



Education Reform Now  
Boston Education Poll

February 4-6, 2013  
445 Likely 2013 Voters

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S1. Are you 18 years or older and registered to vote in Massachusetts or will you be 18 years old by October?

	<b>n=445</b>
Yes	100%
No	.
Don't know	.

S2. In November, there will be an election for Mayor and other local offices in Boston. While it is a long way off, how likely is it you will vote in that election?

	<b>n=445</b>
Absolutely certain	68%
Very likely	25%
Possibly	7%
Not very likely	.
Not at all likely	.
Don't Know	.

S3. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat, weak Democrat, strong Republican, weak Republican, or an Independent or unaffiliated voter?

**n=445**

Strong Democrat	51%
Weak Democrat	7%
Strong Republican	4%
Weak Republican	1%
Independent/unaffiliated	35%
Don't know	1%
DEMOCRAT	58%
REPUBLICAN	6%
INDEPENDENT	36%

**[IF "INDEPENDENT" OR "DON'T KNOW" IN S3]**

S4. In general, would you say that you lean more towards the Democrats or Republicans?

**n=160**

Lean Democratic	45%
Lean Republican	21%
Don't Know	34%

**S3CMB. PARTY ID WITH LEANERS**

Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat, weak Democrat, strong Republican, weak Republican, or an Independent or unaffiliated voter?... [IF INDEPENDENT OR DON'T KNOW] In general, would you say that you lean more towards the Democrats or Republicans?

**n=445**

Democrat	75%
Republican	13%
Don't Know	12%

Q1. Do you think things in the City of Boston are generally going in the right direction or are they off on the wrong track?

**n=445**

Right direction	73%
Wrong track	18%
Don't know	9%

Q2. There are many problems facing the City of Boston today. In general, what do you think is the most important problem facing the City of Boston today? **(OPEN END)**

	<b>n=271</b>
Quality of schools	27%
Crime/violence	22%
Economy and jobs	16%
Transportation	6%
High Taxes	6%
Cost of Housing	3%
Environment/climate change	2%
Development	1%
Drugs	1%
Budgets/revenue	1%
Welfare/entitlements	1%
Government/corruption	1%
Infrastructure/decay	1%
Other	4%
Don't know/refused	7%

Q3/Q4CMB. Which of the following issues would you say is the most/second most important thing that local Boston leaders should focus on?

	<b>n=445</b>
Education	47%
The economy and jobs	38%
Crime and public safety	33%
The city budget and spending	17%
Taxes	14%
Transportation	14%
Housing	12%
Healthcare	12%
The environment	5%
Something else	3%
Don't know	2%

Q5. How important is a candidate's positions on K through 12 education when you consider who to support for city offices such as mayor or city council?

**n=445**

Very important	75%
Somewhat important	17%
Not very important	4%
Not at all important	3%
Don't Know	1%
IMPORTANT	92%
NOT IMPORTANT	7%

**FAVORABILITY**

*Now I am going to read some names and for each person or group I'd like you to tell me if you are very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable toward them. If you are unfamiliar with them, just tell me that.*

*Would you say you are very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable towards [INSERT NAME]?*

**Favorability Summary**

	Obama	Menino	Patrick	Charter Schools in Boston	Boston Teachers Union	Boston Public Schools
Very Favorable	57	48	35	33	24	22
Favorable/Unfavorable	78/21	79/20	67/30	70/18	54/28	56/38
Name ID	99	99	97	88	82	94
<b>Net Fav</b>	<b>+57</b>	<b>+59</b>	<b>+37</b>	<b>+52</b>	<b>+26</b>	<b>+18</b>

QF1. Barack Obama

**n=445**

Very favorable	57%
Somewhat favorable	21%
Somewhat unfavorable	9%
Very unfavorable	12%
Don't know/unfamiliar	1%
FAVORABLE	78%
UNFAVORABLE	21%

QF2. Deval Patrick

**n=445**

Very favorable	35%
Somewhat favorable	33%
Somewhat unfavorable	17%
Very unfavorable	14%
Don't know/unfamiliar	2%
FAVORABLE	67%
UNFAVORABLE	30%

QF3. Thomas Menino

**n=445**

Very favorable	48%
Somewhat favorable	31%
Somewhat unfavorable	11%
Very unfavorable	8%
Don't know/unfamiliar	1%
FAVORABLE	79%
UNFAVORABLE	20%

QF4. Boston Teachers Union

**n=445**

Very favorable	24%
Somewhat favorable	30%
Somewhat unfavorable	16%
Very unfavorable	12%
Don't know/unfamiliar	18%
FAVORABLE	54%
UNFAVORABLE	28%

QF5. Boston public schools

**n=445**

Very favorable	22%
Somewhat favorable	34%
Somewhat unfavorable	24%
Very unfavorable	14%
Don't know/unfamiliar	6%
FAVORABLE	56%
UNFAVORABLE	38%

QF6. Charter schools in Boston

**n=445**

Very favorable	33%
Somewhat favorable	37%
Somewhat unfavorable	12%
Very unfavorable	6%
Don't know/unfamiliar	12%
FAVORABLE	70%
UNFAVORABLE	18%

**JOB APPROVAL**

*Now I am going to read some names and for each person or group I'd like you to rate their performance. If you are unfamiliar with them, just tell me that. How would you rate the job [INSERT NAME] is doing as [INSERT JOB]?*

	Menino	Obama	Patrick	Charter Schools in Boston	Boston Public School Teachers	Boston Public Schools
<b>Difference</b>	<b>+48</b>	<b>+38</b>	<b>+16</b>	<b>+28</b>	<b>+19</b>	<b>-12</b>
Total Exc/Good	73	69	57	54	55	41
Excellent	35	30	19	17	15	7
Good	38	38	38	38	40	34
Total Fair/Poor	25	31	41	26	36	53
Fair	18	15	23	21	28	35
Poor	7	16	18	5	8	18
Don't know	1	0	2	20	9	6

J1. Barack Obama is doing as President?

**n=445**

Excellent	30%
Good	38%
Fair	15%
Poor	16%
Don't know/unfamiliar	.
EXCELLENT/GOOD	69%
FAIR/POOR	31%

J2. Deval Patrick is doing as Governor?

**n=445**

Excellent	19%
Good	38%
Fair	23%
Poor	18%
Don't know/unfamiliar	2%
EXCELLENT/GOOD	57%
FAIR/POOR	41%

J3. Thomas Menino is doing as Mayor?

**n=445**

Excellent	35%
Good	38%
Fair	18%
Poor	7%
Don't know/unfamiliar	1%
EXCELLENT/GOOD	73%
FAIR/POOR	25%

J4. Boston public school teachers are doing?

**n=445**

Excellent	15%
Good	40%
Fair	28%
Poor	8%
Don't know/unfamiliar	9%
EXCELLENT/GOOD	55%
FAIR/POOR	36%

J5. Boston Public Schools are doing?

**n=445**

Excellent	7%
Good	34%
Fair	35%
Poor	18%
Don't know/unfamiliar	6%
EXCELLENT/GOOD	41%
FAIR/POOR	53%

J6. Charter Schools in Boston are doing?

**n=445**

Excellent	17%
Good	38%
Fair	21%
Poor	5%
Don't know/unfamiliar	20%
EXCELLENT/GOOD	54%
FAIR/POOR	26%



Q6. How would you rate the job Mayor Thomas Menino is doing handling education?

**n=445**

Excellent	18%
Good	38%
Fair	27%
Poor	13%
Don't know/unfamiliar	4%
EXCELLENT/GOOD	56%
FAIR/POOR	40%

Q7. How would you rate the job Governor Deval Patrick is doing handling education?

**n=445**

Excellent	11%
Good	33%
Fair	30%
Poor	17%
Don't know/unfamiliar	9%
EXCELLENT/GOOD	44%
FAIR/POOR	46%

Q8. How would you rate the job President Barack Obama is doing handling education?

**n=445**

Excellent	18%
Good	36%
Fair	26%
Poor	15%
Don't know/unfamiliar	5%
EXCELLENT/GOOD	54%
FAIR/POOR	41%

Q9. How would you rate the job Boston Teachers Union is doing handling education?

**n=445**

Excellent	9%
Good	31%
Fair	29%
Poor	17%
Don't know/unfamiliar	14%
EXCELLENT/GOOD	40%
FAIR/POOR	46%

Q10. Do you generally think the Boston education system is headed in the right direction or is it on the wrong track?

**n=445**

Right direction	58%
Wrong track	34%
Don't know	8%

Q11. Would you say that, in general, Boston public schools are much better, somewhat better, about the same, somewhat worse, or much worse than public schools in other areas of Massachusetts?

**n=445**

Much better	8%
Somewhat better	24%
About the same	22%
Somewhat worse	26%
Much worse	10%
Don't know	10%
BETTER	33%
WORSE	36%
SAME/DK	32%

Q12. Now thinking specifically about charter schools, from what you know, are the charter schools in Boston, much better, somewhat better, about the same, somewhat worse, or much worse than charter schools in other areas of Massachusetts?

**n=445**

Much better	12%
Somewhat better	22%
About the same	26%
Somewhat worse	4%
Much worse	2%
Don't know	34%
BETTER	34%
WORSE	6%
SAME/DK	60%

Q13. How familiar would you say you are with the differences between Boston Public Schools, public charter schools, and private schools?

**n=445**

Very familiar	28%
Somewhat familiar	45%
Not very familiar	14%
Not at all familiar	11%
Don't know	2%
FAMILIAR	73%
NOT FAMILIAR	26%

Q14. If you had to choose between sending your child to ..., where would you send the child? [IF RESPONDENT SAYS THEY DON'T HAVE A CHILD, ASK THEM TO IMAGINE THEY HAD A CHILD OF SCHOOL AGE]

**n=445**

A Boston public school	30%
A charter school in Boston	53%
Neither	6%
Don't know	10%

Q15. Have you or a close friend or family member ever considered moving out of Boston to send a child to a public school in another community? [IF YES] Is that you, a close friend or family member or both?

**n=445**

Yes, yourself	15%
Yes, close friend or family member	15%
Yes, both	7%
No	61%
Don't know	2%
<b>TOTAL YES</b>	<b>37%</b>

Q16. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose charter schools in general?

**n=445**

Strongly support	36%
Somewhat support	37%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	7%
Don't know	9%
<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>17%</b>

### Ballot Progression

Do you ...charter schools in general?			
	<b>Initial Ballot Q16</b>	<b>After Description Q61</b>	<b>After Messaging Q95a</b>
<b><i>Difference</i></b>	<b><i>+56</i></b>	<b><i>+57</i></b>	<b><i>+65</i></b>
Total Support	73	77	81
Strongly Support	36	41	46
Somewhat Support	37	37	35
Total Oppose	17	20	16
Somewhat Oppose	11	11	8
Strongly Oppose	7	9	8
Don't know	9	3	3

***Some people would describe the following as key characteristics of charter schools. Please tell me if the following makes you much more likely, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely, or much less likely to support charter schools. Does this make you.....to support charter schools?***

<b>Ranked by Much More Likely</b>	<b>Much More Lkly</b>	<b>Smwt More Lkly</b>	<b>Smwt Less Lkly</b>	<b>Much Less Lkly</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>Total More Lkly</b>	<b>Total Less Lkly</b>
<b>n=245</b> Q24. They set high expectations and standards for teachers and students.	54%	32%	6%	4%	3%	86%	11%
<b>n=245</b> Q26. They impose strong rules on student behavior and discipline.	48%	33%	10%	5%	4%	81%	15%
<b>n=200</b> Q18. Freedom to hire, promote, or remove teachers based on performance.	44%	36%	11%	8%	2%	79%	19%
<b>n=200</b> Q19. Longer school days.	38%	34%	17%	6%	5%	72%	24%
<b>n=200</b> Q17. They give preference to neighborhood students.	37%	37%	11%	10%	4%	75%	21%
<b>n=200</b> Q21. Parents and students had the choice to attend.	36%	38%	8%	7%	11%	73%	15%
<b>n=245</b> Q23. Freedom from bureaucracy.	31%	39%	14%	5%	10%	71%	19%
<b>n=245</b> Q22. Longer school year.	29%	38%	16%	12%	5%	67%	28%
<b>n=245</b> Q25. They give preference to high-need students.	27%	38%	13%	10%	13%	65%	22%
<b>n=200</b> Q20. Freedom from union contracts.	25%	30%	20%	17%	8%	55%	37%

***Please tell me how significant a problem you think each of the following is for K through 12 Boston public schools - a very significant, somewhat significant, not very significant, or not at all significant problem. Is this a.....problem in Boston Public Schools?***

<b>Ranked by Very Significant</b>	<b>Very Sig</b>	<b>Smwt Sig</b>	<b>Not Very Sig</b>	<b>Not At All</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>Total Sig</b>	<b>Total Not Sig</b>
<b>n=200</b> Q27. School funding.	62%	23%	5%	5%	5%	85%	10%
<b>n=245</b> Q43. Lack of parental involvement.	60%	25%	5%	3%	7%	85%	7%
<b>n=200</b> Q31. Safety in schools.	59%	29%	6%	2%	4%	88%	9%
<b>n=200</b> Q32. Dropout rates.	56%	31%	5%	2%	6%	87%	7%
<b>n=200</b> Q28. Overcrowding or class size.	54%	31%	5%	4%	7%	85%	8%
<b>n=245</b> Q39. Lack of arts and music programming.	54%	28%	8%	5%	4%	83%	13%
<b>n=245</b> Q44. Bad teachers being allowed to continue to teach.	54%	23%	8%	7%	7%	77%	16%
<b>n=245</b> Q41. How students are assigned to schools.	52%	28%	7%	4%	9%	80%	11%
<b>n=200</b> Q33. Percentage of students going on to college.	50%	34%	7%	4%	5%	84%	10%
<b>n=245</b> Q38. Too many students who do not try.	49%	29%	7%	6%	9%	78%	13%
<b>n=245</b> Q45. Kids not spending enough time in class.	49%	25%	12%	6%	8%	74%	18%
<b>n=200</b> Q35. Low or mediocre standards.	47%	33%	9%	4%	6%	80%	13%
<b>n=245</b> Q42. The busing system for students.	47%	26%	10%	9%	8%	73%	19%
<b>n=245</b> Q46. Teaching to standardized tests.	41%	31%	11%	8%	8%	73%	19%
<b>n=200</b> Q36. Teacher pay based on years of service, not effectiveness.	40%	32%	12%	10%	6%	72%	22%
<b>n=245</b> Q40. Overworked teachers.	40%	32%	12%	10%	5%	72%	22%
<b>n=245</b> Q37. A one size fits all approach.	40%	31%	10%	9%	10%	71%	19%
<b>n=200</b> Q30. Standardized tests.	34%	37%	12%	12%	5%	72%	24%
<b>n=200</b> Q29. The Teachers Union.	30%	34%	14%	14%	8%	64%	28%
<b>n=200</b> Q34. Too much attention on the weakest students.	24%	30%	22%	15%	9%	54%	37%

Q47. Which of the following do you think is the most pressing issue facing Boston's education system?

**Ranked by All**

**n=271**

Budget cuts and lack of funding	18%
Lack of parental involvement	18%
School assignment and busing	11%
Overcrowding and class sizes	7%
Dropout rates	7%
Teacher quality	6%
Schools days are too short	5%
Poor standardized test scores	5%
Low standards	4%
Safety	4%
Percent of students going on to college	4%
Teachers unions	2%
Fighting/bullying (Volunteered)	1%
Not enough teachers (Volunteered)	1%
All of the above (Volunteered)	2%
Other	0%
Don't know/refused	5%

Q48. Which of the following best describes what type of reforms you believe the Boston Public School System needs?

**N=445**

A complete overhaul	24%
Major reforms	45%
Minor reforms	24%
No changes	3%
Don't know	5%
COMPLETE OVERHAUL/MAJOR REFORMS	69%
MINOR REFORMS/NO CHANGES	27%

Q49. Briefly, who is most at fault for the current problems facing the Boston Education System?  
**(OPEN END)**

	<b>n=271</b>
Parents	14%
Mayor Thomas Menino	9%
The School Committee	7%
Unions	7%
State-level elected officials	6%
Society	6%
All of the above	5%
City-level elected officials	4%
Teachers	4%
Governor Deval Patrick	2%
Administrators	2%
Students	2%
School superintendent	2%
Federal government	2%
Local school board	2%
Busing in the 1970's	1%
Democratic Party	1%
Budget/lack of funding	1%
Class size	1%
School taxes	1%
Voters	1%
Lack of communication	1%
Other	4%
Don't know/refused	17%

Q50. Have you heard of school turnaround?

	<b>n=138</b>
Yes	25%
No	72%
Don't know	3%



**[ONLY ASKED OF THOSE WHO HAVE HEARD OF SCHOOL TURNAROUND]**

Q51. What do you understand school turnaround to mean? **(OPEN END)**

**n=35**

Poorly performing schools improving performances	42%
Replacing bad teachers	13%
State takeover of schools	11%
Improving test scores	10%
Improving graduation rates	5%
Other	14%
Don't know/refused	5%

Q52. From what you know, would you describe the way students are currently assigned to K through 12 schools as fair or unfair?

**n=445**

Fair	32%
Unfair	53%
Don't know	15%

Q53. Which should be a higher goal for assigning students to schools?

**n=445**

Allowing students the option to attend schools outside their neighborhood that better meet their needs	52%
Providing students the opportunity to attend their neighborhood school	44%
Don't know	4%

Q54. From what you know, do you believe the current length of the school day in Boston is too short, too long, or about right?

**n=445**

Too short	44%
Too long	2%
About right	48%
Don't Know	6%

Q55. From what you know, is the length of school day in Boston shorter than the national average, longer than the national average or about the same as the national average?

**n=445**

Shorter	16%
Longer	2%
Same	62%
Don't Know	20%

Q56. Have you heard anything about the recent contract negotiations between Boston Public Schools and Boston Teachers Union over the new Teachers Contract?

**n=445**

Yes	28%
No	71%
Don't know	1%

Q57. Given what you know, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the new teachers contract?

**n=445**

Strongly support	10%
Somewhat support	25%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	7%
Don't know	49%
SUPPORT	35%
OPPOSE	16%

**[ONLY AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE HEARD OF THE NEW TEACHER CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS]**

Q57. Given what you know, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the new teachers contract?

	<b>n=125</b>
Strongly support	16%
Somewhat support	40%
Somewhat oppose	17%
Strongly oppose	12%
Don't know	15%
SUPPORT	56%
OPPOSE	29%

Q57A. The new Boston teachers' contract does not allow Boston public schools to extend the school day. Given this, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the new teachers contract?

	<b>n=200</b>
Strongly support	15%
Somewhat support	26%
Somewhat oppose	22%
Strongly oppose	32%
Don't know	4%
SUPPORT	41%
OPPOSE	54%

Q57B. The new Boston teachers' contract does not allow Boston public schools to hire or fire teachers based on their needs. Given this, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the new teachers contract?

	<b>n=245</b>
Strongly support	7%
Somewhat support	19%
Somewhat oppose	27%
Strongly oppose	33%
Don't know	14%
SUPPORT	26%
OPPOSE	60%

***Do you think the following is true of charter schools?***

<b>Ranked by Total Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>DK</b>
<b>n=270</b> Q58. They are public schools.	62%	30%	7%
<b>n=270</b> Q60. They serve all kids, including students with disabilities and English language learners.	53%	31%	16%
<b>n=270</b> Q59. They charge tuition.	22%	64%	14%

***A charter school is an independently operated public school. Charter schools are open to all students and do not charge tuition, nor require admission exams. If there are more students than available seats, they hold public lotteries to see who will attend. They must successfully manage school finances and operations, as well as demonstrate student achievement; if they don't, the schools can be closed. They operate independent of local school districts and local government and are overseen by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.***

Q61. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose charter schools in general?

	<b>n=445</b>
Strongly support	41%
Somewhat support	37%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	9%
Don't know	3%
SUPPORT	77%
OPPOSE	20%

62. In a few words, what is your biggest concern about charter schools?  
**(OPEN END)**

<b>Ranked by All</b>	<b>n=445</b>
Does nothing to improve other public schools	10%
Not enough of them/too hard to get into	8%
Not diverse enough/only certain kids are accepted	8%
Not enough oversight	7%
Level of education provided	7%
Distance students have to travel to attend	3%
Disciplinary issues/too strict	3%
Funding for charter schools	3%
No union	2%
Lottery system/who gets in to charter schools	2%
Only the brightest kids get in	2%
They don't accept special needs kids	2%
They will close	2%
Not enough proof that they work well	1%
Don't like privatization of schools	1%
Racial acceptance rates	1%
Class sizes	1%
Not enough freedom of operation	1%
Public support waning	1%
Not enough good teachers	1%
None/no concerns	22%
Other	4%
Don't know/refused	11%

Q63. From what you know, does President Obama support or oppose expanding charter schools?

	<b>n=445</b>
Support	47%
Oppose	6%
Don't Know	48%

Q64. How familiar would you say you are with the differences between charter schools run by the Boston Public School District, which are also called In-District Charter Schools, and charter schools in Boston that are independent of the Boston Public School District?

**n=445**

Very familiar	8%
Somewhat familiar	23%
Somewhat not familiar	22%
Not at all familiar	46%
Don't know	2%
FAMILIAR	30%
NOT FAMILIAR	67%

***[ASKED OF ALL WHO SAID THEY ARE VERY, SOMEWHAT, OR SOMEWHAT NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN IN-DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOLS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS IN BOSTON THAT ARE INDEPENDENT]***

Q65. In a few words, how would you describe this difference to a friend? **(OPEN END)**

<b>Ranked by All</b>	<b>n=232</b>
One is run by the city/one is not	19%
Differences in the level of education provided	8%
Independent schools make their own rules	6%
One is unionized, one is not	4%
Funding is different	3%
One more selective than the other	3%
Don't like charter schools	3%
Better than public schools	2%
Charter schools are more like private schools	2%
Different staff/teachers	2%
Individual attention given to each student	1%
Not much difference	1%
Longer school hours	1%
Location of the schools	1%
Different levels of discipline	1%
Level of parental involvement	1%
Other	10%
Don't know/refused	33%



## Independent/Commonwealth Charter Schools v. In-District Charter Schools

### *Independent Charter Schools*

Q66. Independent charter schools in Boston differ from In-District Charter Schools. Independent charter schools are independently run and comply to state standards while in-district charter schools are city-run and comply with many of the same regulations as regular public schools. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose independent charter schools in general?

	<b>n=200</b>
Strongly support	29%
Somewhat support	43%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	9%
Don't know	6%
SUPPORT	72%
OPPOSE	22%

### *Commonwealth Charter Schools*

Q67. Commonwealth charter schools in Boston differ from In-District Charter Schools. Commonwealth charter schools are independently run and comply to state standards while in-district charter schools are city-run and comply with many of the same regulations as regular public schools. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose commonwealth charter schools in general?

	<b>n=177</b>
Strongly support	18%
Somewhat support	42%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	8%
Don't know	17%
SUPPORT	60%
OPPOSE	23%

### ***In-district Charter Schools***

Q68. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose in-district charter schools in general?

	<b>n=445</b>
Strongly support	20%
Somewhat support	46%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	10%
Don't know	9%
SUPPORT	66%
OPPOSE	26%

Q69. In general, would you prefer charter schools be...

	<b>n=445</b>
Run by the Boston public school system	17%
Be independent of the Boston public school system	45%
Doesn't matter	33%
Don't Know	4%

## Education Reform

*I am going to read proposals for education reform for Boston k through 12 schools. Please tell me how effective you think each would be at improving education in Boston- very effective, somewhat effective, not very effective, or not at all effective.*

Ranked by Very Effective	Very Effec.	Smwt Effect	Not V. Eff	Not At All	DK	Effec.	Not Effec.
<b>n=200</b> Q74. Make it easier for schools to remove teachers who are not doing a good job.	63%	24%	7%	4%	2%	87%	12%
<b>n=245</b> Q81. Change the way students are assigned to schools so that they attend a neighborhood school.	43%	36%	9%	9%	2%	80%	18%
<b>n=245</b> Q82. Let schools hire whatever teachers they want, not those with more seniority.	41%	31%	12%	11%	5%	72%	23%
<b>n=200</b> Q75. End busing by changing the way students are assigned to schools so that everyone goes to their neighborhood school.	39%	31%	19%	10%	2%	69%	29%
<b>n=200</b> Q76. Raise curriculum or test score standards.	38%	30%	20%	9%	4%	68%	29%
<b>n=245</b> Q79. Hold teachers and administrators accountable for student test scores.	36%	34%	19%	8%	3%	70%	27%
<b>n=200</b> Q72. Lengthen the school day.	33%	32%	17%	15%	3%	66%	32%
<b>n=200</b> Q73. Close underperforming schools and open new high-performing schools.	32%	35%	16%	11%	5%	68%	27%
<b>n=245</b> Q80. Get tougher on the teachers union during contract negotiations.	32%	27%	21%	15%	6%	59%	36%
<b>n=245</b> Q77. Extend the school year.	31%	29%	18%	19%	3%	60%	37%
<b>n=200</b> Q71. Increase the number of independent charter schools.	29%	38%	15%	13%	4%	67%	28%
<b>n=245</b> Q83. Increase the number of charter schools.	29%	32%	16%	16%	7%	62%	31%
<b>n=245</b> Q78. Allow an unlimited number of charter schools.	22%	33%	21%	18%	6%	55%	39%
<b>n=200</b> Q70. Increase the number of charter schools run by the Boston Public Schools.	18%	39%	21%	15%	6%	57%	37%

***Now I am going to read some statements supporters of independent charter schools might make. After I read each one, please tell me if it makes you more or less likely to support increasing the number of independent charter schools in Boston. [INSERT STATEMENT] Does this make you much more likely, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely, much less likely to support charter school expansion in Boston?***

<b>Ranked by Much More Likely</b>	<b>MML</b>	<b>SML</b>	<b>SLL</b>	<b>MLL</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>ML</b>	<b>LL</b>
<b>n=200</b> Q86. Overall, students in charter schools spend 30 percent more time in class than students in city public schools. This helps keeps Boston students out of trouble and provides for more time to focus on their studies.	52%	32%	9%	3%	4%	84%	13%
<b>n=200</b> Q88. It is important that our teachers are held accountable. In the charter school system, teacher hiring and firing is based on performance. Good teachers are encouraged and teachers who fail to perform can be let go.	50%	36%	6%	7%	1%	86%	13%
<b>n=200</b> Q87. Charter schools provide students from low-income communities a chance to escape underperforming schools and the opportunity to succeed in a competitive world.	49%	33%	9%	6%	3%	83%	15%
<b>n=200</b> Q89. Charter schools are often founded by parents and teachers. Parents play an important role in running charter schools.	47%	35%	7%	8%	4%	82%	15%
<b>n=200</b> Q85. Time and time again, charter schools out-perform existing public schools - producing incredible results. In fact, three Boston charter schools perform better than Boston Latin.	45%	33%	11%	6%	6%	78%	17%
<b>n=245</b> Q95. Charter schools are often founded by parents and teachers. Teachers play an important role in running charter schools.	38%	42%	8%	7%	5%	80%	15%
<b>n=245</b> Q93. Charter schools increase local competition, helping to improve the quality of all public schools.	38%	34%	10%	13%	5%	72%	23%
<b>n=245</b> Q90. Charter schools can act as laboratories of innovation identifying best practices that can then be shared with Boston public schools and replicated, helping all Boston students.	36%	41%	12%	8%	4%	76%	20%

***(CONTINUED) Now I am going to read some statements supporters of independent charter schools might make. After I read each one, please tell me if it makes you more or less likely to support increasing the number of independent charter schools in Boston. [INSERT STATEMENT] Does this make you much more likely, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely, much less likely to support charter school expansion in Boston?***

<b>Ranked by Much More Likely</b>	<b>MML</b>	<b>SML</b>	<b>SLL</b>	<b>MLL</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>ML</b>	<b>LL</b>
<b>n=245</b> Q91. Charter schools are held accountable in the truest sense. If they do not perform, they are shut down.	36%	33%	14%	13%	4%	69%	27%
<b>n=200</b> Q84. The quality of Boston schools is important for our children and affects the value of property within our community. Increasing the number of quality charter schools in Boston raises the overall value of our homes.	34%	39%	13%	9%	5%	74%	22%
<b>n=245</b> Q92. Charters give local taxpayers, families, and teachers a say instead of out of touch bureaucrats.	34%	35%	14%	12%	5%	69%	26%
<b>n=245</b> Q94. President Barack Obama supports more high-performing charter schools in Boston and other cities.	23%	44%	11%	12%	10%	67%	23%

Q95A. Given what you just heard, Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose charter schools in general?

**n=311**

Strongly support	46%
Somewhat support	35%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	8%
Don't know	3%
SUPPORT	81%
OPPOSE	16%

Q96. Given what you have just heard, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose increasing the number of independent charter schools in Boston?

**n=445**

Strongly support	39%
Somewhat support	35%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	9%
Don't know	5%
SUPPORT	74%
OPPOSE	21%

Q97. How effective do you think increasing the number of independent charter schools would be at improving education in Boston?

**n=445**

Very effective	36%
Somewhat effective	39%
Not very effective	9%
Not at all effective	12%
Don't Know	4%
EFFECTIVE	75%
NOT EFFECTIVE	21%

## DEMOGRAPHICS

*We're almost finished. These remaining questions are for statistical purposes only.*

D1. Do you generally consider yourself liberal, moderate, or conservative?

**n=445**

Liberal	37%
Moderate	35%
Conservative	20%
Don't know	9%

D2. What is the last grade you had the opportunity to complete?

**n=445**

Grade school	1%
Some high school	2%
High school graduate	19%
Community college/technical school	5%
Some college	19%
College graduate	27%
Graduate school, medical school or law school	25%
Don't know/ refused	2%

D3. What is your ethnic background?

**n=445**

White	59%
Hispanic/Latino	9%
African American	16%
Asian	2%
Other	8%
Don't know	5%

**[ASKED IF RESPONSE TO D3 IS OTHER THAN HISPANIC]**

D4. Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic descent?

**n=416**

Yes	3%
No	93%
Don't know	4%

D5. For statistical purposes only, we need to know your total family income for 2012. Will you please tell me which of the following categories best represents your total family income?

**n=445**

Less than \$20,000	9%
\$20,000 to less than \$35,000	10%
\$35,000 to less than \$60,000	19%
\$60,000 to less than \$100,000	22%
\$100,000 to less than \$125,000	11%
\$125,000 or more	15%
Don't know/refused	15%

D6. Which term applies best to you:

**n=445**

Married	47%
Single and never married	29%
Widowed	8%
Divorced	9%
Not married but living with a partner	4%
Don't know	3%



D7. Do you have children under age 18, children age 18 or older, both, or no children?

**n=445**

Children under 18	19%
Children age 18 or older	33%
Both, children under 18 and over 18	7%
No children	39%
Don't know	3%
TOTAL PARENT	58%
TOTAL CHILD <18	25%
TOTAL CHILD 18+	40%

D8. Do you have any children currently attending a public school not including charter schools?

**n=445**

Yes	12%
No	88%
Don't know	0%

D9. Do you have any children currently attending a private school?

**n=445**

Yes	9%
No	91%
Don't know	0%

D10. Do you have any children currently attending a charter school?

**n=445**

Yes	3%
No	97%
Don't know	0%

D11. Did any of your children attend a Boston area public school, not including charter schools?

**n=445**

Yes	22%
No	78%
Don't know	0%

D12. Did any of your children attend a Boston area private school?

**n=445**

Yes	18%
No	82%
Don't know	0%

D13. Did any of your children attend a Boston area charter school?

**n=445**

Yes	4%
No	95%
Don't know	1%

D14. Did your children attend a:

**n=445**

Charter school run by the Boston Public School District	1%
Charter school independent of the Boston Public School District	2%
No	96%
Don't know	1%

D15. Are you originally from the Boston area?

**n=445**

Yes	63%
No	35%
Don't know	2%

D16. From which source do you get the most information about Boston politics and government?

**n=445**

Television news	31%
Newspapers	29%
The internet	12%
Radio	9%
Groups or organizations	8%
Friends and family	7%
Magazines	0%
Don't know	4%

C4. CODE AGE FROM FILE

**n=445**

18-29	10%
30-44	23%
45-59	30%
60+	37%

C1. CODE GENDER

**n=445**

MALE	45%
FEMALE	55%