

NORMINGTON, PETTS & ASSOCIATES
NPA3409 February 2021

FINAL
Illinois

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling from _____, a national public opinion research firm. We are not trying to sell you anything or asking for a donation. We are conducting a survey in Illinois on a number of public issues and your telephone number was selected at random. Are you age 18 or older?

1. Would you say things in Illinois today are generally headed in the RIGHT DIRECTION or would you say things are off on the WRONG TRACK?

RIGHT DIRECTION41%
 WRONG TRACK51
 (DON'T KNOW)7

2. Now, I am going to read you a list of priorities for Illinois. Please tell me how important each one is to you, personally, on a scale of zero to ten where a zero means not a priority at all and ten means it is your top priority. You can choose any number from zero to ten. The first one is:

								TOTAL HIGH (8-10)
[RANDOMIZE]	10	8-9	6-7	5	2-4	0-1	[DK]	
a. Having high quality public schools	50%	26	11	7	3	2	<1	76%
b. Cleaning up corruption in state government.....	53%	23	12	4	6	2	<1	76%
c. Lowering taxes	46%	19	15	8	8	3	1	65%
d. Reforming the state pension systems	29%	20	19	14	8	6	3	49%
e. Balancing the state budget.....	39%	25	19	8	4	3	1	65%
f. Reducing crime	49%	25	13	7	4	2	<1	74%
g. Jobs and economic growth.....	48%	29	15	5	2	1	<1	77%
h. Reducing racial divisions.....	40%	22	14	10	6	6	1	63%
i. Reforming health care	36%	28	15	10	6	4	1	64%

3. Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D and Fail to show the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools were graded the same way. What grade would you give the **[READ ITEM]**? And what about the...?

[DO NOT RANDOMIZE]		A	B	C	D	F	[DK]
a. The public schools in the nation as a whole	4%	17	46	18	9	6	
b. The public schools in Illinois as a whole	4%	21	40	18	12	5	
c. The public schools in your local community.....	17%	34	27	12	7	3	

4. Now I want you to think about Illinois public school teachers and I want you to tell me the ONE WORD or phrase that first comes to mind. **[RECORD VERBATIM. ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE]**

TOTAL POSITIVE.....55%
TOTAL NEGATIVE.....23%

POSITIVE PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS.....36%

Dedicated.....8%
 Hard-working.....4%
 Good.....3%
 Caring.....2%
 Hero.....2%
 Great.....1%
 Trying.....1%
 Helpful.....1%
 Committed.....1%
 Excellent.....1%
 I Like Them.....1%
 Patient.....<1%
 Be Better.....<1%
 Devoted.....<1%
 Qualified.....<1%
 Fantastic.....<1%
 Powerful.....<1%
 Quality.....<1%
 Loyal.....<1%
 Amazing.....<1%
 Professional.....<1%
 Doing Well.....<1%
 Reliable.....<1%
 Nice.....<1%
 Responsible.....<1%
 Wonderful.....<1%
 Important.....<1%
 Brave.....<1%
 Strength.....<1%
 Diligent.....<1%
 Outstanding.....<1%
 Motivated.....<1%
 Conscientious.....<1%
 Kind.....<1%
 Strong.....<1%
 Sacrifice.....<1%
 Adaptive.....<1%
 Tolerant.....<1%
 Tough.....<1%
 Awesome.....<1%
 Knowledgeable.....<1%
 Innovative.....<1%
 Effective.....<1%
 Interesting.....<1%
 Dependable.....<1%
 Angels.....<1%
 Inspiring.....<1%
 Proficient.....<1%
 Better Than They Were.....<1%
 Valuable.....<1%
 Love Their Students.....<1%
 Courageous.....<1%
 Determined.....<1%
 Smart.....<1%
 Necessary.....<1%
 Saints.....<1%
 Special.....<1%
 Selfless.....<1%
 Concerned.....<1%
 Warrior.....<1%
 Leaders.....<1%
 Compassionate.....<1%
 Faithful.....<1%
 Deserving.....<1%
 Gifted.....<1%
 Resilient.....<1%

POSITIVE PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS (CONTINUED)

Competent.....<1%
 Coping.....<1%
 Loyal To Students.....<1%

NEGATIVES.....22%

Lazy.....3%
 Greedy.....2%
 Selfish.....1%
 Entitled.....1%
 Need More Education.....1%
 Incompetent.....1%
 Failing.....1%
 Uncaring.....1%
 Corrupt.....1%
 Horrible.....<1%
 Non Efficient.....<1%
 Terrible.....<1%
 Political.....<1%
 Poor.....<1%
 Complacent.....<1%
 Not Qualified.....<1%
 Worthless.....<1%
 Improvement needed.....<1%
 Fire Them.....<1%
 Liberals.....<1%
 Cowards.....<1%
 Inadequate.....<1%
 Bad.....<1%
 Inept.....<1%
 Broken.....<1%
 Confusing.....<1%
 Communists.....<1%
 Not Concerned.....<1%
 Not Prepared.....<1%
 Sucks.....<1%
 Not Good.....<1%
 Inconsistent.....<1%
 Dumb.....<1%
 Disgrace.....<1%
 Boring.....<1%
 Disinterested.....<1%
 Whining.....<1%
 Burnt Out.....<1%
 Unimaginative.....<1%
 Needy.....<1%
 Stupid.....<1%
 Babies.....<1%
 Ill-equipped.....<1%
 Unorganized.....<1%
 Immature.....<1%
 Unprofessional.....<1%
 Insufficient.....<1%
 Behind.....<1%
 Crazy.....<1%
 Indifferent.....<1%
 Biased.....<1%
 Scared.....<1%
 Misguided.....<1%
 Helpless.....<1%
 Afraid.....<1%
 Lame.....<1%
 Not sensitive.....<1%
 Disarray.....<1%
 Useless.....<1%
 Sellout.....<1%
 Disappointed.....<1%
 Sad.....<1%
 Self-centered.....<1%
 Basic.....<1%

NEGATIVES (CONTINUED)

Belligerent.....<1%
 Unprepared.....<1%
 Confrontational.....<1%
 Unstable.....<1%
 Ridiculous.....<1%
 Unbalanced.....<1%
 Trapped.....<1%
 Impossible.....<1%
 Joke.....<1%
 Pompous.....<1%

PAY.....10%
 Underpaid.....10%

OVER-WORKED/

UNDER-FUNDED.....6%

Over-worked.....2%
 Overwhelmed.....1%
 Under Funded.....1%
 Stressed.....<1%
 Need Help.....<1%
 Support.....<1%
 Tired.....<1%
 Struggling.....<1%
 Busy.....<1%
 Over-burdened.....<1%
 Not Supported.....<1%
 It's A Hard Job.....<1%
 Held Back.....<1%
 Screwed.....<1%

UNION/CONTRACT

ISSUES.....4%
 Union.....3%
 Strikes.....<1%
 Pensions.....<1%
 Protests.....<1%

NEUTRAL.....3%
 Average.....1%
 Okay.....1%
 Fair/Alright.....1%
 Some Good Some Bad.....<1%
 Adequate.....<1%
 Decent.....<1%
 Satisfactory.....<1%
 Under Utilized.....<1%
 Teachers.....<1%

NOT APPRECIATED

ENOUGH.....3%
 Under-appreciated.....2%
 Under-valued.....1%
 Thank you.....<1%
 Misunderstood.....<1%
 Divided.....<1%
 Under Rated.....<1%
 Forgotten.....<1%
 Under supplied.....<1%
 Disrespected.....<1%

OVERPAID.....2%

Over Paid.....1%
 Teachers Worry More.....1%
 About Their Pay Than Their Students.....<1%
 Spoiled.....<1%
 Never satisfied.....<1%
 Paycheck.....<1%
 Have it made.....<1%
 Comfortable.....<1%
 Over indulged.....<1%
 Compensated well.....<1%

NOT ENOUGH

TEACHERS.....<1%

Class Size.....<1%
 Need More Teachers.....<1%
 Need quality teachers.....<1%
 Endangered.....<1%

OTHER.....8%

Not in school.....<1%
 Vaccine.....<1%
 Education.....<1%
 Complex.....<1%
 Overhaul.....<1%
 Cautious.....<1%
 Relative Is Teacher.....<1%
 Technology.....<1%
 Temperament.....<1%
 Generation gap.....<1%
 Young.....<1%
 Chalkboards.....<1%
 Lucky to have job.....<1%
 No Kids In School.....<1%
 Protection.....<1%
 Mixed emotions.....<1%
 Diverse.....<1%
 Safety.....<1%
 Other.....5%

Don't know.....5%

5. Using our grades of A, B, C, D and Fail again, how would you grade Illinois public schools on **[READ ITEM]**? And what about...?

[DO NOT RANDOMIZE]

	A	B	C	D	F	[DK]
a. Preparing students with the skills they need to succeed after graduating	6%	22	39	17	12	3
b. Meeting the social and emotional needs of students	6%	21	34	21	13	5
c. Attracting and retaining the best educators	5%	22	38	18	12	4

6. People have different ideas about what Illinois schools should be preparing kids for. I am going to read some ideas about things Illinois schools could be preparing kids for and I want you to tell me how important each one is to you, personally, on a scale of zero to ten where a zero means not a priority at all and ten means it is your top priority. You can choose any number from zero to ten.

								TOTAL HIGH (8-10)	
[RANDOMIZE]		10	8-9	6-7	5	2-4	0-1	[DK]	
a.	To get a job after high school graduation	42%	27	18	7	4	2	1	69%
b.	To get into and succeed in college.....	31%	32	20	9	5	3	1	63%
c.	To have the basics of a skilled trade	34%	33	20	6	5	2	<1	67%
d.	Having good morals and good character	52%	23	13	5	4	2	<1	75%
e.	To be a critical thinker	45%	31	14	5	3	1	<1	76%
f.	To work together in groups and teams.....	27%	36	23	8	4	2	<1	63%
g.	To have life skills like cooking, personal finance and nutrition.....	43%	27	16	7	5	2	<1	71%

7. Do you think funding for public schools in Illinois should increase, decrease or stay about the same?

INCREASE	64%
DECREASE	9
STAY THE SAME	25
(DON'T KNOW)	2

8. Do you think that public school teachers in your community are paid too little, too much or about right?

TOO LITTLE	51%
TOO MUCH	12
ABOUT RIGHT	33
(DON'T KNOW)	4

9. Please say how much you agree or disagree with each statement. **[READ ITEM]** Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree?

		STRG AGREE	SMWT AGREE	SMWT DIS	STRG DIS	[DK]	TOTL AGREE	TOTL DIS
[RANDOMIZE]								
a.	If we paid teachers in Illinois higher salaries, we would attract better quality teachers	44%	32	15	8	1	76%	23%
b.	I support the new law that sets the minimum teacher salary in Illinois at \$40,000 per year	36%	33	13	15	3	70%	28%

10. As you may know, teachers in Illinois do not pay into and therefore do not collect Social Security when they retire. Do you think that Illinois teachers should receive their full pension, see their pensions cut some or see their pensions eliminated?

FULL PENSION	73%
CUT SOME	16
ELIMINATED	6
(DON'T KNOW)	5

11. As you may know, public schools in Illinois have support staff in classrooms called paraprofessionals. These paraprofessionals work with physically, behaviorally and developmentally challenged students. During the coronavirus pandemic they also made sure these students got meals, had access to technology, and delivered work packets to students' homes. They get paid an average of \$10 per hour. Do you think that paraprofessionals in your community are paid too little, too much or about right?

TOO LITTLE76%
 TOO MUCH4
 ABOUT RIGHT18
 (DON'T KNOW)2

12. Who do you believe is best equipped to determine the education standards for children at your local public school?
[RANDOMIZE]

TEACHERS32%
 YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT26
 YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS..19
 THE STATE GOVERNMENT10
 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT8
 (DON'T KNOW)4

13. Please say how important it is for each of these groups to have a strong voice in how public schools in Illinois are run. **[READ ITEM]** Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important or not important at all for them to have a strong voice in how public schools in Illinois are run?

	VERY IMP	SMWT IMP	NOT VERY	NOT AT ALL	[DK]	TOTL IMPT
a. Parents.....	61%	32	4	2	1	93%
b. Students.....	43%	39	10	7	1	82%
c. Administrators.....	42%	46	10	2	1	87%
d. Teachers.....	73%	23	2	2	<1	96%
e. The school board.....	39%	49	8	3	1	88%
f. Politicians.....	10%	22	31	36	1	32%

14. Thinking now about responding to the coronavirus and the public schools in Illinois, who do you trust the most when it comes to responding to the coronavirus in schools? **[RANDOMIZE]**

TEACHERS27%
 PARENTS24
 YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS..22
 YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD14
 POLITICIANS5
 STUDENTS2
 (DON'T KNOW)7

15. Thinking about the public schools in Illinois, what about the coronavirus has had the biggest impact on students?
Try to be specific. **[RECORD VERBATIM. ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE]**

VIRTUAL LEARNING**CHALLENGES44%**

Virtual learning/.....11%
remote learning
Not as good as in.....11%
person learning
Keeping them out of school9%
Not being in class5%
Not good to do remotely3%
Distance learning3%
No structured environment2%
School at home is harder.....2%
Not paying attention.....1%
Inconsistent schedule1%
Students need visual help1%

NO SOCIALIZATION29%

No socialization16%
No interaction6%
Isolation5%
Staying at home always.....3%
No communication.....2%

QUALITY OF EDUCATION12%

Not learning8%
Not being taught1%
Level of unpreparedness1%
Education curriculum1%
Lost a whole year of school1%
Interrupted education.....<1%
Don't have to learn to.....<1%
advance in grades
Grades dropping.....<1%

EFFECTS ON MENTAL**HEALTH7%**

Mental health6%
Being scared/scary1%

HEALTH/SAFETY7%

The virus2%
Safety2%
Masks2%
Social distancing.....1%
Public gatherings risk lives1%
Vaccinations/Vaccinated<1%
Testing for virus<1%
Sanitation.....<1%
Hygiene<1%
Ventilation.....<1%

RESOURCES4%

Lack of technology/.....3%
virtual access
Lack of resources1%
No school provided meals<1%
Lack of funding<1%

SCHOOLS CLOSED3%

Teachers refusing to.....1%
go to work
Forced to shut down1%
Everyone wants to go1%
back to school

PARENT IMPACT2%

Parents not paying.....1%
attention to what
needs to be done
Parents have to stay home.....<1%
Parent participation.....<1%
Leave up to parents.....<1%
for students to attend

EXTRACURRICULARS1%

No sports1%

OTHER7%

Government handling/1%
politicians
General impact1%
Absentees/Attendance1%
Restrictions.....<1%
The media.....<1%
Higher expectations.....<1%
for students
Rely on each other and<1%
the teachers more
Devastating.....<1%
Classroom size<1%
Don't try to play catch up<1%
No problem in rich areas<1%
Everything.....<1%
Other.....2%

Don't know5%

16. And as schools begin to come back as the pandemic gets under control, what will be the most important thing for Illinois public schools to address? Try to be specific. **[RECORD VERBATIM. ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE]**

HEALTH/SAFETY43%
 Safety23%
 Social distancing.....6%
 Health5%
 Wearing masks4%
 Sanitation.....4%
 Vaccinations4%
 Follow procedures3%
 Hygiene2%
 The virus itself/COVID2%
 Eliminate the virus1%
 Ventilation1%
 Testing for virus1%
 Restrictions<1%
 More medical staff<1%
 Washing hands<1%
 Scientific guidance.....<1%
 Equipment<1%

GET STUDENTS

CAUGHT UP21%
 Catch students up from11%
 missed year
 Loss of what they5%
 would have learned
 Amount of student progress3%
 Getting up to speed3%
 Longer year<1%
 Extended time on lessons<1%
 Grades dropping/Back up<1%
 Two years for catching up<1%

ADJUSTING TO BEING11%
TOGETHER
 Adjusting back to classrooms ..5%
 Socialization with3%
 others again
 Evaluate effect on students2%
 Respect everyone's1%
 level of comfort
 In class face to face<1%
 teaching

QUALITY OF EDUCATION8%
 Education for students6%
 Curriculum1%
 Class size1%
 Attention/Focus on students ..<1%
 Improvement in teaching<1%
 Structure for students<1%
 Prepare children to<1%
 get a job

JUST GETTING BACK7%
 Need to go back to school4%
 Back to the way it was prior3%

MENTAL HEALTH6%
 Mental health/well-being6%

RESOURCES2%
 Equality for all students1%
 Funding for all areas.....<1%
 Lack of technology/.....<1%
 resources
 School provided meals<1%

EXTRACURRICULARS1%
 Athletics/Sports.....1%

TEACHER CONCERNS.....<1%
 Unions<1%
 Teachers paid but not.....<1%
 working
 Renew teacher's contracts<1%
 More staff.....<1%

OTHER5%
 Attendance1%
 Government out of schools....<1%
 Communication.....<1%
 Children first<1%
 Prayer in school.....<1%
 Other.....3%

Don't know6%

17. Thinking about public school teachers in Illinois over the last year or so during the pandemic, do you think that teaching during the coronavirus pandemic has been much easier, somewhat easier, somewhat harder, or much harder for teachers?

MUCH EASIER8%
 SOMEWHAT EASIER11
 SOMEWHAT HARDER24
 MUCH HARDER55
 (DON'T KNOW)2

TOTAL EASIER.....19%
 TOTAL HARDER.....79%

18. As you may know, public schools in Illinois have had a teacher shortage for several years. Recent surveys suggest that as many as one in four teachers, school psychologists and paraprofessionals in Illinois are now thinking about leaving the profession permanently because the pandemic has made everything more difficult. Had you or had you not heard that about teachers and other public school employees leaving permanently before now?

YES43%
 NO57
 (DON'T KNOW)1

19. If that happens, that one in four teachers, school psychologists and paraprofessionals leave the profession, there are many potential outcomes. For each one, say how worried that outcome makes you—very worried, somewhat worried, not very worried, or not worried at all.

[RANDOMIZE]	VERY WORR	SMWT WORR	NOT VERY	NOT AT ALL	[DK]	TOTAL WORR
a. Classrooms will get more crowded.....	48%	31	13	7	1	79%
b. Taxes will go up because school districts will have to pay everyone more to keep them	40%	33	15	11	2	73%
c. Students will end up performing worse	60%	28	5	5	1	88%
d. Standards will have to be lowered to allow people into the profession	55%	28	9	6	1	83%
e. There will be a push to more online learning	37%	37	15	10	1	74%

20. As you may know during the coronavirus pandemic, the Illinois Education Association and the Illinois Federation of Teachers asked the Illinois legislature in Springfield to work on five things to keep communities safe. Those five things were:

- 1) Establish clear metrics, so districts know when to switch to remote learning to keep students and staff safe;
- 2) Enforce guidance and requirements put forth by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education, and heed the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control;
- 3) Provide rapid COVID-19 testing in schools so infected students and staff can be identified before they spread the virus;
- 4) Urge the prioritization of education workers in the vaccine schedule; and
- 5) If the Federal CARES Act is not renewed, the state needs to step in, so education workers are not forced to work while ill.

Having heard about that, do you STRONGLY FAVOR, SOMEWHAT FAVOR, SOMEWHAT OPPOSE, or STRONGLY OPPOSE those ideas?

STRONGLY FAVOR	43%
SOMEWHAT FAVOR	36
SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	10
STRONGLY OPPOSE	7
(DON'T KNOW)	5
TOTAL FAVOR	79%
TOTAL OPPOSE	17%

[READ]: Now I'd like to ask a few questions for statistical purposes only.

100. SEX (OBSERVATION: DO NOT ASK)

MALE	49%
FEMALE	51

101. What is your age? (RECORD IN PROPER CATEGORY) (READ CODES IF NECESSARY)

18-29	19%
30-34	10
35-39	9
40-44	7
45-49	8
50-54	8
55-59	9
60-64	7
65-69	7
70+	13
(REFUSED)	2

102. What is the last grade you completed in school?

SOME GRADE SCHOOL (1-8)<1%
 SOME HIGH SCHOOL (9-11)3
 GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL22
 TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL3
 SOME COLLEGE BUT NO DEGREE21
 ASSOCIATES DEGREE14
 BACHELORS DEGREE22
 GRADUATE SCHOOL/PROFESSIONAL13
 (DON'T KNOW/REFUSED).....2

103. Do you now, or have you ever had, a child living at home with you?

YES59%
 NO40
 (DON'T KNOW/REFUSED).....2

104. [IF Q103=1] Which of the following is true for you [READ ITEM]?

[DO NOT RANDOMIZE]

	YES	NO	[DK]
a. I currently have a child who attends a public school.....	21%	37	<1
b. I had a child who attended public school.....	43%	15	0
c. I currently have a child who attends a charter school.....	3%	55	<1
d. I had a child who attended charter school.....	6%	53	<1
e. I currently have a child who attends a private or parochial school.....	5%	53	<1
f. I had a child who attended private or parochial school.....	11%	47	<1

105. Have you, or anyone in your household, now or at some time in the past, worked in the Illinois PUBLIC schools, K-12, as a teacher, principal or in another school job?

YES25%
 NO74
 (DON'T KNOW/REFUSED).....1

106. Are you registered to vote in Illinois?

YES88%
 NO10
 DON'T KNOW1

107. Even if you are not registered to vote, do you generally think of yourself – as a [RANDOMIZE] DEMOCRAT, an INDEPENDENT or a REPUBLICAN?

STRONG DEMOCRAT28%
 WEAK DEMOCRAT14
 IND/LEAN DEMOCRAT15
 INDEPENDENT5
 IND/LEAN REPUBLICAN11
 WEAK REPUBLICAN8
 STRONG REPUBLICAN14
 (DON'T KNOW)6

TOTAL WITH LEANS

DEMOCRAT57%
 INDEPENDENT11%
 REPUBLICAN33%

TOTAL WITHOUT LEANS

DEMOCRAT42%
 INDEPENDENT37%
 REPUBLICAN22%

110. To make sure we have a representative sample, could you please tell me your race? **[IF NECESSARY]** Well, most people consider themselves BLACK, WHITE, HISPANIC or ASIAN-AMERICAN.

BLACK	14%
WHITE	61
HISPANIC	15
ASIAN-AMERICAN	6
(OTHER)	2
(DON'T KNOW/REFUSED).....	2

112. Last question. Just for statistical purposes, in which of the following categories is your total household income? Just stop me when I read the right one.

LESS THAN \$15,000	9%
\$15,000 – 34,999	13
\$35,000 – 49,999	13
\$50,000 – 74,999	16
\$75,000 – 99,999	15
\$100,000-\$150,000	12
MORE THAN \$150,000	9
(DON'T KNOW/REFUSED).....	12

Thank you for taking the time to complete this interview.

Region

CITY OF CHICAGO	22%
REST OF COOK COUNTY	19
COLLAR COUNTIES	18
REST OF CHICAGO MM	9
DOWNSTATE NORTH.....	13
DOWNSTATE SOUTH.....	19