

From: Jim Williams, Public Policy Polling

To: Interested parties

Subject: Voters Nationally Support Provisions of Common Core State Standards

Date: 8/17/15

Public Policy Polling's latest survey shows that voters strongly support the goals and provisions of the Common Core State Standards, even as widespread confusion and misinformation reigns over what Common Core is and what it does. Voters also support annual testing, even though they believe standardized testing takes up more time than it actually does.

Here are some key findings from the poll:

- **The development and aims of the Common Core State Standards poll better than kittens (60% favorability) and baseball (63% favorability).**
 - o Fully 90% of voters think that we should raise our nation's academic standards so the U.S. can be more competitive with other countries, - 71% strongly agree with this statement and voters agree across all demographic groups
 - o 82% of voters agree that we should develop academic standards with the input of teachers, school districts, and states, - 65% strongly agree with this statement and voters agree across all demographic groups
 - o 79% of voters agree that we should create a set of high quality academic standards or goals in English and math and let communities develop their own curriculum and strategies, - 52% strongly agree with this statement and voters agree across all demographic groups

- **Despite overwhelming support for the underlying fundamentals and principles of the Common Core State Standards, misinformation campaigns have led to confusion among voters.**
 - o The majority of registered voters think the U.S. Department of Education (43%) or Arne Duncan (8%) wrote the Common Core standards.
 - o Only 4% of voters know that teachers helped develop the Common Core.
 - o Only 14% of voters know that state governors were involved in the development of the Common Core.
 - o Nearly half of voters (49%) incorrectly believe that the Common Core prescribes a specific curriculum for teachers to use in the classroom.

- **A majority of voters support annual testing, even though they believe standardized testing takes up more time than it actually does.**
 - 78% of voters think public school students should be tested once per year in English and math to see if their schools are adequately serving their populations.
 - A majority believe standardized tests take up more time than they actually do, with only 15% correctly stating that standardized testing takes up 0-2% of instructional time per year.
 - The majority of voters believe the federal government should do more to fund public schools in their community.
 - The majority of voters believe that public school teachers are paid too little (57%) and that their community schools receive too little federal funding (51%).

- **A majority of voters think raising taxes on the wealthy (59%) is a better strategy to close state budget gaps than cutting funding for education (19%).**

PPP surveyed 675 registered voters from August 14th – 16th. The margin of error is +/-3.8%. This poll was conducted by automated telephone interviews, and was sponsored by the Center for American Progress.