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%
3. 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%
3. 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%

**DROP OUT 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%
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 read 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%
5. 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%
5. 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%
4. 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%
4. 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%