

Tennessee Education Survey

N=602 Registered Voters

Margin of Error = \pm 4.76%

June 3-4, 2019

- An asterisk (*) in a response category means that less than 0.5% of respondents chose that response category and a dash (--) represents no response.
- Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

1. Generally speaking, would you say things here in Tennessee are moving in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

59%	Right direction
31%	Wrong track
9%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
1%	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

2. Which one of the following do you believe is the most important issue facing Tennessee today? **(RANDOMIZED)**

15%	Opioid crisis
13%	Health care
12%	K-12 education
11%	Jobs and the economy
10%	State infrastructure, like roads and bridges
9%	Crime and public safety
9%	Immigration
6%	Government ethics and corruption
3%	Racial inequality
3%	State budget and spending
3%	Agriculture and farming
1%	Taxes
1%	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) (DO NOT READ)
2%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
1%	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

3. Are you a parent or guardian of a child or children currently enrolled in any grade from pre-kindergarten through high school in the state of Tennessee?

- 21% Yes
- 79% No
- DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ) (EXCLUSIVE)
- REFUSED (DO NOT READ) (EXCLUSIVE)

(IF Q3:A, ASKED) (ASKED OF N=129 RESPONDENTS)

4. What grade is your child or children in? If you have multiple children, please tell me each grade level that applies. **(ALLOWED FOR MULTIPLE CHOICE)**

- 11% Preschool
- 8% Kindergarten
- 9% 1st Grade
- 14% 2nd Grade
- 14% 3rd Grade
- 10% 4th Grade
- 6% 5th Grade
- 17% 6th Grade
- 15% 7th Grade
- 11% 8th Grade
- 7% 9th Grade
- 8% 10th Grade
- 16% 11th Grade
- 17% 12th Grade
- DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ) (EXCLUSIVE)
- REFUSED (DO NOT READ) (EXCLUSIVE)

(IF Q3:A, ASKED) (ASKED OF N=129 RESPONDENTS)

5. What type of school does your child or children attend? If you have children in different types of schools, please tell me all that apply. **(ALLOWED FOR MULTIPLE CHOICE) (RANDOMIZED)**

- 82% Public school, run by a school district
- 8% Religious private school
- 4% Homeschool
- 4% Charter school
- 4% Non-Religious private School
- 1% Online school
- 4% OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) (DO NOT READ)
- DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ) (EXCLUSIVE)
- REFUSED (DO NOT READ) (EXCLUSIVE)

6. If it were your decision and you could select any type of school for your child or children, regardless of money or location, what type of school would you select for them to obtain the best education? **(RANDOMIZED)**

- 35% Public school, run by a school district
- 29% Religious private school
- 17% Non-Religious private School
- 8% Charter school
- 8% Homeschool
- 1% Online school

- 1% **DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)**
- * **REFUSED (DO NOT READ)**

7. Many schools are graded using the letters A, B, C, D, or F, with A being the highest and F being the lowest. If you had the chance to grade Tennessee's overall K-12 school system, what grade would you give it?

- 5% A
- 26% B
- 44% C
- 14% D
- 6% F

- 5% **DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)**
- 1% **REFUSED (DO NOT READ)**

8. Generally speaking, would you say K-12 education in Tennessee is moving in the right direction, or is it off on the wrong track?

- 39% Right direction
- 54% Wrong track

- 7% **DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)**
- * **REFUSED (DO NOT READ)**

9. Generally speaking, do you support giving families the flexibility to choose where they send their child or children to school rather than assigning children to schools based on zip code?

- 71% Yes
- 26% No

- 4% **DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)**
- * **REFUSED (DO NOT READ)**

10. In your opinion, what best defines success in K-12 education?

SEE VERBATIM RESPONSES

11. Many people believe a K-12 education should teach essential life skills. How important is it for a K-12 education to teach essential life skills? **(ROTATED)**

96%	TOTAL IMPORTANT
3%	TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT
81%	Very important
15%	Somewhat important
2%	Not very important
1%	Not at all important
1%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
*	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

12. Among the following, please tell me the top three skills that you believe best define “essential life skills.” **(ALLOWED FOR MULTIPLE CHOICE UP TO THREE RESPONSES) (RANDOMIZED)**

67%	Personal finances and financial literacy
58%	Reading, writing, and math at an 8 th grade level
39%	Workforce readiness
36%	Basic home improvement tasks, like using a hammer and nail or fixing a leaky faucet
27%	Securing employment
25%	Enabling students to discover and develop their unique talents
21%	Cooking a meal
4%	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) (DO NOT READ)
*	NONE OF THESE DEFINE ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS (DO NOT READ) (EXCLUSIVE)
--	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ) (EXCLUSIVE)
--	REFUSED (DO NOT READ) (EXCLUSIVE)

13. In your view, what are the biggest obstacles to improving Tennessee’s K-12 system? Among the following, please tell me up to three. **(ALLOWED FOR MULTIPLE CHOICE UP TO THREE RESPONSES) (RANDOMIZED)**

- 45% Lack of parental involvement
- 37% Lack of funding
- 37% Standardized, one-size-fits-all approach
- 32% Overcrowded classrooms
- 27% Bullying
- 17% Lack of character development
- 16% Poor teaching quality
- 15% Student safety
- 14% Teachers unions
- 12% Illegal immigration
- 11% Lack of rigorous academic content
- 11% Lack of unique options for students

- 3% OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) **(DO NOT READ)**

- * THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS FACING K-12 EDUCATION **(DO NOT READ) (EXCLUSIVE)**

- DON'T KNOW **(DO NOT READ) (EXCLUSIVE)**
- REFUSED **(DO NOT READ) (EXCLUSIVE)**

14. Do you support or oppose requiring every student to take and pass a basic civics class about how our government works and who we are as a nation?

(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASKED) And, do you strongly (support/oppose) requiring every student to take and pass a basic civics class or just somewhat (support/oppose) it?

- 88%** **TOTAL SUPPORT**
- 9%** **TOTAL OPPOSE**

- 68% Strongly support
- 20% Somewhat support
- 7% Somewhat oppose
- 2% Strongly oppose

- 2% DON'T KNOW **(DO NOT READ)**
- * REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

Thinking a little about standardized testing...

15. Do you believe Tennessee tests too much, the right amount, or too little (ROTATED)?

40%	Too much
32%	Right amount
15%	Too little
13%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
*	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

16. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of standardized testing?

(IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE, ASKED) And, do you have a very (favorable/unfavorable) opinion of standardized testing or just a somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?

36%	TOTAL FAVORABLE
56%	TOTAL UNFAVORABLE
10%	Very favorable
26%	Somewhat favorable
35%	Somewhat unfavorable
21%	Very unfavorable
7%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
1%	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

17. The following are two statements on standardized testing. Although neither may reflect exactly how you feel, which statement comes closer to what you believe? (ROTATED)

56%	Standardized testing is bad for K-12 education because it eats up valuable classroom time and requires teachers to focus only on preparing their students for tests, not helping them learn, explore their passions, and realize their potential.
41%	Standardized testing is good for K-12 education because it makes sure all students are fairly measured on where they rank in specific subject areas among their peers across the country, while helping identify students falling behind and ensuring they catch up.
*	NEITHER (DO NOT READ) (IF SELECTED, ASKED) Although you said neither, which one statement comes closer to what you believe?
3%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
--	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

Moving on...

18. As you may know, some states have passed open-enrollment education policies. These policies allow students enrolled in public school to transfer to any other public school without a complicated application process. The policy is based on a first come, first served system where schools accept all students who have applied until they no longer have the ability to accommodate them. In general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of open-enrollment education policies?

(IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE, ASKED) And, do you have a very (favorable/unfavorable) opinion of open-enrollment education policies or just a somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?

75% **TOTAL FAVORABLE**
20% **TOTAL UNFAVORABLE**

32% Very favorable
 42% Somewhat favorable
 16% Somewhat unfavorable
 5% Very unfavorable

4% **DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)**
 1% **REFUSED (DO NOT READ)**

19. The following are two statements on open-enrollment education policies. Although neither may reflect exactly how you feel, which statement comes closer to what you believe? **(ROTATED)**

65% Open-enrollment is **good** for a state because it allows families to choose the public school that best meets the needs of their children while keeping funding in the public education system.

30% Open-enrollment is **bad** for a state because it removes badly-needed funding from low-income and low-achieving public schools when students transfer away.

1% **NEITHER (DO NOT READ) (IF SELECTED, ASKED)** Although you said neither, which one statement comes closer to what you believe?

3% **DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)**
 1% **REFUSED (DO NOT READ)**

20. Based on what you know, do you support or oppose Tennessee passing legislation that would allow for open-enrollment for every student here in the state?

(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASKED) And, do you strongly (support/oppose) passing legislation that would allow for open-enrollment for every student here in Tennessee or just somewhat (support/oppose) it?

69%	TOTAL SUPPORT
26%	TOTAL OPPOSE
38%	Strongly support
31%	Somewhat support
14%	Somewhat oppose
12%	Strongly oppose
5%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
*	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

(IF Q20:A-B, ASKED) (ASKED OF N=421 RESPONDENTS)

21. What is the top reason you support open-enrollment in Tennessee?

SEE VERBATIM RESPONSES

(IF Q20:C-D, ASKED) (ASKED OF N=148 RESPONDENTS)

22. What is the top reason you oppose open-enrollment in Tennessee?

SEE VERBATIM RESPONSES

23. Your local elected lawmaker could be asked to vote on legislation on open-enrollment. Would their support to bring open-enrollment to Tennessee make you more likely to vote for them in the next election or less likely to vote for them in the next election?

(IF MORE/LESS, ASKED) And, would that make you much (more/less) likely to vote for your local elected lawmaker or just somewhat (more/less) likely?

60%	TOTAL MORE LIKELY
24%	TOTAL LESS LIKELY
22%	Much more likely
38%	Somewhat more likely
13%	Somewhat less likely
12%	Much less likely
8%	NO IMPACT ON VOTE (DO NOT READ)
6%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
2%	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

Thinking about something else...

24. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Common Core State Standards Initiative that details what K-12 students across the United States should know at the conclusion of each school grade?

(IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE, ASKED) And, do you have a very (favorable/unfavorable) opinion of the Common Core State Standards Initiative or just a somewhat favorable/unfavorable) opinion?

42%	TOTAL FAVORABLE
46%	TOTAL UNFAVORABLE
10%	Very favorable
32%	Somewhat favorable
16%	Somewhat unfavorable
30%	Very unfavorable
11%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
1%	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

25. How much have you seen, read, or heard about the Tennessee Academic Standards? **(ROTATED)**

53%	TOTAL A LOT/SOME
46%	TOTAL NOT MUCH/NOTHING
17%	A lot
36%	Some
27%	Not much
19%	Nothing at all
1%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
--	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

26. Based on what you know, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Tennessee Academic Standards?

(IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE, ASKED) And, do you have a very (favorable/unfavorable) opinion of the Tennessee Academic Standards or just a somewhat favorable/unfavorable) opinion?

46%	TOTAL FAVORABLE
35%	TOTAL UNFAVORABLE
7%	Very favorable
39%	Somewhat favorable
25%	Somewhat unfavorable
11%	Very unfavorable
17%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
1%	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

27. How aware are you that Tennessee pulled out of the Common Core State Standards Initiative and instead introduced the Tennessee Academic Standards? **(ROTATED)**

34%	TOTAL AWARE
65%	TOTAL NOT AWARE
9%	Very aware
25%	Somewhat aware
18%	Not that aware
47%	Not at all aware
1%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
--	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

28. Based on what you know, do you agree or disagree with Tennessee pulling out of the Common Core State Standards Initiative and instead implementing the Tennessee Academic Standards?

(IF AGREE/DISAGREE, ASKED) And, do you strongly (agree/disagree) with Tennessee pulling out of Common Core and implementing its own standards or just somewhat (agree/disagree)?

57%	TOTAL AGREE
25%	TOTAL DISAGREE
31%	Strongly agree
26%	Somewhat agree
14%	Somewhat disagree
11%	Strongly disagree
17%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
1%	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

Moving on...

29. As you may know, school districts currently fund education through local property taxes. Each school district receives different amounts of funding due to different local and county taxes. Some have suggested this education financing system be changed to one where all taxes are paid to the state instead and the state would provide each student the same amount of funding, regardless of where that student lives or attends school. Based on what you know, do you favor or oppose changing the way the state finances education?

(IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASKED) And, do you strongly (favor/oppose) changing the way the state finances education or just somewhat (favor/oppose) this?

58%	TOTAL FAVOR
35%	TOTAL OPPOSE
31%	Strongly favor
27%	Somewhat favor
16%	Somewhat oppose
19%	Strongly oppose
7%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
1%	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)