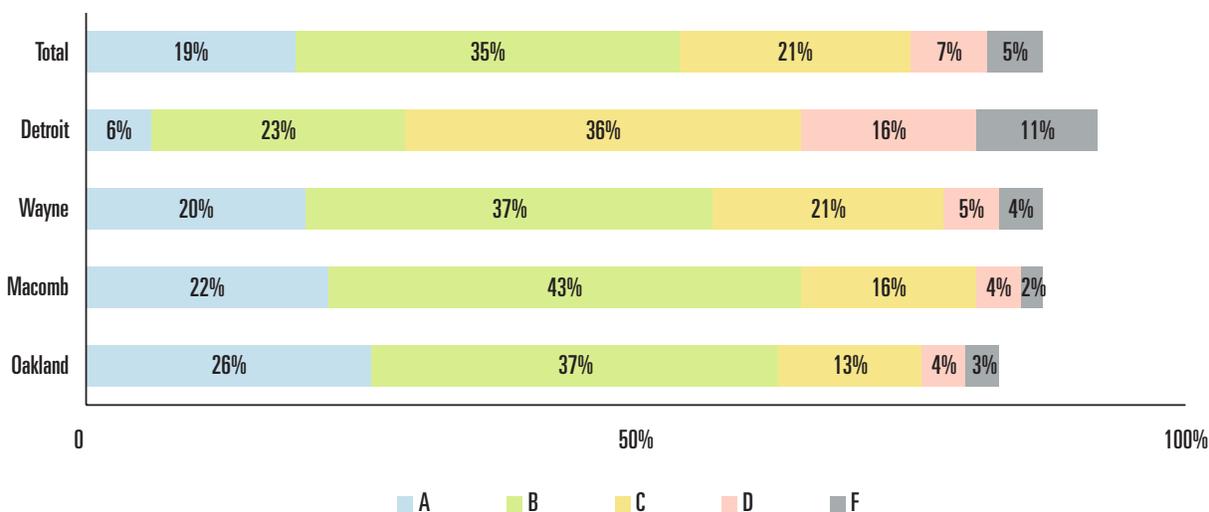
Residents of the City of Detroit grade the overall quality of their public schools lower than other public schools statewide. Less than 3 in 10 (29%) City residents give a grade of “B” or better for the overall quality of their local public schools. Contrastingly, more than 6 in 10 Oakland (63%) and Macomb (65%) County residents give the overall quality of the public schools in their district a grade of ‘B’ or better. Just less than 6 in 10 (57%) Wayne County residents grade the overall quality of the public schools in their district “B” or better.

Over one-third (36%) of City residents give a grade of “C” to the overall quality of the public schools in the district they live in. While, 21% of Wayne, 16% of Macomb, and 13% of Oakland residents give a grade of “C”. More than one-quarter (27%) of City residents give a failing grade of a “D” or “F”, compared to less than one in ten tri-county residents.

- Detroit residents grade the overall quality of the public schools in their district significantly lower than the residents of Macomb, Wayne, and Oakland.

### Q1.If you had to grade the overall quality of the public schools in the district you live in, would you give it, an A, B, C, D or F?

Base: Total (N=1605), Detroit (N=401), Wayne (N=400), Macomb (N=403), Oakland (N=401)



### **C. Issues Facing the Metro Detroit Region's Public School Districts**

Financing and quality of teachers are the top two most important issues facing public schools across the Metro Detroit region. About two in ten Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland residents report financing and lack of money as the most important issue facing their public school district, and quality of teachers as the second most important issue. Nearly one-quarter City of Detroit residents report the quality of teachers as the most important issue in their public school district, and financing as second.

The top three most important issues facing public schools in Wayne County mentioned are financing (20%), quality of teachers (14%), and overcrowded classrooms (10%). Macomb residents mention financing (23%), quality of teachers (12%), curriculum (12%), and overcrowding (12%) as the most important issues facing Macomb public schools. Oakland residents report financing (23%), quality of teachers (16%), and curriculum (11%) as the top three most important issues facing Oakland public schools.

Nearly one-quarter (24%) of City residents mention the quality of teachers as the most important issue facing Detroit public schools. The next most mentioned issues include financing (10%) and overcrowded classrooms (10%).

**Q3. What do you think is the most important issue facing your public school district?**

	<b>Total (N=1605)</b>	<b>Detroit (N=401)</b>	<b>Wayne (N=400)</b>	<b>Macomb (N=403)</b>	<b>Oakland (N=401)</b>
Financing/funding/ lack of money	19%	10%	20%	23%	23%
Quality of teachers/ qualified teachers	17	24	14	12	16
Overcrowded classrooms	10	10	10	12	8
Curriculum	10	7	9	12	11
Discipline of children	4	6	3	6	3
Administration/policies	4	5	5	4	3
Teacher retention/ higher pay for teachers	1	2	1	2	0
Violence/security issues	5	8	5	5	3
Attendance	1	1	0	1	3
Facilities	3	7	2	1	1
Parents/ parental involvement	2	2	2	1	3
Drugs	1	0	2	1	2
Voucher system	1	1	2	1	1
Motivating children	3	2	3	3	3
Other (specify)	3	3	4	2	2
Don't know/refused	15	10	17	14	18

## II. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT; STANDARDS AND IMPROVEMENTS

### A. Student Achievement Standards in the Metro Detroit Region

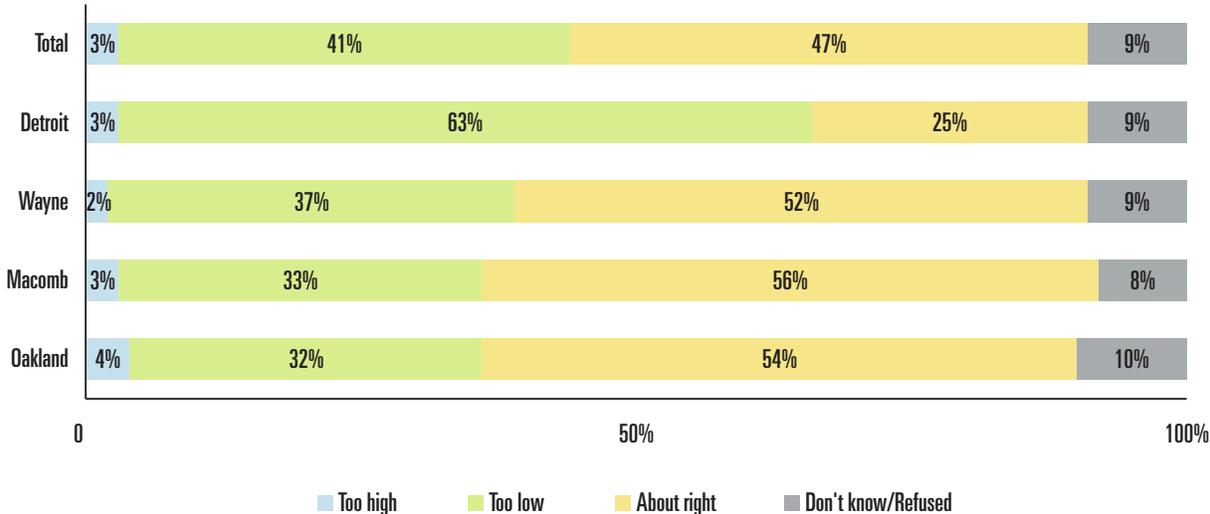
Majorities in the tri-county area think student achievement standards are about right, while the majority of City of Detroit thinks student achievement standards are too low. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of City residents report student achievement standards in their community public schools are too low. Followed by one-quarter (25%) who thinks standards are about right, and 3% who report standards are too high.

More than half of residents in each county think student achievement standards in their community public schools are about right, 52% in Wayne, 56% in Macomb, and 54% in Oakland. Over one-third (37%) of Wayne residents and one-third (33%) of Macomb residents report standards are too low. Similarly, nearly one-third (32%) of Oakland residents think student achievement standards are too low. Less than 5% of tri-county residents say standards are too high.

- Significantly more Detroit residents (63%) report student achievement standards in public schools in their community are “too low”, compared to Oakland (32%), Macomb (33%), and Wayne (37%) residents.

#### Q8. In your opinion, are student achievement standards in public schools in your community too high, too low, or about right?

Base: Total (N=1605), Detroit (N=401), Wayne (N=400), Macomb (N=403), Oakland (N=401)



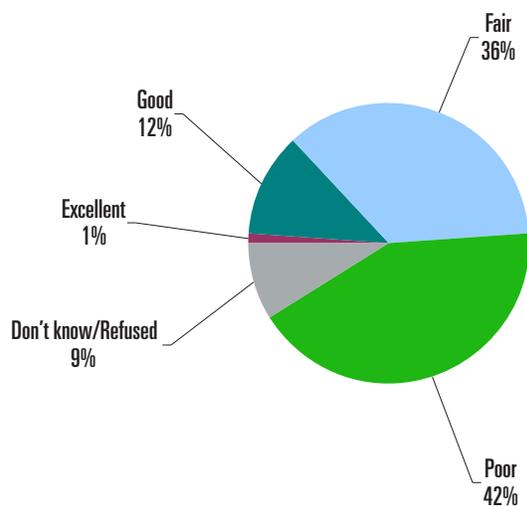
## B. State of Michigan's Role in Academic Performance

A clear majority of Metro Detroit residents believe the State of Michigan is not doing enough to help schools that are not meeting minimum academic performance requirements. Across the four areas surveyed, from three-quarters to about eight in ten respondents think the state is doing a “fair or poor” job helping schools meet minimum academic performance requirements. Fewer than 2 in 10 respondents report the state is doing an “excellent or good” job.

- Significantly more Detroit residents (51%) than Wayne (35%), Macomb (41%), and Oakland (42%) report that they think the State is doing a poor job of helping schools that are not meeting the minimum academic performance requirements.

### Q40. Do you think the State is doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job of helping schools that are not meeting minimum academic performance requirements?

Base: Total (N=1605)



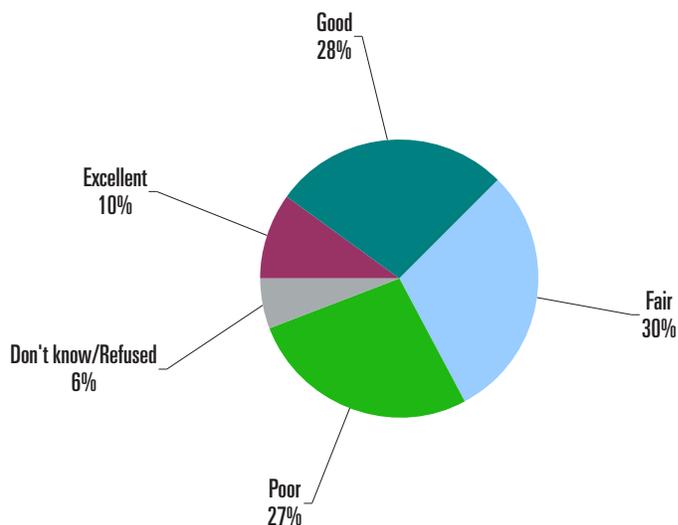
### C. MEAP Tests

Most Metro Detroit residents do not believe Michigan’s Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests are an effective mechanism for determining whether a public school is meeting minimum requirements for academic performance. Over one-third (36%) of City of Detroit residents think MEAP tests are an “excellent” (13%) or “good” (23%) way of determining if minimum requirements are being met, compared to 57% who think the tests are a “fair” (25%) or “poor” (32%) way.

Over half of Wayne (52%), Macomb (56%), and Oakland (58%) residents think MEAP tests are a “fair or poor” way of determining whether a public school is meeting minimum academic performance requirements. About 4 in 10 Wayne (42%) and Macomb (40%) residents think MEAP tests are an “excellent or good” way of determining if minimum requirements are being met. Just over one-third (34%) of Oakland residents report MEAP tests are an “excellent or good” way of determining performance requirements.

#### Q41. Do you think these tests are an excellent, good, fair, or poor way of determining whether a public school is meeting minimum requirements for academic performance?

Base: Total (N=1605)

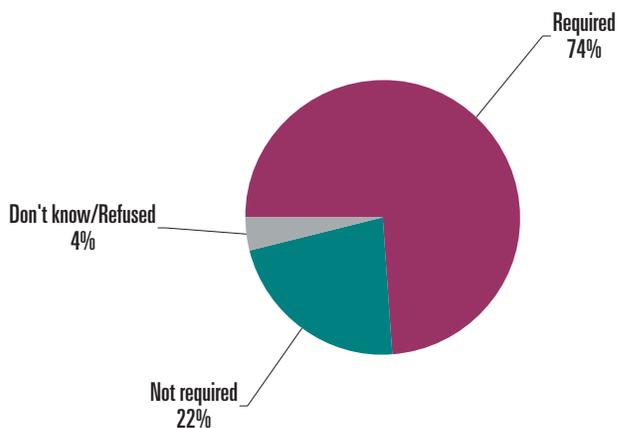


An overwhelming majority of respondents think MEAP tests should be required at all schools not just public schools. Eight in ten (82%) City of Detroit residents think all schools regardless of type should be required to give the MEAP tests, while only 13% think the tests should not be required. About 7 in 10 Wayne (73%), Macomb (71%), and Oakland (70%) residents also think the MEAP tests should be required. Roughly one-quarter of Wayne (22%), Macomb (24%), and Oakland (26%) think all schools should not be required to give MEAP tests.

- Significantly more Detroit residents (82%) report that all schools, regardless of type, should be required to give the MEAP test compared to Wayne (73%), Macomb (71%), and Oakland (70%) residents.

**Q42. As you may know, MEAP tests are given only at public schools. Do you think all schools regardless of type should be required to give the MEAP tests, or not?**

Base: Total (N=1605)



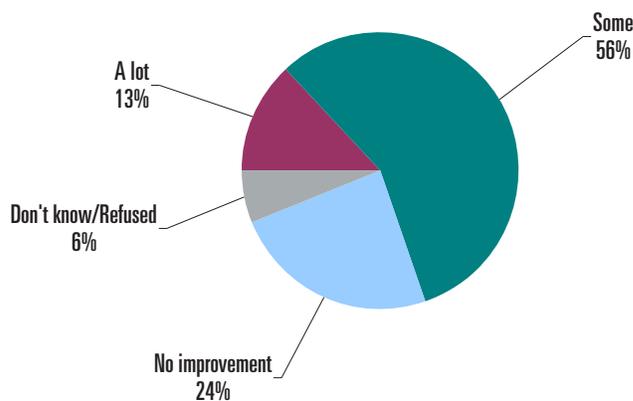
Also, majorities of residents think MEAP test scores will improve if the dollar amount spent per student in their communities' public schools is increased. More than three-quarters (77%) of Detroit residents think by increasing the dollar amount spent per student in Detroit schools MEAP test scores will see "a lot" (24%) or "some" (53%) improvement. Nearly seven in ten Wayne (69%), and Oakland (68%) residents, and nearly two-thirds (65%) of Macomb residents think by increasing the dollar amount MEAP test scores will improve a lot or some.

About one-quarter of Wayne (27%) and Oakland (26%) residents think MEAP test scores will not improve if the dollar amount spent per student was increased. Nearly three in ten (29%) Macomb residents and 16% of Detroit residents think there will be no improvement of scores.

- Significantly more Detroit residents (24%) report that increasing the dollar amount spent per student will improve the communities' MEAP test score a lot compared to Wayne (12%), Macomb (10%), and Oakland (9%) residents.

**Q43. Do you think that by increasing the dollar amount spent per student your communities' public schools MEAP test scores will see a lot of improvement, some improvement, or no improvement at all?**

Base: Total (N=1605)



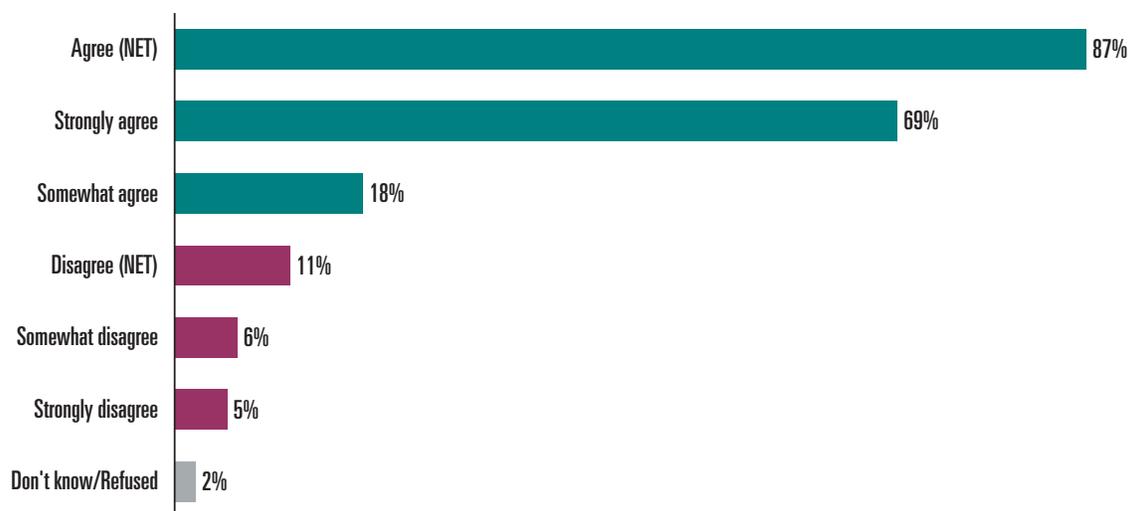
## D. Reducing Class Size

A clear majority of Metro Detroit residents strongly agree that reducing class size will improve student performance in public schools. Nine in ten (90%) Macomb residents followed by 87% in Oakland, 86% in City of Detroit, and 85% in Wayne agree “strongly or somewhat” that reducing class size will improve student performance in public schools. Less than 2 in 10 Metro Detroit residents disagree that reducing class size will improve student performance.

- More residents from the City of Detroit (73%) compared to residents from Wayne County (65%) strongly agree that reducing class size will improve student performance in public schools.

### Q44. Do you agree or disagree that reducing class size will improve student performance in your public school?

Base: Total (N=1605)



**E. Statewide Core Curriculum**

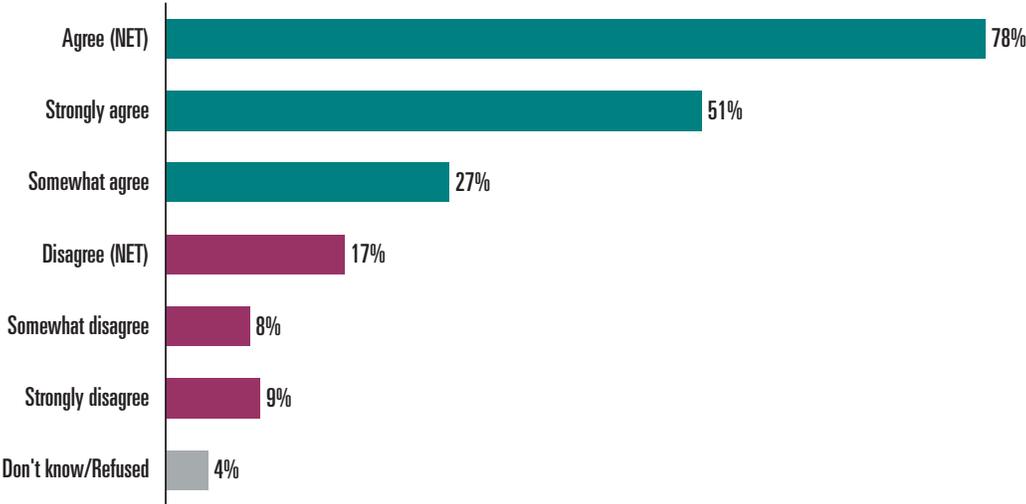
The majority of Metro Detroit also agrees that there should be a statewide core curriculum that mandates what is taught within each subject to improve student performance in public schools. More than six in ten (63%) of City residents “strongly agree” that there should be a statewide core curriculum. Followed by half of Wayne (50%), 48% of Macomb, and 46% of Oakland residents who also “strongly agree.” An additional three in ten Wayne (29%) and Oakland (29%) residents “somewhat agree” there should be a statewide core curriculum, while 26% of Macomb and 22% of Detroit residents “somewhat agree.”

A minority thinks there should not be a statewide core curriculum that mandates what is taught within each subject. Around 2 in 10 Wayne (17%), Macomb (20%), and Oakland (19%) residents disagree with a statewide core curriculum. Followed by only 12% of City residents, who think that there should not be a statewide core curriculum.

- Significantly more residents from the City of Detroit (63%) compared to residents from Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland County (50%, 48%, and 46%, respectively) believe that there should be a statewide core curriculum that mandates what is taught within each subject to improve student performance in public schools.

**Q45. Do you agree or disagree that there should be a statewide core curriculum that mandates what is taught within each subject to improve student performance in your public schools?**

Base: Total (N=1605)



**F. Social Promotion**

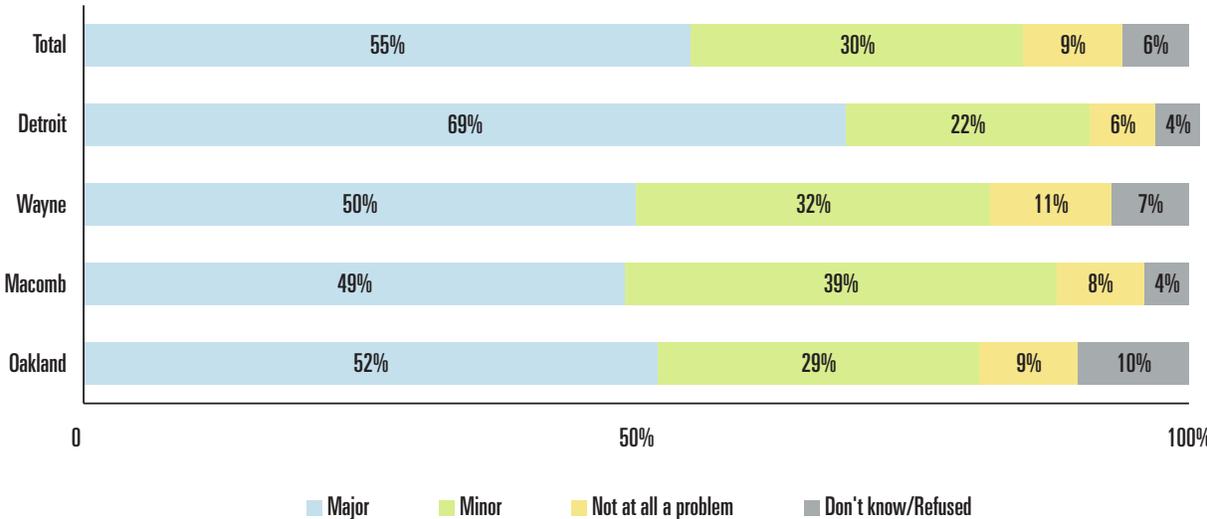
Most respondents across all areas surveyed think social promotion is a major problem in their local public schools. Nearly seventy percent (69%) of City residents think moving students on to the next grade despite their not having met the necessary academic standards is a major problem in Detroit public schools. Nearly half of Wayne (50%), Macomb (49%), and Oakland (52%) residents also think social promotion is a major problem in their local public schools.

Tri-county residents are more likely to report social promotion is a minor problem in their public schools than City residents. Nearly forty percent (39%) of Macomb respondents followed by 32% in Wayne, and 29% in Oakland think social promotion is a minor problem in the local public schools. Only 22% of Detroit residents think social promotion is a minor problem in the Detroit public schools. Only about one in ten (11%) Wayne residents think social promotion is not at all a problem in the Wayne public schools, followed by 9% in Oakland, 8% in Macomb, and 6% in the City of Detroit.

- Significantly more residents from the City of Detroit (69%) than residents from Wayne (50%), Macomb (49%), and Oakland County (52%) believe that social promotion is a major problem.

**Q46. How much of a problem is social promotion, which is when students are moved on to the next grade despite their not having met the necessary academic standards in your local public schools? Major problem, minor problem, not at all a problem?**

Base: Total (N=1605), Detroit (N=401), Wayne (N=400), Macomb (N=403), Oakland (N=401)



## **G. Community Friendly Schools in the Metro Detroit Region**

A clear majority of respondents surveyed across all four areas report their public schools are community friendly. Three-quarters (75%) of Oakland residents report their public schools are “very” (28%) or “somewhat” (47%) community friendly and about three-quarters (73%) of Macomb residents report similar numbers, “very” (29%) or “somewhat” (44%) community friendly. Just over two-thirds (67%) of Wayne residents report their public schools are “very” (19%) or “somewhat” (48%) community friendly and roughly 6 in 10 (61%) City residents say the same, “very” (19%) or “somewhat” (42%) community friendly.

However, nearly one-third of City residents think Detroit public schools are “not too friendly” (20%) or “not friendly at all” (12%).

- More residents from Macomb and Oakland County (73% and 75%, respectively) compared to residents from Wayne County (67%) and the City of Detroit (61%) believe that the public schools in their area are very friendly or somewhat friendly with the community.

### III. FUNDING OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#### A. Opinion Regarding a General Tax Increase

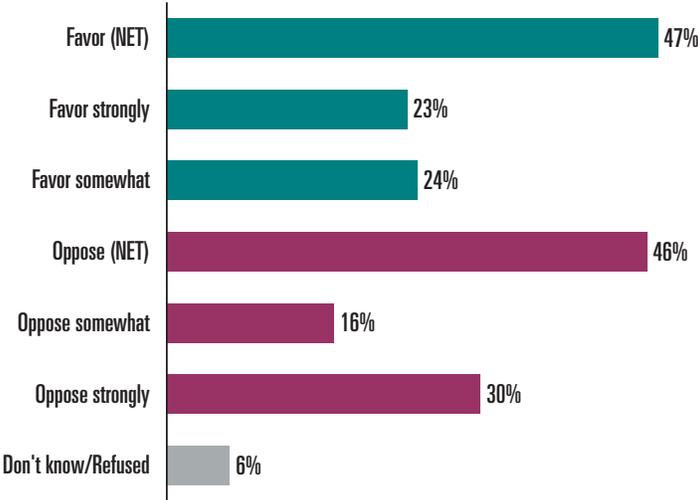
Metro Detroit residents’ are divided with regards to a tax increase to pay for increased spending to improve public schools. Nearly half of residents across the four areas surveyed are in favor of a tax increase, while nearly half are opposed. Forty-eight percent of residents in the City of Detroit “strongly” (26%) or “somewhat” (22%) favor a tax increase to pay for improving public schools. However, 46% of City residents “somewhat” (13%) or “strongly” (33%) oppose a tax increase to pay for increased spending to improve public schools.

Similarly, 48% of Oakland residents “strongly” (26%) or “somewhat” (22%) favor and 48% “somewhat” (20%) or “strongly” (28%) oppose. Nearly half (48%) of Wayne residents “strongly” (22%) or “somewhat” (26%) favor a tax increase to improve public schools, and forty-five percent of Wayne residents “somewhat” (16%) or “strongly” (29%) oppose an increase. Forty-six percent of Macomb residents “strongly” (18%) or “somewhat” (28%) favor a tax increase, and 47% “somewhat” (16%) or “strongly” (31%) oppose an increase.

- Significantly more Detroit and Oakland residents strongly favor (both 26%) a tax increase to pay for increased spending improving public schools compared to Macomb (18%) residents.

#### Q4. Would you favor or oppose a tax increase to pay for increased spending improving public schools?

Base: Total (N=1605)



## B. Opinion Regarding Specific Tax Increases

More than seven in ten Metro Detroit residents oppose increasing property tax, sales tax, or state income tax to pay for increased spending to improve public schools, with more than half saying they are “strongly” opposed. The only tax that Metro Detroiters are in favor of increasing is the tobacco tax.

### *Property Tax*

Nearly 6 in 10 Wayne (59%), Macomb (59%), Oakland (55%), and Detroit (57%) residents “strongly” oppose increasing property tax. And, nearly 2 in 10 more residents in each area “somewhat” oppose an increase in property tax.

Less than 1 in 10 Metro Detroit residents “strongly” favor increasing property tax. One-quarter of Oakland residents favor increasing a property tax “strongly” (6%) or “somewhat” (19%). Two in ten Macomb residents favor increasing property tax “strongly” (6%) or “somewhat” (14%). Less than 2 in 10 Wayne residents favor increasing property tax “strongly” (3%) or “somewhat” (16%) and less than 2 in 10 Detroit residents favor “strongly” (5%) or “somewhat” (12%).

### *Sales Tax*

Nearly three-quarters of residents are opposed to an increase in sales tax to pay for increased spending to improve public schools, with more than half of Metro Detroit residents reporting they are “strongly” opposed. Roughly one-quarter of Metro Detroit residents favor an increase in sales tax to pay for increased spending for improving public schools.

Over three-quarters (76%) of Oakland residents are opposed “somewhat” (18%) or “strongly” (58%), and just less than one-quarter of residents favor increasing sales tax “somewhat” (18%) or “strongly” (6%). Similarly, nearly three-quarters (74%) of Macomb residents are opposed “somewhat” (23%) or “strongly” (51%) to increasing sales tax, and 16% are “somewhat” in favor and 8% “strongly” favor.

Over 7 in 10 Wayne (73%) and Detroit (72%) residents are opposed “somewhat” (17% and 21%, respectively) or “strongly” (56% and 51%, respectively) to increasing sales tax. Just over one-quarter of Wayne County residents and City residents favor an increase in sales tax “somewhat” (19% and 18%, respectively) or “strongly” (7% and 8%, respectively).

- Significantly less Detroit residents (51%) strongly oppose an increase on sales tax that could be used to fund improvements in public schools, than Oakland (58%) residents.

### *Income Tax*

Nearly three-quarters of residents are opposed to an increase in income tax to pay for increased spending to improve public schools, with about half of Metro Detroit residents reporting they are “strongly” opposed. Seventy-three percent of City of Detroit residents oppose increasing income tax “somewhat” (25%) or “strongly” (48%). Similarly, 72% of Wayne and Oakland residents oppose increasing income tax “somewhat” (23% and 22%, respectively) or “strongly” (49% and 50%, respectively). Three-quarters of Macomb County residents oppose “somewhat” (25%) or “strongly” (50%) to increasing income tax to pay for improvements to public schools.

Around one-quarter of residents favor an increase in income tax to pay for increased spending to improve public schools. One-quarter (25%) of Detroit residents favor “somewhat” (15%) or “strongly” (10%), 27% of Wayne residents favor “somewhat” (21%) or “strongly” (6%), 26% of Oakland residents favor “somewhat” (20%) or “strongly” (6%), and 24% of Macomb residents’ favor “somewhat” (18%) or “strongly” (6%).

- Significantly more Detroit residents (10%) favor an increase in State Income tax that could be used to fund improvements in public schools, than Oakland, Wayne, and Macomb residents (6% each).

### Tobacco Tax

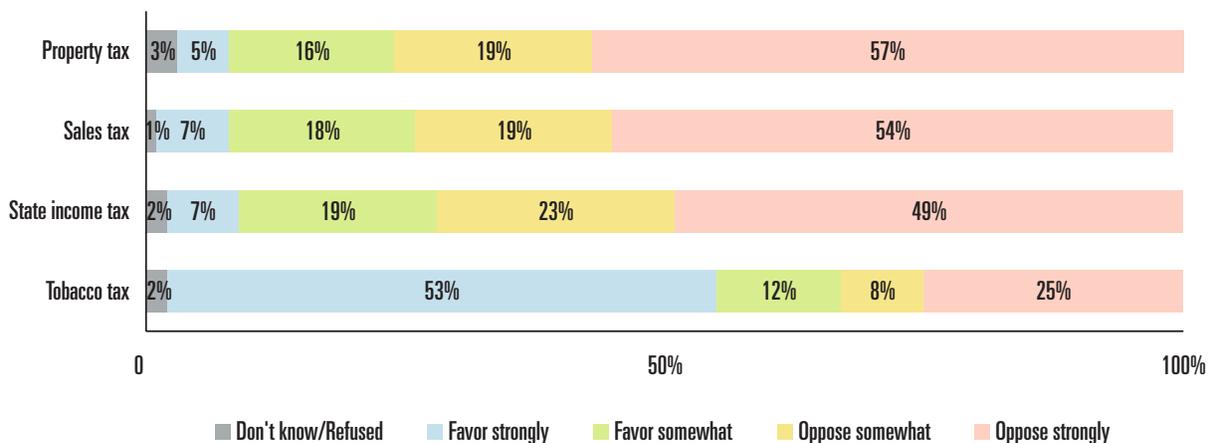
The only tax that Metro Detroiters are in favor of increasing is the tobacco tax. Nearly 7 in 10 Oakland residents favor increasing the tax on tobacco, with 56% “strongly” and 13% “somewhat” favoring. About two-thirds of City residents favor the increase, with 54% favoring “strongly” and 13% favoring “somewhat”. Two-thirds of Macomb residents also favor the increase “strongly” (54%) or “somewhat” (12%), followed by nearly 6 in 10 Wayne residents “strongly” (49%) or “somewhat” (10%) in favor.

Nearly 4 in 10 Wayne residents oppose increasing tax on tobacco, with 9% “somewhat” and 29% “strongly” opposing the increase. About one-third of Macomb and City residents oppose an increase on tobacco tax “somewhat” (9% and 9%, respectively) or “strongly” (23% and 23%, respectively). Nearly 3 in 10 Oakland residents oppose an increase “somewhat” (5%) or “strongly” (24%).

- Significantly more Wayne residents (29%) strongly oppose an increase in tax on tobacco that could be used to fund improvements in public schools, than Oakland (24%), Macomb (23%), and Detroit (23%) residents.

**Q7a-7d. I am going to read you a list of potential tax increases that could be used to fund improvements in public schools. Please tell me which of the following you would favor or oppose...**

Base: Total (N=1605)



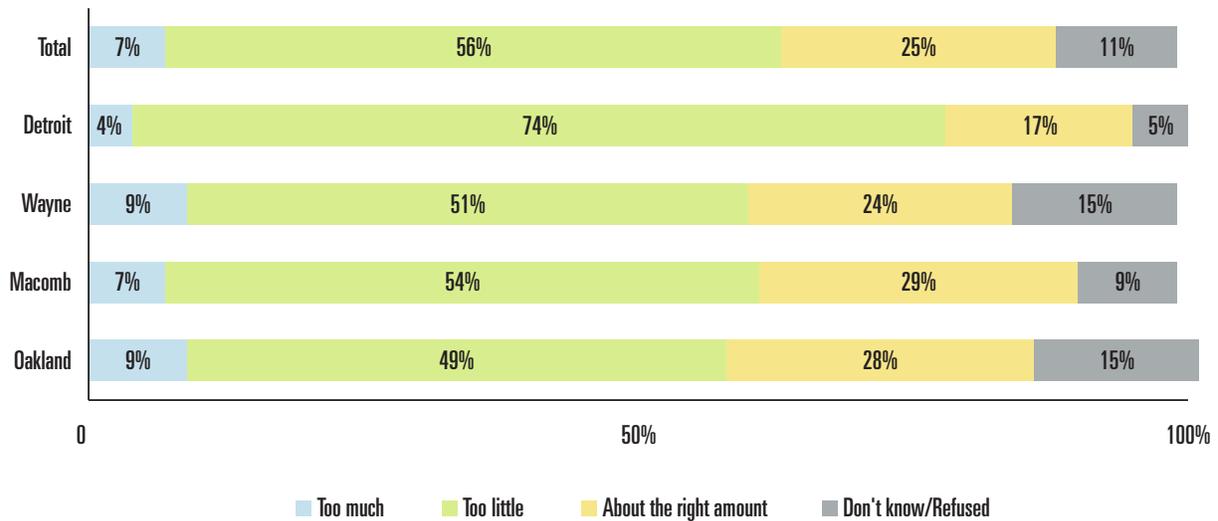
### C. State Spending on Public Education

Most residents believe the State of Michigan is spending “too little” money on public school education. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of City of Detroit residents report this, compared to 54% of Macomb, 51% of Wayne, and 49% of Oakland residents. Less than 1 in 10 Wayne (9%), Oakland (9%), Macomb (7%), and City (4%) residents think the state is spending “too much” money on public school education. Nearly 3 in 10 Macomb (29%) and Oakland (28%) residents think the states is spending “about the right amount” of money, while less than one-quarter of Wayne (24%) and City (17%) residents think this.

- Significantly more Detroit residents (74%) report the State of Michigan is not spending enough money on public education compared to Macomb (54%), Oakland (49%), and Wayne (51%) residents.

#### Q5. Do you think that the State of Michigan is spending too much, too little, or about the right amount of money on public school education?

Base: Total (N=1605), Detroit (N=401), Wayne (N=400), Macomb (N=403), Oakland (N=401)



## D. Local or Town Government Spending on Public Education

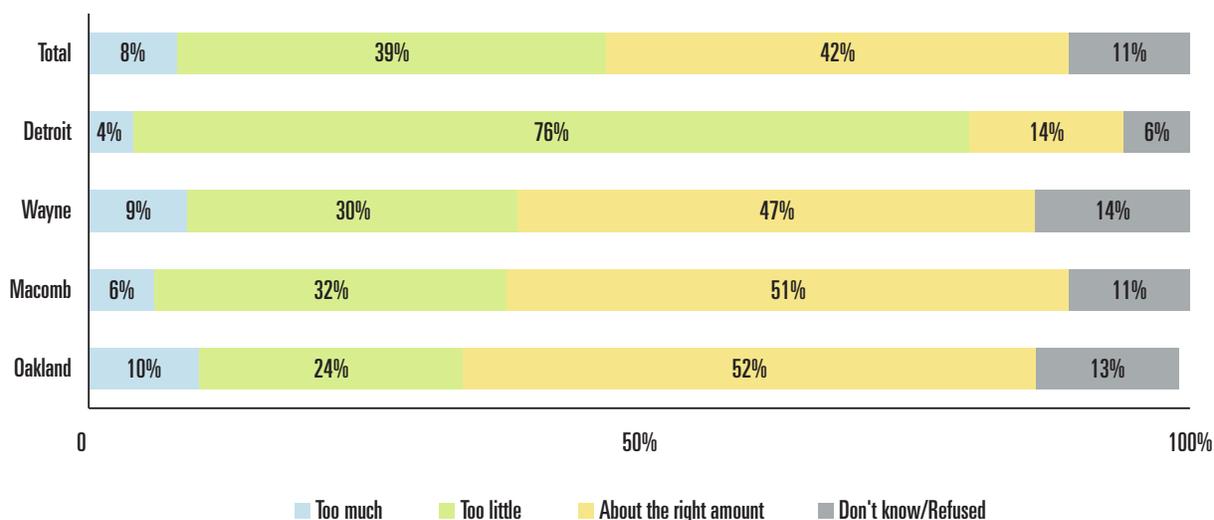
Most of Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland residents believe their local or town government is spending “about the right amount” of money on public education, while a clear majority of City of Detroit residents think the City is spending “too little”. About half of Wayne (47%), Macomb (51%), and Oakland (52%) residents think their local government is spending “about the right amount” of money on public education, compared to 14% of City residents who think this.

Over three-quarters (76%) of Detroit residents think the City government is spending “too little”, compared to 3 in 10 Wayne, 32% Macomb, and 24% Oakland residents who think this. One in ten or less think their local government is spending “too much” money on public education, Oakland (10%), Wayne (9%), Macomb (6%), and City of Detroit (4%).

- Significantly more Detroit residents (76%) report the local government is not spending enough money on public education compared to Macomb (32%), Oakland (24%), and Wayne (30%) residents.

### Q6. Do you think your local or town government is spending too much, too little or about the right amount of money on public education?

Base: Total (N=1605), Detroit (N=401), Wayne (N=400), Macomb (N=403), Oakland (N=401)



## E. Dollar Amount Spent Per Student

Respondents were given the choice of two statements regarding funding public schools and asked to pick which statement best describes their opinion. “Public schools in all districts should be given the same dollar amount to spend per student” was favored slightly in Wayne (51%), Macomb (55%), and the City of Detroit (51%). “Public schools should be given different dollar amount to spend per student based on particular needs of children in a district” best describes the opinion of 46% of Wayne, 42% of Macomb, and 46% of Detroit residents. Oakland County is divided with 48% in favor of the “same dollar amount per student”, and 49% in favor of “different dollar amounts per student.”

## IV. SCHOOL REFORM

### A. What School Reform Means to Metro Detroiters

Residents do not share a sense of what is meant by the often-used phrase “school reform.” Metro Detroiters were asked when they hear the phrase “school reform” what comes to mind. More than 2 in 10 respondents report they “don’t know” what is meant by the phrase “school reform.” While, the top response in all four areas surveyed was “general changes and improvements” (19%).

Improving the quality of education (12%), followed by quality of teachers (8%) were the next two responses from City residents. Oakland residents mention changing the content of education children receive (10%) and finances (9%) as second and third top responses. Macomb residents mention improving the quality of education (9%), changing the content of education children receive (8%), reforming the administrative system (8%) and, finances (8%) as top of mind responses to what school reform means to them. Wayne residents also mention changing the content of education children receive (9%), improving the quality of education (8%), and reforming the administrative system (8%).

Other responses mentioned include; parental involvement, discipline, smaller class size, vouchers, charter schools, reforming the testing system, improving schools conditions, and reforming the hiring and tenure system.

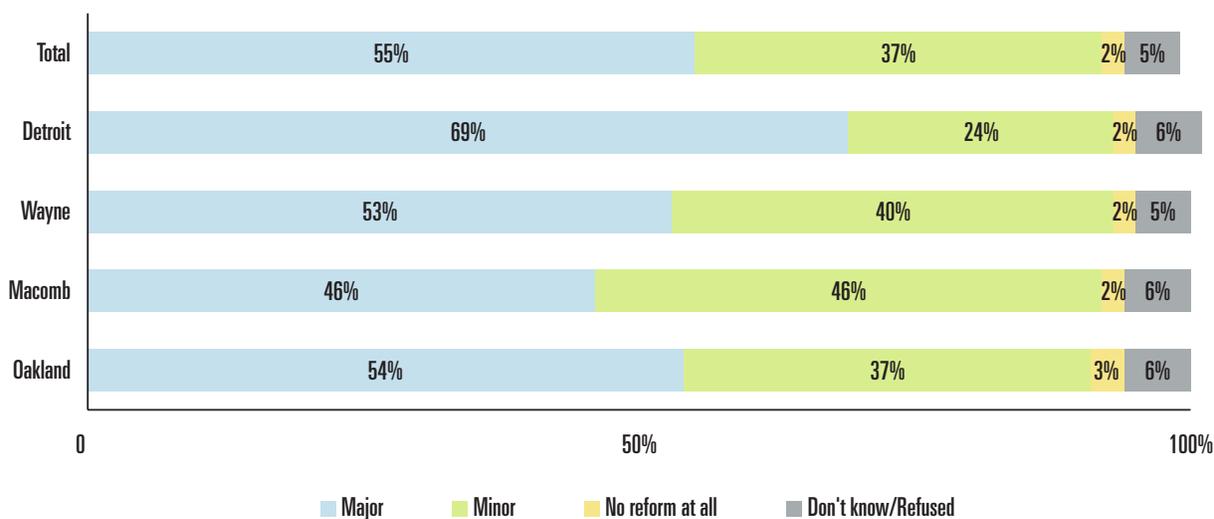
## B. National School Reform

Despite varying definitions, most Wayne, Oakland, and City of Detroit residents report that public schools across the nation need major reform. Nearly 7 in 10 (69%) City residents think the nations public schools need major reform, while less than one-quarter (24%) think they need minor reform. Just over half of Wayne (53%) and Oakland (54%) residents say public schools nationally need major reform, while 4 in 10 Wayne and 37% of Oakland residents say they need minor reform. Macomb County is more divided, 46% think public schools nationwide need major reform and 46% think they need minor reform.

- Significantly more Detroit residents (69%) report public schools across the nation need major reform compared to Oakland (54%), Macomb (46%), and Wayne (53%) residents.

### Q10. Would you say that public schools across the nation need major reform, minor reform, or no reform at all?

Base: Total (N=1605), Detroit (N=401), Wayne (N=400), Macomb (N=403), Oakland (N=401)



### C. Statewide School Reform

Nearly two-thirds (65%) City of Detroit residents are paying “a lot” (25%) or “some” (40%) attention to the statewide school reform process in Michigan. Over half (53%) of Wayne residents are paying “a lot” (12%) or “some” (41%) attention, while less than half of Oakland residents are paying “a lot” (9%) or “some” (35%) attention. Macomb residents attention is divided with 49% paying a lot or some attention and 50% paying not very much or no attention at all to the statewide school reform process.

- Significantly more Detroit residents (25%) report they have been paying a lot of attention to the statewide school reform process in Michigan compared to residents in Oakland (9%), Macomb (11%), and Wayne (12%).

Across all four areas surveyed residents think statewide school reform is not very effective. On a scale of zero to ten, where zero means “not effective at all” and ten means “very effective” the average score for the effectiveness of the statewide school reform process in Michigan is 4.53. The average statewide school reform effectiveness score is lowest in Detroit (4.35). Only, slightly higher scores are reported in Wayne (4.45), Macomb (4.46), and Oakland (4.82).

**Q13. On a scale of 0 to 10 with 0 being “not effective at all” and 10 being “very effective” how effective do you think the statewide school reform process in Michigan has been?**

	Total (N=1605)	Detroit (N=401)	Wayne (N=400)	Macomb (N=403)	Oakland (N=401)
Mean	4.53	4.35	4.45	4.46	4.82

Respondents were asked to evaluate school reform. The findings indicate there is a strong correlation between residents’ current view of “Proposal A” and their past support of the proposal.

The State of Michigan started the statewide school reform process in 1994. Respondents were asked if they favored or opposed the process in 1994, and many said they did not know. However, roughly 4 in 10 residents said they favored the process strongly or somewhat.

Respondents were then asked if they favor or oppose the statewide school reform process now. More than half in all areas surveyed report they are currently in favor of the process. Six in ten (62%) of Oakland residents favor the process “strongly” (24%) or “somewhat” (38%). Nearly 6 in 10 Wayne, Macomb, and Detroit residents report they are in favor “strongly” (22%, 20%, 33%, respectively) or “somewhat” (36%, 37%, 23%, respectively).

Statewide school reforms passed in 1994 were called “Proposal A”. When respondents were asked if they had favored or opposed “Proposal A” in 1994, most said they did not know. Over 4 in 10 residents from Detroit said they were in favor “strongly” (24%) or “somewhat” (17%), while less than 4 in 10 residents from the three surrounding counties said they were in favor.

Respondents were also asked if they currently favor or oppose “Proposal A.” More residents in Metro Detroit are aware of “Proposal A” now. Similar to 1994, currently 4 in 10 residents from Detroit said they are in favor “strongly” (21%) or “somewhat” (21%).

In the three surrounding counties more residents are in favor now than in 1994. More than 4 in 10 residents in Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland now favor “Proposal A.”

- Significantly more Detroit residents (25%) report they strongly favored the statewide school reform process started by the State of Michigan in 1994 compared to Macomb (16%), Wayne (17%), and Oakland (17%) residents.
- Significantly more Detroit residents (33%) report they now strongly favor the statewide school reform process started by the State of Michigan in 1994 compared to Macomb (20%), Oakland (24%), and Wayne (22%) residents.

## D. Local School Reform

On a scale of zero to ten, where zero means “not effective at all” and ten means “very effective” the average score for the effectiveness of the statewide school reform process in each county surveyed is below average. The effectiveness score is lowest in Detroit (4.25). Slightly higher scores are reported in Wayne (4.46), Macomb (5.18), and Oakland (5.32).

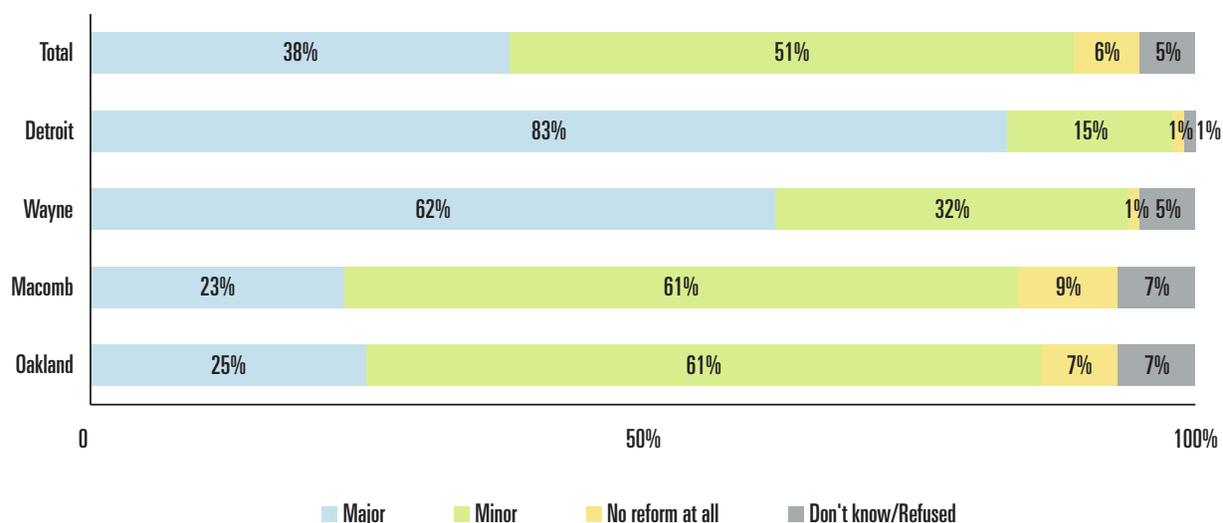
When Metro Detroiters were asked about reform of the public schools in their county, majorities in Wayne and the City of Detroit compared to roughly one-quarter of Macomb and Oakland residents think major reform is needed. Over 8 in 10 (83%) City residents and more than 6 in 10 (62%) Wayne residents report their public schools need major reform. Only 25% of Oakland and 23% of Macomb residents think their public schools need major reform.

Less than 2 in 10 (15%) City residents and nearly one-third (32%) of Wayne residents think minor reform is needed in their public schools. About 6 in 10 Oakland and Macomb residents think minor reform in their public schools is needed.

- Significantly more Detroit residents (83%) report public schools in their district need major reform compared to residents in Oakland (25%), Macomb (23%), and Wayne (62%).

### Q11. How about public schools in your county (or City of Detroit)? Do they need major reform, minor reform, or no reform at all?

Base: Total (N=1605), Detroit (N=401), Wayne (N=400), Macomb (N=403), Oakland (N=401)



### *Best and Worst Outcomes of Statewide School Reform in Each County and Detroit*

Residents are hard pressed to name specific outcomes of statewide school reform. When respondents were asked what has been the best outcome in their county as a result of statewide school reform, about half of residents in Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland say they “don’t know.” “Nothing” also was mentioned frequently in all three counties. The positive outcomes that were mentioned include; general improvements (12%), curriculum improvements (9%), financial improvements (5%), addition of more schools (3%), more students go on to higher education (3%), better faculty (3%), and smaller class size (2%).

City of Detroit respondents were also asked what has been the best outcome in Detroit as a result of statewide school reform. One-third (33%) of city residents’ report they “don’t know,” followed by 22% who report “nothing” as a best outcome. Best outcomes that were mentioned include; general improvements (20%), addition of more schools (9%), curriculum improvements (5%), better faculty (4%), financial improvements (2%), more students go on to higher education (2%), and smaller class size (1%).

Similarly, respondents lacked knowledge of negative outcomes. Roughly half of respondents report they “don’t know” what the worst outcome is as a result of statewide school reform. The top mentioned worst outcome across all three counties is financial problems (13%). Lower quality of education (7%) and lack of changes (6%) are the next most mentioned worst outcomes for Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland residents.

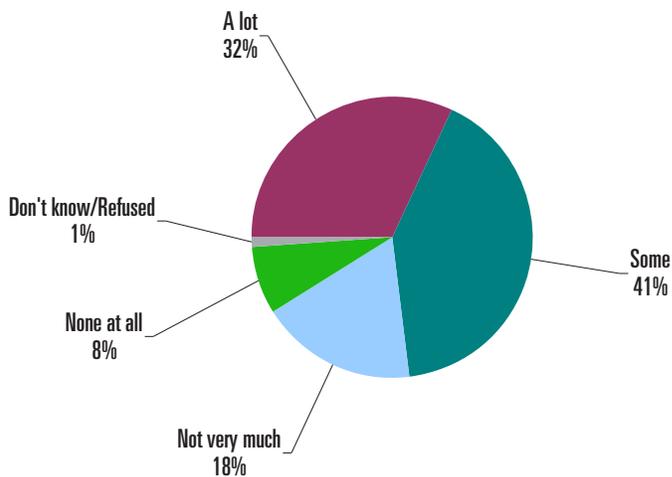
Three in ten (30%) City residents say they “don’t know” what the worst outcome is as a result of statewide school reform. Lack of changes (12%), financial problems (11%), lower quality of education (9%), and violence and security concerns (9%) were the most mentioned worst outcomes. Other worse outcomes reported include; state intervention (8%), faculty issues (3%), lower attendance (3%), worse grades (2%), and overcrowded classrooms (1%).

### E. City of Detroit School Reform

Detroit’s school reform efforts continue to draw significant attention. Nearly three-quarters (73%) City of Detroit residents are paying “a lot” (32%) or “some” (41%) attention to the school reform process in the City. Slightly more than one-quarter (26%) of Detroit residents are not paying very much (18%) or no attention at all (8%) to the school reform process in Detroit.

**Q21. How much attention have you been paying to the school reform process in Detroit? A lot, some, not very much, or none at all?**

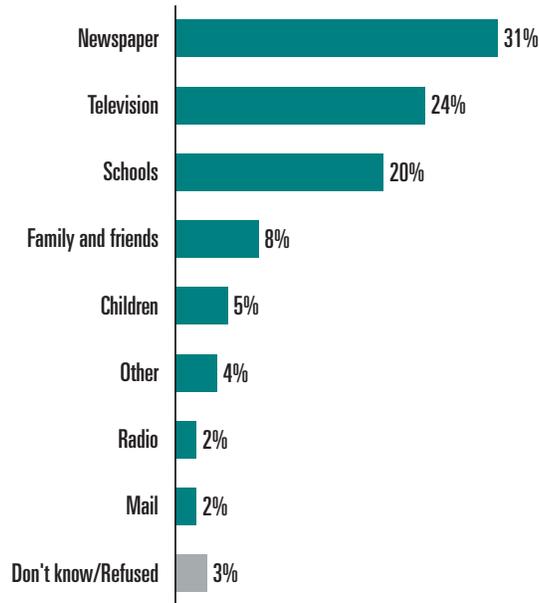
Base: Detroit (N=401)



More than 3 in 10 (31%) Detroit residents get information about the progress of school reform in Detroit from the newspapers. Nearly one-quarter (24%) of City residents get information from television, followed by 2 in 10 who get information regarding the progress of school reform in Detroit through the schools. Family and friends (8%) and children (5%) are also mentioned as sources of information regarding the progress of school reform in Detroit.

**Q21a. Where do you get information about the progress of school reform in Detroit?**

Base: Detroit (N=401)

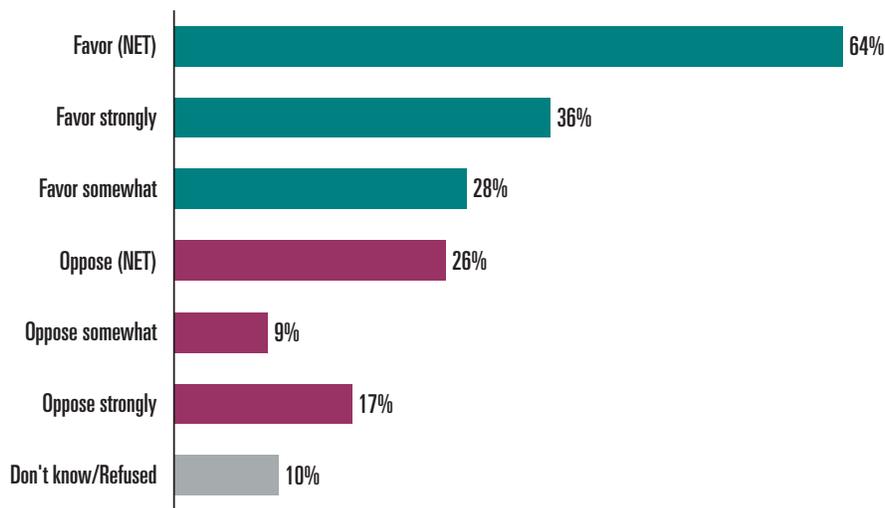


When the school reform process started in Detroit the majority favored the process. Nearly 6 in 10 (57%) favored the process “strongly” (39%) or “somewhat” (18%), while 2 in 10 (22%) opposed the process “strongly” (12%) or “somewhat” (10%).

Currently, nearly two-thirds (64%) of Detroit residents favor the school reform process in the City. Over one-third (36%) favors the process “strongly” and 28% favor the process “somewhat.” Just over one-quarter (26%) of City residents oppose the reform process “strongly” (17%) or “somewhat” (9%). More City residents have an opinion on the school reform process now than back when it started in Detroit, as currently only 10% compared to 16% say they “don’t know” if they are in favor or oppose the process.

**Q23. Now do you favor or oppose school reform process in Detroit?**

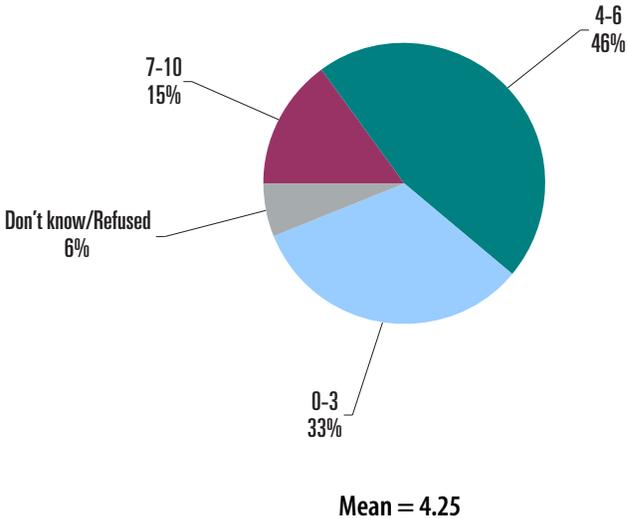
Base: Detroit (N=401)



On a scale of zero to ten, where zero means “not at all effective” and ten means “very effective” the average score for the effectiveness of the school reform process in the City of Detroit is below average. The effectiveness score is 4.45. This score is similar to the effectiveness rating for statewide school reform in Detroit (4.25).

**Q20a. On a scale of zero to ten with 0 being “not at all effective” and 10 being “very effective,” how effective do you think school reform process in the City of Detroit has been?**

Base: Detroit (N=401)



***Best and Worst Aspects of School Reform in Detroit***

Reforming the administrative system and improving the conditions in school buildings and facilities are the two most mentioned best aspects of school reform in Detroit. Three in ten (30%) City residents mention reforming the administrative system and 13% mention improving buildings and facility conditions. Nearly 4 in 10 (38%) Detroit residents could not name the best aspect of school reform in Detroit and another 15% said “nothing” is the best aspect of school reform.

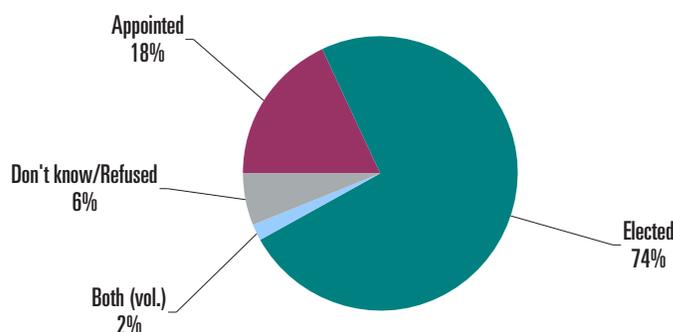
Detroit respondents were asked what has been the worst aspect of school reform in Detroit. Over one-third (36%) said they “don’t know” and another 8% reported no worst aspect. More than 1 in 10 (12%) mention the bureaucracy and political intervention as the worst aspect of school reform. Other negative aspects mentioned include; condition of schools (9%), security and violence (7%), fiscal mismanagement (6%), lack of teachers (5%), lack of attention given to students (5%), worse grades (4%), and lack of parental involvement (3%).

## F. Appointed vs. Elected School Board in Detroit

City of Detroit residents were asked whether an appointed or elected school board is the more effective structure for governing the school district. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of residents prefer the elected school board model. Less than 2 in 10 (18%) think the appointed board is the more effective model for governing the school district.

**Q27. As you may know, school board members are currently appointed and not elected. Which structure do you think is more effective at governing the school district, an appointed or elected school board?**

Base: Detroit (N=401)



Three in ten (31%) Detroit residents think the State Board of Education currently appoints the school board members. Less than 3 in 10 residents think the Governor (28%) or the Mayor (22%) appoints the school board members. Nearly 2 in 10 City residents report they “don’t know” (18%) who appoints the school board members.

Detroit residents were asked if the Mayor appointed everyone on the school board if they would be more or less likely to support the appointed reform board. Opinions are divided with 43% reporting they would be more likely and 46% reporting they would be less likely to support the board appointments. One in ten (10%) say they “don’t know” if they would be more or less likely to support the appointed board.

Detroit residents were also asked if the Governor appointed everyone on the school board, if they would be more or less likely to support the appointed reform board. Over three-quarters (77%) report they would be less likely to support the appointed reform board if the Governor appointed the members. Less than two in ten (17%) report they would be more likely to support the appointed reform board.

## G. Awareness of Specific City of Detroit School Reform Initiatives

Overall awareness of specific City of Detroit school reform initiatives is low.

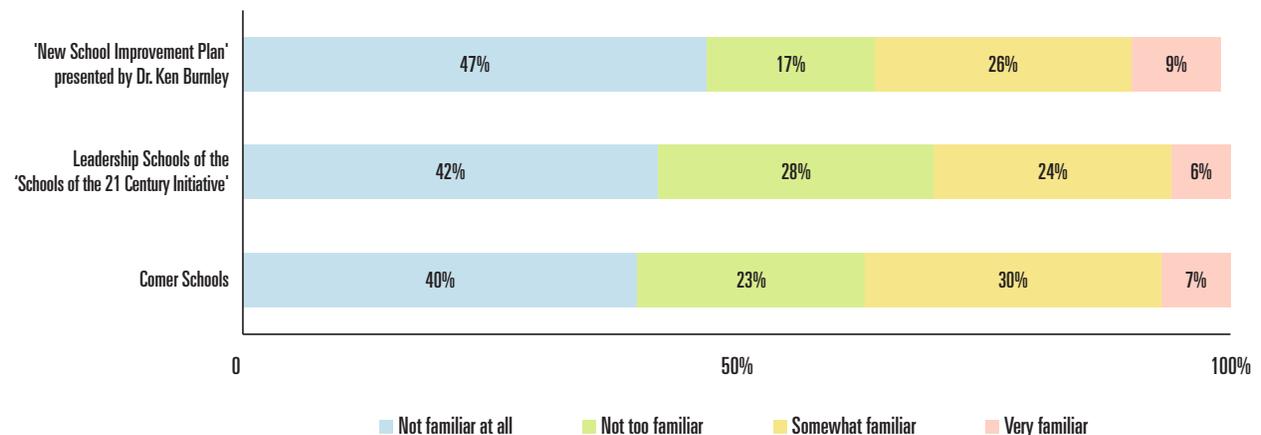
The Leadership Schools of the “Schools of the 21st Century Initiative” is a cluster of schools currently engaged in whole school reform activities with parents and community members as partners. Only three in ten Detroit residents are “very” (6%) or “somewhat” (24%) familiar with the Leadership Schools of the “Schools of the 21st Century Initiative.” Seven in ten are “not too” (28%) or “not familiar at all” (42%) with the Leadership Schools.

Comer Schools in Detroit apply the school development process of collaboration of parents, educators, and the community to improve the social, emotional, and academic outcomes for children. Nearly 4 in 10 City residents are “very” (7%) or “somewhat” (30%) familiar with Comer Schools. More than 6 in 10 Detroit residents are “not too” (23%) or “not familiar at all” (40%) with Comer Schools.

The “New School Improvement Plan” presented by Dr. Ken Burnley has four goals on improving schools and students achievements. More than one-third (35%) City residents are “very” (9%) or “somewhat” (26%) familiar with the plan, but nearly two-thirds (64%) are “not too” (17%) or “not familiar at all” (47%).

### Q35-37. Awareness of City of Detroit School Reform Aspects

Base: Detroit (N=401)



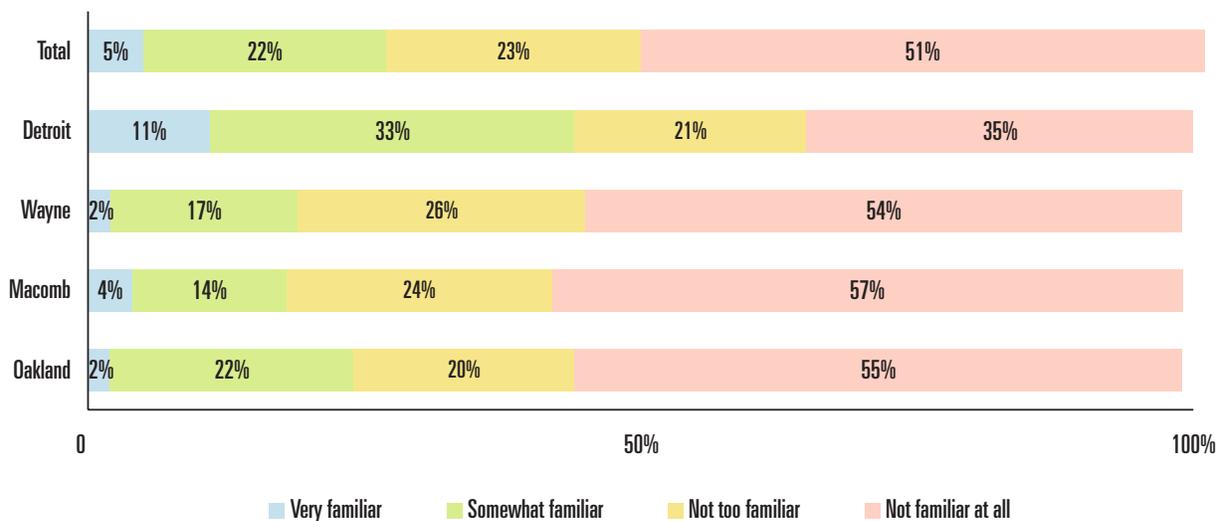
## H. Awareness of Federal School Reform

The majority of Metro Detroit residents are not familiar with the new federal school reform plan, “Leave No Child Behind.” Three-quarters to eight in ten residents in Oakland (75%), Wayne (80%), and Macomb (81%) are “not too or not familiar at all” with the new federal reform. Over half (56%) of City residents are “not too” (21%) or “not familiar at all” (35%) with the reform, while less than half (44%) are “very” (11%) or “somewhat” (33%) familiar. Less than one-quarter of Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne residents are “very or somewhat familiar.”

- Significantly more Detroit residents (11%) report they are very familiar with the new federal school reform called “Leave No Child Behind” compared to Macomb (4%), Oakland (2%), and Wayne (2%) residents.

### Q38. How familiar are you with the new federal school reform called ‘Leave No Child Behind’?

Base: Total (N=1605), Detroit (N=401), Wayne (N=400), Macomb (N=403), Oakland (N=401)



## V. OPINIONS AROUND SCHOOL ALTERNATIVES

### A. Full Service Schools

Full service schools are the most favored alternative to public or private schools out of charter schools, a voucher system, and home school. A clear majority of Metro Detroit residents favor full service schools. Over 9 in 10 (92%) City residents “strongly” (80%) or “somewhat” (12%) favor full service schools, and only 6% oppose.

More than 7 in 10 (72%) Macomb residents “strongly” (42%) or “somewhat” (30%) favor and 26% oppose this alternative to public or private schools. Seven in ten Wayne county residents “strongly” (47%) or “somewhat” (23%) favor full service schools, while one-quarter (26%) oppose the alternative. Over two-thirds (67%) of Oakland residents favor “strongly” (42%) or “somewhat” (25%), while 31% oppose full service schools.

- Significantly more Detroit residents (80%) report they strongly favor full service schools compared to Macomb (42%), Oakland (42%), and Wayne (47%) residents.

### B. Charter Schools

Majority of Metro Detroiters favor charter schools as an alternative to public schools. More than 6 in 10 Wayne (60%), Macomb (64%), and City of Detroit (65%) residents are in favor charter schools, which are run with public money and would allow children to attend schools outside the public school district. Just over half (55%) of Oakland County residents are in favor of charter schools. More than one-third (35%) of Wayne residents, nearly one-third of Macomb (32%) and 3 in 10 (31%) City residents are opposed to charter schools. Four in ten (41%) Oakland residents are opposed to charter schools.

- Significantly more Detroit residents (46%) report they strongly favor charter schools compared to Macomb (29%), Oakland (28%), and Wayne (36%) residents.

The majority of Metro Detroit is in favor of sending children to charter schools. City residents are the most likely to favor sending children charter schools, with 40% “strongly” in favor and 27% “somewhat” in favor. Roughly one-quarter Wayne (27%), Macomb (24%), and Oakland (23%) residents “strongly” favor sending children to charter schools, and over one-third in Wayne (35%), Macomb (35%), and Oakland (37%) “somewhat” favor sending children to charter schools.

Less than one-third in all four areas surveyed is opposed to sending children to charter schools. Roughly one-quarter of City (26%) and Wayne (26%) residents are “strongly” or “somewhat” opposed to sending children to charter schools. Three in ten Macomb residents and 32% Oakland residents are opposed to sending children to charter schools.

- Significantly more Detroit residents (40%) report they strongly favor sending children to charter schools compared to Macomb (24%), Oakland (23%), and Wayne (27%) residents.

Respondents were asked to choose from two descriptions of charter schools and decide which best describes their opinion regarding charter schools. More than half of Metro Detroit chose “charter schools are needed as an alternative to traditional public schools.” Nearly 4 in 10 residents chose “charter schools reduce student enrollment in already existing public schools and therefore takes money away from public schools.”

### C. A Voucher System

The majority of Metro Detroit residents favor a voucher system, which would allow children to attend either a public, private, or religious school. Nearly two-thirds of residents in Detroit (65%), Macomb (64%), and Wayne (66%) favor the voucher system at least somewhat. Slightly more than 3 in 10 (31%) of City and Macomb residents are opposed strongly or somewhat, and just less than 3 in 10 Wayne residents are opposed to the voucher system. Almost 6 in 10 (58%) Oakland residents favor the voucher system, while roughly 4 in 10 oppose the system.

- Significantly more Detroit residents (47%) report they strongly favor a voucher system compared to Oakland (35%) residents.

### D. Private School

Three-quarters or more of Metro Detroit residents favor sending children to private school. Three-quarters of Oakland residents favor “strongly” (38%) or “somewhat” (37%), and less than 2 in 10 oppose sending children to private school. Slightly more Wayne, Macomb, and City of Detroit residents are in favor of sending children to private school, but similarly less than 2 in 10 oppose.

Nearly half (49%) of City residents “strongly” favor sending children to private school, while nearly 3 in 10 (29%) favor somewhat. Similarly, 46% of Wayne and 47% of Macomb residents “strongly” favor sending children to private school. One-third of Wayne and 30% of Macomb residents “somewhat” favor sending children to private school.

- Significantly more Detroit residents (49%) report they strongly favor sending children to private school compared to Oakland (38%) residents.

### E. Home School

Home school is the least favored alternative to public schools out of charter schools, the voucher system, and full service schools. Just over half of Oakland (52%) and Wayne (53%) residents favor home school, which allows children to be educated at home instead of sending them to a public or private school. Opinions in Macomb County are divided as, 48% of residents are in favor of home school and 48% are opposed to this schooling alternative.

City residents are the least likely to favor home schooling. More Detroit residents oppose (56%) home schooling children than favor (40%) this alternative to public or private school.

- Significantly more Detroit residents (42%) report they strongly oppose home schooling compared to Macomb (33%), Oakland (31%), and Wayne (27%) residents.

## VI. OVERALL QUALITY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS

### A. Teachers

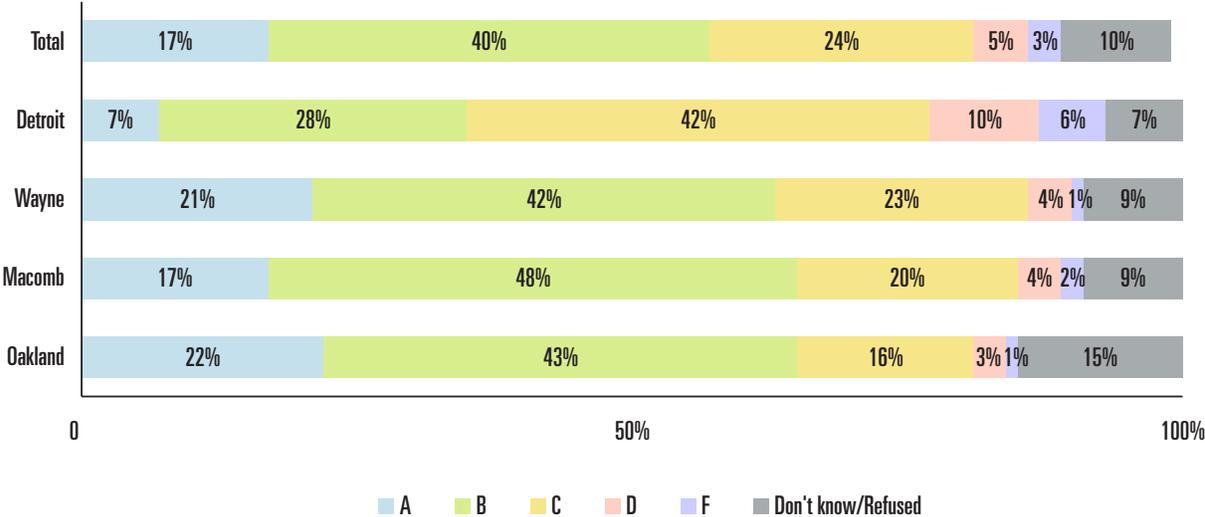
More than 6 in 10 tri-county residents grade the overall quality of public school teachers in their district with an “A” or “B”, while only slightly more than one-third (35%) City of Detroit residents give a grade of “A” or “B”.

Most City of Detroit residents give a grade of “C” or lower when grading the overall quality of public school teachers in the district they live in. More than 4 in 10 (42%) residents give a grade of “C”, 1 in 10 give a grade of “D”, and 6% give an “F.” Far less residents from Wayne (23%), Macomb (20%), and Oakland (16%), give a grade of “C”, followed by only 5% from Wayne, 6% from Macomb, and 4% from Oakland who graded the overall quality of public school teachers in their districts a “D” or an “F.”

- Thirty-five percent of residents from the City of Detroit grade the overall quality of public school teachers in their district with an A or B, while residents from Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland County (63%, 65%, and 65%, respectively) give them an A or B.

**Q47. If you had to grade the overall quality of the public school teachers in the district you live in, would you give them, an A, B, C, D, or F?**

Base: Total (N=1605), Detroit (N=401), Wayne (N=400), Macomb (N=403), Oakland (N=401)



## B. Principals

Similarly, nearly 6 in 10 tri-county residents give a grade of “B” or better when grading the overall quality of principals in the district they live in, compared to only slightly more than one-third (34%) of City of Detroit residents. Over one-third (36%) of City residents grade the quality of principals as a “C”, compared to 22% of Wayne, 23% of Macomb, and 16% of Oakland residents. More than 2 in 10 (22%) of City residents give a failing grade of “D” or “F”, compared to less than 1 in 10 residents in Wayne (9%), Macomb (9%), and Oakland (8%) county.

- Thirty-four percent of residents from the City of Detroit grade the overall quality of the principals in their district with an A or B, while residents from Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland County (58%, 57%, and 59%, respectively) give them a grade of A or B.

**Q48. If you had to grade the overall quality of the principals in the district you live in, would you give them, an A, B, C, D, or F?**

Base: Total (N=1605), Detroit (N=401), Wayne (N=400), Macomb (N=403), Oakland (N=401)



### C. Teachers and Principals Salaries

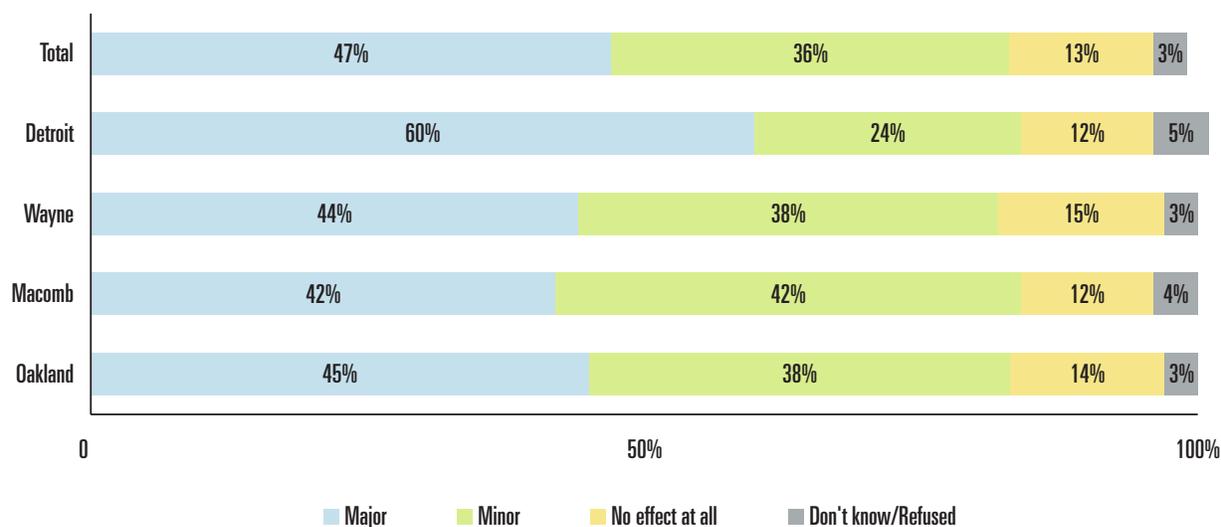
More City of Detroit respondents think the amount public school teachers are paid has a major effect on the quality of education than residents from the tri-county area. Six in ten City residents think the amount teachers are paid has a “major effect” on the quality of education, while almost one-quarter (24%) think teachers pay has a “minor effect”, followed by 12% who think teachers pay has no effect at all.

Tri-county residents are more divided, with over 4 in 10 Wayne (44%), Macomb (42%), and Oakland (45%) residents think teachers pay has a major effect on the quality of education, and 38% of Wayne, 42% of Macomb, and 38% of Oakland residents think teachers pay has a minor effect on the quality of education. Less than 2 in 10 residents across the tri-county area think pay has no effect at all.

- Residents from the City of Detroit (60%) are significantly more likely than residents from Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland County (44%, 42%, and 45% respectively) to think that the amount public school teachers are paid has a major effect on the quality of education.

#### Q50. Do you think the amount public school teachers are paid has a major effect, minor effect, or no effect at all on the quality of education?

Base: Total (N=1605), Detroit (N=401), Wayne (N=400), Macomb (N=403), Oakland (N=401)



When asked about the amount public school principals are paid and the effect it has on the quality of education, most tri-county residents think principals’ pay has a minor effect, while City residents are more divided. Over one-third (36%) Detroit residents think principals pay has a “major effect” on the quality of education, while 38% think the amount of pay has a “minor effect”, followed by two in ten (20%) who think the amount of pay has “no effect at all.”

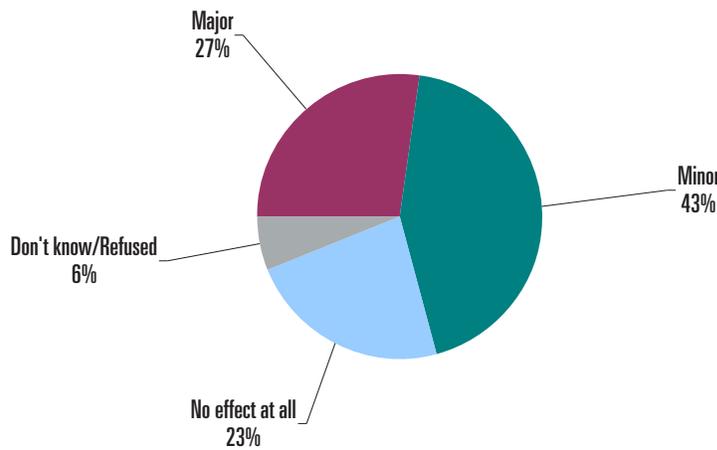
Tri-county residents are more likely to think the amount principals are paid has a minor effect on the quality of education. Nearly half (47%) of Oakland residents think amount of pay has a “minor effect”, about one-quarter (24%) think it has a “major effect”, and 23% think it has “no effect at all”

on the quality of education. Wayne residents are also more likely to think the amount principals are paid has a “minor effect” (43%), 23% think it has a “major effect”, and 27% think it has “no effect at all.” Similarly, Macomb residents are more likely to think principals pay has a “minor effect” (45%), 26% think it has a “major effect”, and 21% think it has “no effect at all.”

- Significantly more residents from the City of Detroit (36%) compared to residents from Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland County (23%, 26%, and 24%, respectively) believe that the amount public school principals are paid has a major effect on the quality of education.

**Q51. Do you think the amount public school principals are paid has a major effect, minor effect, or no effect at all on the quality of education?**

Base: Total (N=1605)



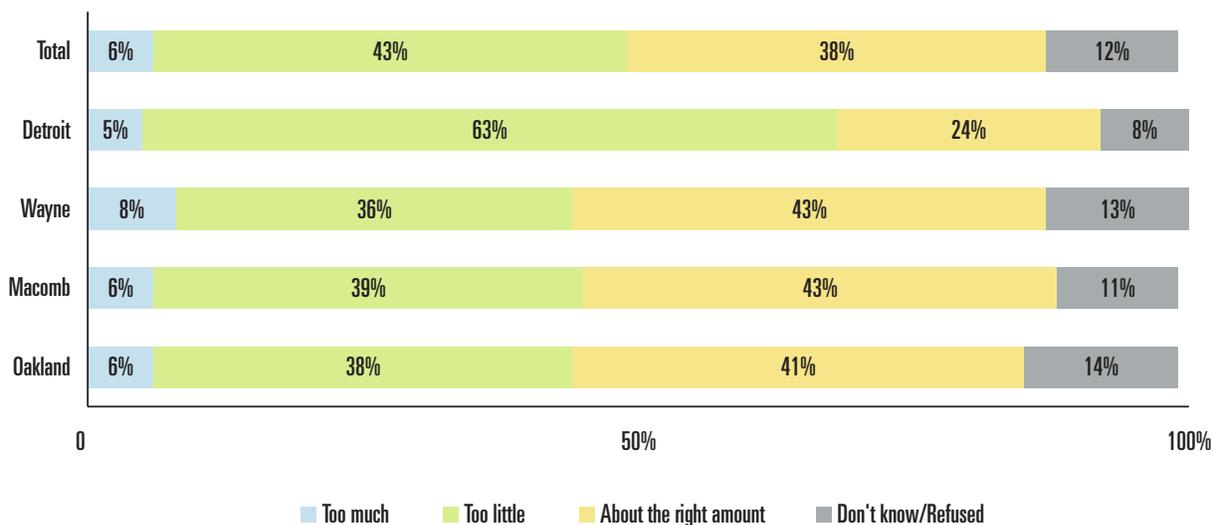
Over 6 in 10 (63%) Detroit residents think public school teachers in their district are paid “too little,” nearly one-quarter (24%) think the amount is about right, and only 5% think teachers are being paid “too much.”

More respondents in Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland think public school teachers in their district are being paid “about the right amount” than in Detroit. More than four in ten residents in Wayne (43%), Macomb (43%), and Oakland (41%) think teachers are being paid “about the right amount.” While, less than 4 in 10 in Wayne (36%), Macomb (39%), and Oakland (38%) think teachers are being paid “too little.” Only 8% in Wayne, 6% in Macomb, and 6% in Oakland think teachers are being paid “too much.”

- More residents in the City of Detroit (63%) than residents in Wayne (36%), Macomb (39%), and Oakland County (38%) think public school teachers in their district are paid too little.

**Q52. Do you think public school *teachers* in your district are paid too much, too little, or about the right amount?**

Base: Total (N=1605), Detroit (N=401), Wayne (N=400), Macomb (N=403), Oakland (N=401)



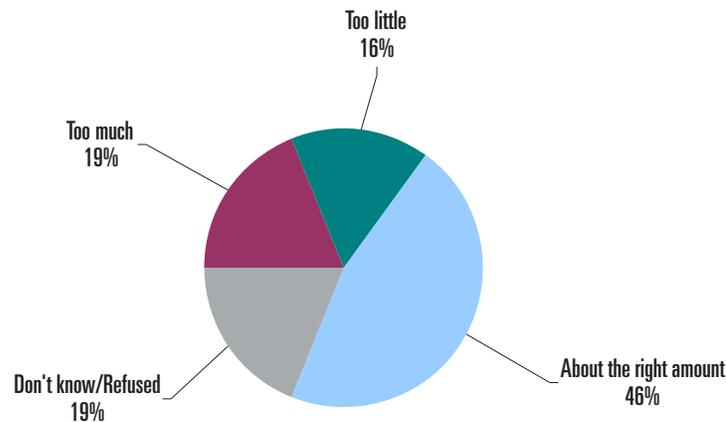
When asked about public school principals salary and whether the amount is too much, too little, or about the right amount, most think principals are being paid about the right amount. One-quarter of Detroit residents report “too much,” one-quarter report “too little,” and over one-third (35%) think principals are being paid about right. Two in ten (20%) Wayne residents think principals are being paid “too much,” 47% think they are being paid “about right,” and 11% think they are being paid “too little.”

Over half (53%) of Macomb residents think principals are being paid about right, 15% think they are being paid too much, and 13% think they are being paid too little. Nearly half (48%) of Oakland residents think principals are being paid about the right amount, 16% say “too much”, and 14% say “too little.”

- More residents in Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland County (47%, 53%, and 48%, respectively) compared to residents in the City of Detroit (35%) believe that school principals in their district are paid about the right amount.

**Q53. Do you think public school principals in your district are paid too much, too little, or about the right amount?**

Base: Total (N=1605)



## D. Certified and Uncertified Teachers

Recent studies have shown there are significant percentages of teachers teaching subject areas they are not certified to teach in. More than 8 in 10 tri-county residents and 9 in 10 City residents believe it is very important that teachers are certified in the subject areas they are teaching.

- Residents of the City of Detroit (91%) are significantly more likely than residents from Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland County (84%, 81%, and 82%, respectively) to think that it is very important that teachers are certified in the subject areas they are teaching.

**Q54. How important to you is it that teachers are certified in the subject areas they are teaching? Very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?**

Base: Total (N=1605)



When asked if having uncertified teachers teaching subject areas they are not trained in is a problem or not in the district they live in, opinions are divided. More than 6 in 10 (63%) Detroiters think uncertified teachers is a “major problem” in the district they live in compared to 37% of Wayne, 41% of Macomb, and 29% of Oakland residents.

Roughly one-quarter (26%) of Detroit residents think uncertified teachers are a “minor problem” in Detroit public schools, compared to over 4 in 10 Wayne (41%), Macomb (41%), and Oakland (46%) residents. Less than 1 in 10 Detroit resident thinks having uncertified teachers teaching subject areas they are not trained in is “not a problem at all” in City public schools. Slightly more tri-county residents think uncertified teachers teaching subject areas they are not trained in is “not a problem at all,” 12% in Wayne, 11% in Macomb, and 15% in Oakland, in their local public schools.

- Significantly more residents in the City of Detroit (63%) than residents in Wayne (37%), Macomb County (41%), and Oakland (29%) believe that having uncertified teachers teaching subject areas they are not trained in is a major problem.

## E. Solutions to Improve the Quality of Teachers

“More training” is the most mentioned solution to improving the quality of teachers. About 2 in 10 City of Detroit (22%), Oakland (21%), Wayne (20%), and Macomb (19%) residents think providing more training for teachers will improve the quality of teachers.

The next most mentioned solution to improving the quality of teachers in all areas surveyed is providing higher pay, Detroit (16%), Oakland (10%), Wayne (14%), and Macomb (13%). Higher qualifications for teachers, teacher evaluations, and more education for teachers are the next most mentioned ways to improve the quality of teachers. Other ways mentioned to improve the quality of teachers include changing the tenure system, smaller class sizes, giving teachers more authority to discipline students, providing better resources and supplies, hiring more teachers, and more parental involvement.

- There were no statically significant differences between residents from the City of Detroit or Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland County with regards of what could be done to improve the quality of teachers.

### Q49. Thinking about your public school district, what do you think can be done to improve the quality of teachers?

	Total (N=1605)	Detroit (N=401)	Wayne (N=400)	Macomb (N=403)	Oakland (N=401)
Higher pay	13%	16%	14%	13%	10%
More training for teachers	21	22	20	19	21
Higher qualifications	10	11	8	10	10
Change in tenure/ merit system	6	5	5	8	7
Hire more teachers	2	4	2	2	1
Smaller class size	6	6	5	8	6
More authority to discipline students	3	1	3	5	3
Teacher evaluation/ testing/education	8	7	10	7	7
Provide better resources/supplies	2	3	2	3	1
Parental involvement	2	4	2	2	2
Other	3	5	2	3	3
Nothing	4	1	5	4	6
Don't know/refused	19	14	21	18	22

## METHODOLOGY

In order to glean information on knowledge, opinions, values, and behaviors of the general public, voters, and children in the Detroit Metropolitan area the Skillman Foundation commissioned the Center for Survey Research and Analysis at the University of Connecticut to conduct a series of surveys on issues concerning children and youth.

This second survey in the *Concerning Kids* series, conducted June 19-July 29, 2002, focused on the quality of public education and the progress of school reform.

A total of 1605 interviews were conducted with residents of the Detroit Metropolitan area and the sample was stratified by four metropolitan areas:

Detroit	N=401
Wayne	N=400
Macomb	N=403
Oakland	N=401

The margin of error is  $\pm 2.5\%$  for the total population and  $\pm 4.5\%$  for each of the metropolitan areas. The margin of error may be greater for smaller sub-groups.

Telephone numbers for this survey were generated through a random-digit-dial telephone methodology to ensure that each possible residential telephone number in the tri-county region had the opportunity to be selected for this survey. Once selected, each telephone number was contacted a minimum of four times to attempt to reach an eligible respondent. Households where a viable contact was made were called additional times. Within each household one adult was randomly selected to complete the interview.

To ensure the survey data was projectable to all adults in the tri-county area, data was weighted to adjust for probabilities of selection, sample design, and to ensure that characteristics of survey respondents match known population estimates for each county.