

**Survey for Alliance for Excellent Education  
June 2010**

**1,000 Likely Voters Nationwide**

	<i>Total (n=1000)</i>
Gender of respondent	
Male .....	48
Female.....	52
Region	
New England .....	6
Middle Atlantic .....	13
East North Central .....	18
West North Central .....	9
South Atlantic.....	19
East South Central .....	6
West South Central .....	8
Mountain .....	8
Pacific .....	15

1. First, are you registered to vote at this address? **[IF NO, ASK FOR A FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS. IF NONE, TERMINATE]**
2. How likely are you to vote in the 2010 elections for Congress and other offices -- are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances about 50-50, are you probably not going to vote, or are you definitely not going to vote?

Almost certain.....	84
Probably.....	16
50-50.....	<b>TERMINATE</b> ..... 0
Probably not.....	<b>TERMINATE</b> ..... 0
Definitely not.....	<b>TERMINATE</b> ..... 0
(Don't know).....	<b>TERMINATE</b> ..... 0

Now I am going to ask you some questions about different types of public schools. For each one please consider everything you know or have heard about public education and tell me how urgent you think it is to improve this kind of school. Here's the first one \_\_\_\_ (read item). Is it extremely urgent, very urgent, somewhat urgent, a little urgent, or not at all urgent to improve \_\_\_\_ (item)?

**RANDOMIZE**

3. Elementary schools
 

Extremely urgent .....	32
Very urgent .....	32
Somewhat urgent .....	19
A little urgent.....	5
Not at all urgent .....	8
(Don't know).....	4
<b>Extremely /very urgent.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Less urgent .....</b>	<b>32</b>

Total  
(n=1000)

4. Middle schools

Extremely urgent .....	33
Very urgent .....	34
Somewhat urgent .....	18
A little urgent.....	4
Not at all urgent .....	7
(Don't know).....	5
<b>Extremely /very urgent.....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Less urgent .....</b>	<b>29</b>

5. High Schools

Extremely urgent .....	42
Very urgent .....	31
Somewhat urgent .....	13
A little urgent.....	3
Not at all urgent .....	6
(Don't know).....	4
<b>Extremely /very urgent.....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Less urgent .....</b>	<b>23</b>

Now I'd like to ask you some questions specifically about high schools...

For each one of the following areas I'd like you to give me a grade for the job they are doing in education -- A for excellent, B, C, D, or F for fail.

**ROTATE**

6. Public high schools nationwide

A .....	4
B .....	23
C .....	42
D .....	13
F.....	8
(Don't know).....	8
(No answer) .....	1

7. Public high schools in your state

A .....	6
B .....	31
C .....	34
D .....	15
F.....	7
(Don't know).....	5
(No answer) .....	1

**ASK LAST:**

8. Your local public high school

A .....	14
B .....	31
C .....	27
D .....	13
F.....	8
(Don't know).....	5
(No answer) .....	1

*Total*  
(n=1000)

**SPLIT SAMPLE A**

9. Do you think a diploma from America's public high schools prepares graduates to get a good-paying job?

Yes, it prepares kids ..... 28  
 No, it doesn't prepare kids ..... 69  
 (Don't know)..... 4

10. What impact does a high drop out rate have on the nation's economy, does it have a lot of impact on the economy, some, a little, not much, or will it make no difference on the economy?

A lot..... 69  
 Some ..... 21  
 A little ..... 3  
 Not much ..... 2  
 No difference ..... 4  
 (Don't know)..... 1

**A lot /some ..... 90**  
**A little /not much ..... 10**

**END SPLIT SAMPLE A****SPLIT SAMPLE B**

11. Do you think a diploma from America's public high schools prepares graduates to succeed in college?

Yes, it prepares kids ..... 45  
 No, it doesn't prepare kids ..... 45  
 (Don't know)..... 11

12. What impact does a high drop out rate have on America's ability to compete in the global economy, does it have a lot of impact on global competition, some, a little, not much, or will it make no difference on America's ability to compete globally?

A lot..... 65  
 Some ..... 25  
 A little ..... 5  
 Not much ..... 3  
 No difference ..... 2  
 (Don't know)..... 1

**A lot /some ..... 89**  
**A little /not much ..... 10**

**END SPLIT SAMPLE B**

*Total*  
(n=1000)

**SPLIT SAMPLE A**

Please tell me if you think each of the following are paying too much attention, not enough attention or the right amount of attention to the state of public high schools in America?

**RANDOMIZE**

## 13. President Obama

Too much.....	8
Not enough .....	49
Right amount .....	31
(Don't know).....	12

## 14. Democrats in Congress

Too much.....	7
Not enough .....	58
Right amount .....	21
(Don't know).....	14

## 15. Republicans in Congress

Too much.....	6
Not enough .....	62
Right amount .....	16
(Don't know).....	15

## 16. Congress

Too much.....	6
Not enough .....	66
Right amount .....	16
(Don't know).....	12

## 17. [T:2005] The Governor in your state

Too much.....	6
Not enough .....	53
Right amount .....	31
(Don't know).....	10

**END SPLIT SAMPLE A**

Total  
(n=1000)

**SPLIT SAMPLE B**

Now let me read you a list of people and institutions. For each one, please tell me how likely you think it is that that person or group of people will get something done on the issue of public education and improving public high schools – very likely, somewhat likely, a little likely, or not likely at all?

**RANDOMIZE**

18. President Obama

Very likely .....	21
Somewhat likely.....	33
A little likely .....	19
Not at all likely.....	26
(Don't know).....	2
<b>Very /somewhat likely .....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Less likely.....</b>	<b>45</b>

19. Democrats in Congress

Very likely .....	12
Somewhat likely.....	34
A little likely .....	23
Not at all likely.....	28
(Don't know).....	4
<b>Very /somewhat likely .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Less likely.....</b>	<b>51</b>

20. Republicans in Congress

Very likely .....	6
Somewhat likely.....	30
A little likely .....	31
Not at all likely.....	28
(Don't know).....	4
<b>Very /somewhat likely .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Less likely.....</b>	<b>59</b>

21. Congress

Very likely .....	5
Somewhat likely.....	33
A little likely .....	32
Not at all likely.....	26
(Don't know).....	4
<b>Very /somewhat likely .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Less likely.....</b>	<b>58</b>

22. The Governor in your state

Very likely .....	11
Somewhat likely.....	34
A little likely .....	23
Not at all likely.....	29
(Don't know).....	3
<b>Very /somewhat likely .....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Less likely.....</b>	<b>52</b>

**END SPLIT SAMPLE B**

Total  
(n=1000)

23. Would you say you have a very favorable opinion of the national education law called No Child Left Behind, a somewhat favorable opinion, somewhat unfavorable or a very unfavorable opinion of No Child Left Behind, or do you not know enough to say?

Very favorable.....	17
Somewhat favorable .....	29
Somewhat unfavorable .....	20
Very unfavorable .....	24
Don't know enough to say .....	10
<b>Favorable</b> .....	<b>47</b>
<b>Unfavorable</b> .....	<b>44</b>

**SPLIT SAMPLE A**

24. When you think of public schools in your community, how would you rate the job No Child Left Behind has done – excellent, good, just fair, poor, or aren't you sure?

Excellent .....	5
Good .....	22
Just fair .....	25
Poor .....	27
Not sure .....	21
<b>Excellent /good</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>Just fair /poor</b> .....	<b>52</b>

**SPLIT SAMPLE B**

25. Thinking specifically about public high schools, do you think that No Child Left Behind has, in general, done more to help improve the quality of public high schools, done more to hurt the quality of public high schools, or has it not made much of a difference either way? [IF HURT/HELP: Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?]

Strongly more to help .....	11
Somewhat more to help.....	21
Somewhat more to hurt .....	12
Strongly more to hurt .....	20
No difference either way.....	28
(Don't know).....	8
<b>More to help</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<b>More to hurt</b> .....	<b>33</b>

**RESUME ASKING ALL**

26. The current federal law that guides how all public schools, including high schools, are run is up for renewal in Congress. This federal law which is known as No Child Left Behind is formally called the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. When Congress considers renewing this law do you think it should entirely replace No Child Left Behind and take a different and new approach to fix schools; keep the main elements of No Child Left Behind and only make modest changes to the law to fix schools; or should Congress leave the law as it is and make no changes?

Entirely replace No Child Left Behind.....	33
Make modest changes to No Child Left Behind .....	46
Leave the law as it is and make no changes.....	11
(Don't know).....	11

*Total*  
(n=1000)

**SPLIT SAMPLE A**

27. How important is it to you personally that Congress changes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, also known as No Child Left Behind, to improve the quality of public high schools: Is it very important to you personally, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all?

Very important .....	52
Somewhat important.....	26
A little important.....	7
Not important at all .....	9
(Don't know).....	6
<b>Important</b> .....	<b>78</b>
<b>Not important</b> .....	<b>16</b>

**SPLIT SAMPLE B**

28. How important is it to you personally that Congress changes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, also known as No Child Left Behind, to improve the quality of public high schools THIS YEAR: Is it very important to you personally, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all?

Very important .....	48
Somewhat important.....	26
A little important.....	10
Not important at all .....	11
(Don't know).....	5
<b>Important</b> .....	<b>74</b>
<b>Not important</b> .....	<b>21</b>

Now let me read some items about high schools and for each one please tell me, if true, how concerned each item makes you – extremely concerned, very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not concerned at all?

**[PROMPT EVERY THIRD ITEM]** Does that make you extremely concerned, very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not concerned at all?

**RANDOMIZE**

29. Each year high school dropouts cost the nation over 319 billion dollars and cost individual communities millions of dollars in lost wages, taxes, and productivity over those students' working lifetimes.

Extremely concerned.....	41
Very concerned .....	38
Somewhat concerned.....	14
A little concerned .....	4
Not at all concerned.....	2
(Don't know).....	1
<b>Extremely /very concerned</b> .....	<b>79</b>
<b>Less concerned</b> .....	<b>20</b>

*Total*  
(n=1000)

**SPLIT SAMPLE A**

30. Thirty percent of students nationwide, and as many as half of African-American and Latino students, fail to graduate from high school with their peers.

Extremely concerned.....	40
Very concerned .....	39
Somewhat concerned.....	14
A little concerned .....	3
Not at all concerned.....	2
(Don't know).....	1
<b>Extremely /very concerned.....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Less concerned .....</b>	<b>20</b>

**SPLIT SAMPLE B**

31. Thirty percent of students fail to graduate from high school with their peers.

Extremely concerned.....	40
Very concerned .....	42
Somewhat concerned.....	13
A little concerned .....	4
Not at all concerned.....	1
(Don't know).....	0
<b>Extremely /very concerned.....</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Less concerned .....</b>	<b>18</b>

**SPLIT SAMPLE A**

32. Almost one half of current high school graduates have earned a diploma but are not ready for college or a career.

Extremely concerned.....	44
Very concerned .....	33
Somewhat concerned.....	15
A little concerned .....	3
Not at all concerned.....	3
(Don't know).....	1
<b>Extremely /very concerned.....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Less concerned .....</b>	<b>21</b>

**SPLIT SAMPLE B**

33. The nation loses more than 3.7 billion dollars a year in costs associated with having to catch up students because in high school they are not learning the skills they need.

Extremely concerned.....	44
Very concerned .....	41
Somewhat concerned.....	10
A little concerned .....	3
Not at all concerned.....	1
(Don't know).....	1
<b>Extremely /very concerned.....</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Less concerned .....</b>	<b>14</b>



Total  
(n=1000)

Now I would like to read you some statements that may describe candidates running for office who are discussing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act -- the federal law that guides how all public schools, including high schools, are run. For each statement, please tell me if you would you be more or less likely to support a candidate who made this statement. [IF MORE OR LESS: Is that much or somewhat]?

**RANDOMIZE**

**[READ PROMPT EVERY THIRD ITEM]:** Would you be more or less likely to support a candidate who.... [IF MORE OR LESS: Is that much or somewhat]?

**SPLIT SAMPLE A**

34. Would support renewing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in a way that gives significant attention to improving the quality of public high schools.

Much more likely.....	39
Somewhat more likely .....	42
Somewhat less likely .....	8
Much less likely .....	6
(Don't know).....	6
<b>More likely .....</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Less likely.....</b>	<b>13</b>

**SPLIT SAMPLE B**

35. Would support renewing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in a way that gives significant attention to improving the quality of public high schools, even if it means increasing taxes.

Much more likely.....	23
Somewhat more likely .....	45
Somewhat less likely .....	14
Much less likely .....	14
(Don't know).....	5
<b>More likely .....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Less likely.....</b>	<b>27</b>

36. Would support moving ahead with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to improve public high schools, even if Congress cannot agree on policy changes for elementary or middle schools.

Much more likely.....	22
Somewhat more likely .....	41
Somewhat less likely .....	16
Much less likely .....	13
(Don't know).....	8
<b>More likely .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Less likely.....</b>	<b>29</b>

**SPLIT SAMPLE A**

37. Says Democrats and Republicans should do everything they can to work together to renew the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Much more likely.....	46
Somewhat more likely .....	31
Somewhat less likely .....	8
Much less likely .....	10
(Don't know).....	5
<b>More likely .....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Less likely.....</b>	<b>18</b>

*Total*  
(n=1000)

**SPLIT SAMPLE B**

38. Says Democrats and Republicans should do everything they can to work together to renew the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, but passage should not be delayed if both sides cannot reach agreement.

Much more likely.....	31
Somewhat more likely .....	35
Somewhat less likely .....	14
Much less likely .....	13
(Don't know).....	8
<b>More likely .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Less likely.....</b>	<b>26</b>

**RESUME ASKING ALL**

39. If Congress takes no action this year to reform education and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, how important will that be in your decision to vote for a current elected official in the 2010 Congressional elections -- will it be one of the most important, very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all?

One of the most important.....	18
Very important .....	35
Somewhat important.....	26
A little important.....	9
Not important at all .....	10
(Don't know).....	2
<b>One of the most /very important .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Less important .....</b>	<b>45</b>

Total  
(n=1000)

**Thank you. The few remaining questions are for statistical purposes only.**

40. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or something else?

**[IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT ASK:]** Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not so strong (Republican/Democrat)?

**[IF INDEPENDENT ASK:]** Would you say that you lean more toward the Republicans or more toward the Democrats?

Strong Democrat .....	22
Not so strong Democrat.....	6
Indep. leans Democrat .....	6
<b>Democrat</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>Independent</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>Republican</b> .....	<b>30</b>
Indep. leans Republican .....	7
Not so strong Republican .....	6
Strong Republican .....	17
(dk/na/other) .....	8

41. Overall, would you say you support the political movement known as the tea party, you oppose the tea party movement, or that you neither support nor oppose it?

Support .....	28
Oppose .....	27
Neither .....	31
(Don't know).....	14

42. What is your age? I am going to read you some age categories. Please stop me when we get to your category:

**READ CATEGORIES:**

18-24 years .....	6
25-29 .....	6
30-34 .....	5
35-39 .....	10
40-44 .....	10
45-49 .....	11
50-54 .....	10
55-59 .....	13
60-64 .....	7
65-69 .....	7
70-74 .....	5
Over 75 .....	9
(Refused) .....	3

*Total*  
(n=1000)

43. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

**[CIRCLE ONE - DO NOT READ]**

1 - 11th grade .....	6
High school graduate.....	22
Non-college post H.S.(e.g. tech) .....	4
Some college (incl. jr. college or associate degree).....	25
College graduate .....	28
Post-graduate school.....	14
(Don't know) .....	1

44. Are you married, unmarried with partner, single, separated, widowed, or divorced?

Married.....	61
Unmarried with partner .....	5
Single.....	16
Separated .....	1
Divorced.....	7
Widowed .....	8
(Don't know) .....	2

45. Do you have any children 18 years of age or younger?

Yes.....	30
No .....	69
(Don't know).....	2

**ASK ONLY IF Q45= 1**

46. What is the age of your youngest child?

0-5 years.....	39
6-12 years.....	33
13-18 years.....	26
(Don't know/refused) .....	2

**ASK ONLY IF Q45 = 1**

47. Do your children attend public school, private school, or parochial or religious school?

Public school.....	69
Private school .....	12
Parochial or religious school.....	4
(Attend more than one type).....	1
(Don't know).....	1
(None – child too young) .....	12

*Total*  
(n=1000)

**RESUME ASKING ALL**

48. What is your occupation?

Professional .....	27
White Collar Managerial .....	5
White Collar Clerical .....	4
Service employee .....	7
Government employee .....	2
Farmer .....	1
Unskilled Blue Collar .....	4
Skilled Blue Collar .....	3
Homemaker .....	7
Other .....	11
Retired .....	23
(Don't know) .....	0
(Refused) .....	6

49. Do you think of yourself as a born again Christian or don't you think of yourself that way?

Born-again/evangelical .....	35
Not born-again .....	49
(Don't know/refused) .....	16

50. How would you describe the area in which you live—do you live in a city with over one million people, in a smaller city, in a suburban area outside a city, in a small town, or in a rural area?

City (1+ million) .....	21
Smaller city .....	22
Suburban area .....	21
Small town .....	20
Rural area .....	14
(Don't know/refused) .....	2

51. Just to make sure we have a representative sample, could you please tell me whether you are from a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking background?

**[IF "NO", ASK:]** What is your race - white, black, Asian, or something else?

White .....	70
Black / African American .....	12
Spanish speaking/Hispanic (Puerto Rican, Mexican, etc.) .....	9
Asian .....	2
Native American .....	1
(Other) .....	2
(Don't know/refused) .....	4

52. What is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

53. And finally, strictly for verification purposes, can I have just your first name?

54. And your phone number to make sure it is correctly marked off of our list?

**That completes our public opinion survey. Thank you very much for your time and cooperation, and have a pleasant (day/evening).**