

FINAL ENGLISH VERSION

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Number of Interviews</i>	<i>Language(s)</i>
Hispanic Registered Voters	1026	English, Spanish

BEGIN INTERVIEW IN EITHER ENGLISH OR SPANISH DEPENDING ON HOW RESPONDENT ANSWERS THE TELEPHONE.

Hello, my name is _____. I am calling from Eastern Research Services, a professional public opinion polling company. We are conducting a brief survey of Hispanic and Latino voters about some important issues dealing with education policy. I assure you that I am not trying to sell you anything and the interview will just take a few minutes. Your responses will be kept confidential.

SCREENS

First, in order to be sure that we have a representative sample, can you please tell me your age?

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|------------|
| 1. Under 18 | TERMINATE | |
| 2. 18 to 34 | CONTINUE | 25% |
| 3. 35 to 49 | CONTINUE | 30% |
| 4. 50 to 64 | CONTINUE | 28% |
| 5. 65 and over | CONTINUE | 17% |
| 9. Refused | TERMINATE | |

Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic or Latino?

- | | | |
|------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1. Yes | CONTINUE | 100% |
| 2. No | TERMINATE | |
| 9. Refused | TERMINATE | |

Are you currently registered to vote?

- | | | |
|------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1. Yes | CONTINUE | 100% |
| 2. No | TERMINATE | |
| 9. Refused | TERMINATE | |

Do you consider yourself to be a Republican, a Democrat or an Independent?

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 1. Republican | CONTINUE | 16% |
| 2. Democrat | CONTINUE | 60% |
| 3. Independent / Other | CONTINUE | 24% |
| 9. Don't know / No answer | TERMINATE | |

Would you prefer to be interviewed in English or in Spanish?

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. English | CONTINUE > ENGLISH VERSION | 61% |
| 2. Spanish | CONTINUE > SPANISH VERSION | 39% |

In what country were you born?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. USA | 54% |
| 2. Puerto Rico | 8% |
| 3. Mexico | 21% |
| 4. Dominican Republic | 3% |
| 5. Cuba | 4% |
| 6. South America | 4% |
| 7. Central America | 4% |
| 8. Other ___ | 2% |
| 9. Refused | 0% |

Do you have any children under the age of 18 currently living at home with you?

- | | |
|------------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 38% |
| 2. No | 62% |
| 9. Refused | |

Do any of your children currently attend a public school or do they attend a private school?

- | | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Public school | 80% |
| 2. Private school | 11% |
| 9. Refused | 9% |

What grades are your children currently attending?

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. _____ | RECORD RESPONSE |
| 99. No answer | |

ISSUES

Now I'd like to ask you about important issues facing the country.

As you probably know, a new president will be elected in November of 2008. What do you think should be the top priority of the next president?

(Ask open ended)

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. _____ | RECORD RESPONSE |
| 99. No answer | |

Which of the following issues are the two most important to you in deciding how to vote for president – education, terrorism, national defense, health care, jobs and the economy, taxes, crime, the environment, the Iraq war, energy and gas prices, immigration or something else?

(Accept top 2 responses)

01. Education	41%
02. Terrorism	12%
03. National defense	8%
04. Health care	26%
05. Jobs and the economy	20%
06. Taxes	4%
07. Crime	2%
08. The environment	4%
09. The Iraq war	26%
10. Energy and gas prices	5%
11. Immigration	16%
12. Something else _____	2%
99. Don't know / No answer	1%

IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AND EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS

How important a priority should improving the quality of public education be to our next president – very important, somewhat important, or not important?

1. Very important	89%
2. Somewhat important	8%
3. Not important	2%
9. Don't know / No answer	1%

Overall, how would you rate the quality of the public education system in the United States – excellent, good, mediocre or poor?

1. Excellent	7%
2. Good	44%
3. Mediocre	34%
4. Poor	14%
9. Don't know / No answer	1%

What do you think is the most important problem for Hispanic and Latino students in the public schools – students not spending enough time in school, a high dropout rate, students not held to high academic expectations, difficulty with English, students not receiving enough support at school, or poor quality of teachers?

1. Students not spending enough time in school	9%
2. A high dropout rate	21%
3. Students not held to high academic expectations	13%
4. Difficulty with English	13%
5. Students not receiving enough support at school	22%
6. Poor quality of teachers	13%
9. Don't know / No answer	9%

Now I'm going to read you a list of problems that impact on the public education of Latino students in the United States. For each one, please tell me whether you think it is a very important problem, a somewhat important problem or not much of a problem.

(RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS)

A high dropout rate.

1. Very important problem	86%
2. Somewhat important problem	9%
3. Not much of a problem	3%
9. Don't know / No answer	2%

Poor teacher quality.

1. Very important problem	61%
2. Somewhat important problem	22%
3. Not much of a problem	14%
9. Don't know / No answer	3%

Inadequate preparation for a college education.

1. Very important problem	80%
2. Somewhat important problem	13%
3. Not much of a problem	5%
9. Don't know / No answer	2%

Poor English-language skills for immigrant students.

1. Very important problem	73%
2. Somewhat important problem	17%
3. Not much of a problem	8%
9. Don't know / No answer	2%

Classes are not difficult enough.

1. Very important problem	43%
2. Somewhat important problem	29%
3. Not much of a problem	23%
9. Don't know / No answer	5%

Students are not held to high academic expectations.

1. Very important problem	69%
2. Somewhat important problem	20%
3. Not much of a problem	7%
9. Don't know / No answer	4%

Lack of parental involvement in their children's education.

1. Very important problem	87%
2. Somewhat important problem	9%
3. Not much of a problem	3%
9. Don't know / No answer	1%

Schools do not provide enough time and support for struggling students.

1. Very important problem	71%
2. Somewhat important problem	16%
3. Not much of a problem	9%
9. Don't know / No answer	4%

Students are not properly motivated by teachers and parents.

1. Very important problem	75%
2. Somewhat important problem	19%
3. Not much of a problem	4%
9. Don't know / No answer	2%

Now I'm going to read you some solutions that have been proposed to help solve some of the problems that impact on the public education of Latino students in the United States. For each one, please tell me if you think it is a very good solution, a somewhat good solution or not a good solution.

(RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS)

Hold students to higher academic expectations.

1. Very good solution	75%
2. Somewhat good solution	19%
3. Not a good solution	4%
9. Don't know / No answer	2%

Increase the difficulty of classes.

1. Very good solution	38%
2. Somewhat good solution	33%
3. Not a good solution	26%
9. Don't know / No answer	3%

Give pay increases to most effective teachers.

1. Very good solution	68%
2. Somewhat good solution	22%
3. Not a good solution	9%
9. Don't know / No answer	1%

Hire teachers with expertise in the subject they will teach.

1. Very good solution	84%
2. Somewhat good solution	12%
3. Not a good solution	2%
9. Don't know / No answer	2%

Increase the amount of time and support students receive in school.

1. Very good solution	75%
2. Somewhat good solution	17%
3. Not a good solution	6%
9. Don't know / No answer	2%

Increase funding for the public schools.

1. Very good solution	77%
2. Somewhat good solution	14%
3. Not a good solution	7%
9. Don't know / No answer	2%

DROPOUT RATE & COLLEGE PREPAREDNESS

(ASK QUESTIONS OF "SCHOOL PARENTS" ONLY)

How worried are you that your children will drop out of school – very worried, somewhat worried or not worried at all?

1. Very worried	40%
2. Somewhat worried	12%
3. Not worried at all	47%
9. Don't know / No answer	1%

(Ask of those who say "very worried" or "somewhat worried")

Who do you think is most responsible for whether or not a student will drop out of school – the student's teachers, the student's parents, the student, the student's friends, the administrators at the student's school or someone else?

1. The student's teachers	7%
2. The student's parents	47%
3. The student	16%
4. The student's friends	11%
5. The administrators at the student's school	5%

6. Someone else _____	9%
9. Don't know / No answer	5%

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

I am now going to read you two different opinions that people have about Latino students. Some people think...

(Rotate statements A and B)

A) that if Latino students in the public schools are held to higher academic expectations – like having to attend more difficult classes – many more would succeed in school.

Other people think...

B) that if Latino students in the public schools are held to higher academic expectations – like having to attend more difficult classes – many more would fail in school.

Which is closer to your opinion?

1. Statement A	59%
2. Statement B	33%
9. Don't know / No answer	8%

TIME IN SCHOOL & STUDENT SUPPORT

Some people think that the length of the school day or the length of the school year should be extended so that students have more time in school. I am going to read you some arguments in favor of increasing the amount of time students spend in school and for each one, please tell me if it is a convincing argument or not.

(ROTATE QUESTIONS)

If students had more time in school, those who are falling behind would have more of an opportunity to catch up and be successful.

1. Convincing argument	63%
2. Not a convincing argument	34%
9. Don't know / No answer	3%

If students had more time in school, they could learn more and be better prepared for college and the workforce.

1. Convincing argument	61%
2. Not a convincing argument	37%
9. Don't know / No answer	2%

Some people think that the length of the school day or the length of the school year should not be extended. I am going to ready you some arguments in opposition to increasing the amount of time students spend in school and for each one, please tell me if it is a convincing argument or not.

(ROTATE QUESTIONS)

Extending the school day or school year would be too expensive and would take money away from non-academic after school programs.

1. Convincing argument	39%
2. Not a convincing argument	57%
9. Don't know / No answer	4%

Students spend enough time in school and they need to have more time to spend with their families.

1. Convincing argument	43%
2. Not a convincing argument	54%
9. Don't know / No answer	3%

QUALITY OF TEACHERS

How would you rate the quality of teachers in the public schools – excellent, good, mediocre, or poor?

1. Excellent	11%
2. Good	54%
3. Mediocre	26%
4. Poor	5%
9. Don't know / No answer	4%

What do you think is the best way to improve teacher quality in the public schools – annual evaluations, higher salaries, or increase their expertise in the subjects they teach?

1. Annual evaluations	29%
2. Higher salaries	24%
3. Increase their expertise in the subjects they teach	43%
9. Don't know / No answer	4%

LANGUAGE BARRIERS

(ASK QUESTIONS OF “SCHOOL PARENTS” ONLY)

When your children began school, how well did they speak English – very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not at all?

1. Very well	65%
2. Somewhat well	15%
3. Not too well	5%
4. Not at all	10%
9. Don't know / No answer	5%

Did your children attend bilingual education classes, English immersion classes or some other type of ESOL program (specify)?

1. Yes, bilingual education classes	26%
2. Yes, English immersion classes	14%
3. Yes, some other type of ESOL program	3%
4. No	51%
9. Don't know / No answer	6%

How would you rate the quality of the English language education program your children attended – excellent, good, mediocre or poor?

1. Excellent	29%
2. Good	59%
3. Mediocre	8%
4. Poor	2%
9. Don't know / No answer	2%

EDUCATION PROGRESS

Do you think that 17 year old Hispanic students have math and reading skills that are – equal to those of 17 year old White Anglo students, equal to those of 15 year old White Anglo students or equal to those of 13 year old White Anglo students?

1. Equal to those of 17 year old White Anglo students	41%
2. Equal to those of 15 year old White Anglo students	24%
3. Equal to those of 13 year old White Anglo students	14%
9. Don't know / No answer	21%

According to a recent study, 17 year old Hispanic students have math and reading skills that are equal to the math and reading skills of 13 year old White Anglo students. How serious of a problem do you think this is for the Hispanic community, is it – very serious, somewhat serious, or not a serious problem?

1. Very serious problem	74%
2. Somewhat serious problem	18%
3. Not a serious problem	5%
9. Don't know / No answer	3%

DEMOGRAPHICS

What is the highest level of education that you have completed – less than high school, high school graduate, some college or technical school, Bachelor’s degree, graduate degree?

1. Less than high school	17%
2. High school graduate	24%
3. Some college / technical school	28%
4. Bachelor’s degree	17%
5. Graduate degree	11%
9. Don’t know / No answer	3%

What is your total annual household income before taxes – is it less than \$25,000, \$25,000 to less than \$50,000, \$50,000 to less than \$75,000, \$75,000 to less than \$100,000 or \$100,000 or more?

1. Less than \$25,000	21%
2. \$25,000 to less than \$50,000	30%
3. \$50,000 to less than \$75,000	17%
4. \$75,000 to less than \$100,000	9%
5. \$100,000 or more	9%
9. Don’t know / No answer	14%

Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a liberal, moderate or conservative?

1. Liberal	27%
2. Moderate	32%
3. Conservative	34%
9. Don’t know / No answer	7%

This concludes our survey. Thank you very much for your participation.

RECORD BUT DO NOT ASK

Gender (BY OBSERVATION)

1. Male	48%
2. Female	52%

REGION

1. NE	19%
2. MW	7%
3. SOUTH	37%
4. WEST	37%