

NORMINGTON, PETTS & ASSOCIATES

NPA3574 January 2023

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 direction..... 35%
Wrong track 57
(Don't know) 8

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.....	44%	25	14	7	6	2	2	69%
b. Cleaning up corruption in state government	50%	23	11	5	6	3	1	74%
c. Lowering taxes.....	44%	24	12	8	8	3	1	67%
d. Reforming the state pension systems.....	25%	21	18	14	11	7	4	46%
e. Balancing the state budget	35%	29	15	9	7	3	2	65%
f. Reducing crime.....	54%	21	10	5	6	3	1	75%
g. Jobs and economic growth	38%	29	18	7	4	3	1	67%
h. Reducing racial divisions	30%	23	14	11	10	10	2	53%
i. Reforming health care	34%	23	18	11	8	4	2	56%

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	6%	15	41	19	10	8	
b. The public schools in Illinois as a whole.....	4%	22	33	20	12	8	
c. The public schools in your local community	13%	30	26	14	10	7	

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.

TOTAL POSITIVE53%
TOTAL NEGATIVE.....20%

POSITIVE PERSONAL.....28%
CHARACTERISTICS

Good.....4%
Dedicated.....4%
Hard-working.....4%
Caring.....2%
Great.....1%
Trying.....1%
Excellent.....1%
Knowledgeable.....1%
Brave.....1%
Improving.....1%
Determined.....1%
Smart.....1%
Motivated.....<1%
Committed.....<1%
Innovative.....<1%
Powerful.....<1%
Wonderful.....<1%
Be better.....<1%
Encouraging.....<1%
Strong.....<1%
Community.....<1%
Doing well.....<1%
Helpful.....<1%
Kind.....<1%
Better than they were.....<1%
Passionate.....<1%
Resilient.....<1%
Concerned.....<1%
Competent.....<1%
Lovely.....<1%
Amazing.....<1%
Unity.....<1%
Quality.....<1%
Professional.....<1%
Tough.....<1%
Diligent.....<1%
Compassionate.....<1%
Awesome.....<1%
Educated.....<1%
Important.....<1%
Hero.....<1%
Fantastic.....<1%
Necessary.....<1%
Nice.....<1%
Giving.....<1%
Gifted.....<1%
Qualified.....<1%
Difficult job.....<1%
Respect.....<1%
Exceptional.....<1%
Experience.....<1%
Courageous.....<1%
Saints.....<1%
Essential.....<1%
Skilled.....<1%
Top notch.....<1%
Fresh new ideas making it interesting for kids.....<1%
Patient.....<1%
Outstanding.....<1%
Selfless.....<1%

NEGATIVES16%

Lazy.....1%
Greedy.....1%
Bad.....1%
Woke.....1%
Liberals.....1%
Bad job.....<1%
Lacking.....<1%
Neglecting.....<1%
Corrupt.....<1%
Incompetent.....<1%
Inadequate.....<1%
Cheap.....<1%
Confusing.....<1%
I hate them.....<1%
Terrible.....<1%
Improvement needed.....<1%
Need more education.....<1%
Needy.....<1%
Political.....<1%
Entitled.....<1%
Crazy.....<1%
Sucks.....<1%
Controlled.....<1%
Indoctrinated.....<1%
Garbage.....<1%
Ill-equipped.....<1%
Not qualified.....<1%
Disinterested.....<1%
Horrible.....<1%
Communists.....<1%
Not understanding.....<1%
Failing.....<1%
Dangerous.....<1%
Selfish.....<1%
Inept.....<1%
Scared.....<1%
Uncommitted.....<1%
Disappointed.....<1%
Not Good.....<1%
Dissatisfied.....<1%
Sad.....<1%
Retire all of them.....<1%
Misguided.....<1%
Dumb.....<1%
Radical.....<1%
Impatient.....<1%
Inexperience.....<1%
Lack of quality.....<1%
Complain.....<1%
Unorganized.....<1%
Self-centered.....<1%
Complainers.....<1%
Uncaring.....<1%
Under worked.....<1%
Indifferent.....<1%
Judgmental.....<1%
Part of the problem.....<1%
Poor.....<1%
Under educated.....<1%
Arrogant.....<1%
Worthless.....<1%
Mediocre.....<1%
Untrustworthy.....<1%
Troubled.....<1%
Privileged.....<1%
Socialist.....<1%
Bullies/Bullying.....<1%
Not concerned.....<1%
Over demanding.....<1%
Burnt out.....<1%

NEGATIVES (CONTINUED)

Steering off track.....<1%
Undertrained.....<1%
Fire them.....<1%
Not prepared.....<1%
Not focused.....<1%
Babysitter.....<1%
Afraid.....<1%
Non-diversified.....<1%
Learn to teach coping skills.....<1%

PAY14%
Underpaid.....14%

OVER-WORKED/UNDER-FUNDED 9%

Over-worked.....3%
Overwhelmed.....1%
Need help.....1%
Stressed.....1%
Challenged.....1%
Tired.....<1%
Under-funded.....<1%
It's a hard job.....<1%
Hands tied.....<1%
Not supported.....<1%
Over-burdened.....<1%
Exhausted.....<1%
Under-resourced.....<1%
Frustrated.....<1%
Need support.....<1%
Lack of help from parents.....<1%
High expectations with low resources.....<1%
Struggling.....<1%
More funding.....<1%

NEUTRAL.....4%

Average.....1%
Learning.....1%
Fair/Alright.....<1%
Decent.....<1%
Adequate.....<1%
Some good, some bad.....<1%
Testing.....<1%
Okay.....<1%
Normal.....<1%
Unique.....<1%
Teachers.....<1%
Educators.....<1%

OVERPAID4%

Overpaid.....2%
Paycheck.....1%
Want more money.....<1%
Compensated well.....<1%
Teachers worry more about their pay than their students.....<1%
Spoiled.....<1%
Have it made.....<1%
Paid well.....<1%
Not earning their pay.....<1%
Expensive.....<1%
Waste of taxpayer money.....<1%

(continues next page)

Continued - 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.

UNION/CONTRACT ISSUES3%	NOT ENOUGH TEACHERS1%	OTHER11%
Union 1%	Under staffed 1%	Safety.....1%
Strikes..... 1%	Need more teachers.....<1%	Education.....1%
Non-union<1%	Shortage<1%	Teach.....<1%
Pensions<1%	Need quality teachers<1%	Democrat<1%
Tenure<1%		No kids in school<1%
		Race<1%
NOT APPRECIATED ENOUGH2%		Independent<1%
Under-appreciated 1%		Progressive.....<1%
Under-valued<1%		Mixed emotions<1%
Disrespected<1%		Protection.....<1%
Under rated.....<1%		Other.....8%
Abused<1%		
Misunderstood<1%		Don't know8%
Unfair<1%		

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	9%	18	34	18	15	6
b.	Meeting the social and emotional needs of students.....	7%	18	31	21	16	7
c.	Attracting and retaining the best educators	8%	17	30	21	16	7

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
[RANDOMIZE]	10	8-9	6-7	5	2-4	0-1	[DK]	(8-10)
a. To get a job after high school graduation.....	35%	29	18	7	6	2	2	65%
b. To get into and succeed in college	28%	26	22	10	8	4	1	54%
c. To have the basics of a skilled trade.....	34%	30	19	7	6	3	2	64%
d. Having good morals and good character	44%	24	14	7	6	3	2	68%
e. To be a critical thinker.....	39%	30	15	6	5	3	2	70%
f. To work together in groups and teams	27%	29	23	9	8	3	2	56%
g. To have life skills like cooking, personal finance, and nutrition	41%	27	15	6	7	2	2	68%

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

Increase..... 56%
Decrease 10
Stay the same..... 27
(Don't know) 7

8. As you may know, five years ago Illinois passed a law with a new minimum funding requirement for public schools. Right now, 83% of Illinois school districts do not meet that minimum standard, meaning more than four out of five school districts are underfunded. Having heard that, do you think funding for public schools in Illinois should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Increase..... 64%
Decrease 10
Stay the same..... 21
(Don't know) 6

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

Too little 49%
Too much..... 13
About right 30
(Don't know) 9

10. 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. They get paid an average of 12 dollars per hour. Do you think that paraprofessionals in your community are paid too little, too much or about right?
- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Too little | 76% |
| Too much..... | 4 |
| About right | 15 |
| (Don't know) | 5 |
11. More than 50% of higher education teachers are known as adjunct faculty. That is, they are college professors who are hired on a contract basis per semester and are not eligible for tenure. These adjunct faculty are paid much less than other professors. In fact, more than 25% of adjunct faculty qualify for public assistance. Do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose a minimum wage for adjunct faculty that would allow them to make ends meet?
- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Strongly favor | 42% |
| Somewhat favor..... | 29 |
| Somewhat oppose..... | 10 |
| Strongly oppose..... | 9 |
| (Don't know) | 11 |
| Total favor..... | 71% |
| Total oppose..... | 18% |
12. 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 | 66% |
| Cut some | 14 |
| Eliminated..... | 8 |
| (Don't know) | 11 |
13. Illinois teachers hired after 2010 are currently paying 9% of their salary into their pension plan. The plan requires them to work until the age of 67 to be eligible to get their pension benefits. Under the current system, teachers hired in the last 11 years all will pay more into the pension system than they will likely receive. Would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose changes to the teacher pension system that would allow those teachers to retire before age 67 and still receive their full benefits?
- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Strongly favor | 39% |
| Somewhat favor..... | 26 |
| Somewhat oppose..... | 14 |
| Strongly oppose..... | 13 |
| (Don't know) | 8 |
| Total favor..... | 65% |
| Total oppose..... | 27% |
14. Thinking about public school teachers in Illinois over the last few years or so, do you think that teaching has been much easier, somewhat easier, somewhat harder, or much harder for teachers compared to before that?
- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Much easier | 7% |
| Somewhat easier..... | 12 |
| Somewhat harder | 28 |
| Much harder | 46 |
| (Don't know) | 7 |
| Total easier..... | 19% |
| Total harder | 74% |

15. 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?

[RANDOMIZE]		VERY IMP	SMWT IMP	NOT VERY	NOT AT ALL	[DK]	TOTAL IMP	TOTAL NOT
a.	Parents	63%	28	6	1	2	91%	7%
b.	Students	46%	35	12	5	2	81%	17%
c.	Administrators.....	40%	43	13	3	2	82%	16%
d.	Teachers.....	69%	25	4	1	2	94%	5%
e.	The school board.....	36%	44	14	5	2	80%	18%
f.	Politicians	14%	23	29	31	3	37%	60%

16. Let's change topics. As far as you know, is your community school district currently experiencing teacher shortages?

Yes 39%
 No 27
 (Don't know) 34

17. **[IF Q16=1]** How worried are you about these shortages? (n=388)

Very worried 38%
 Somewhat worried..... 49
 Not very worried 8
 Not worried at all..... 4
 (Don't know) 1

Total worried..... 87%
 Total not worried..... 11%

18. And as far as you know, is your community school district currently experiencing staffing shortages for support roles like teaching aides, bus drivers, nurses, librarians, and custodians?

Yes 50%
 No 21
 (Don't know) 29

19. **[IF Q18=1]** How worried are you about these shortages? (n=505)

Very worried 32%
 Somewhat worried..... 47
 Not very worried 14
 Not worried at all..... 6
 (Don't know) <1

Total worried..... 79%
 Total not worried..... 21%

20. 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?

Yes 58%
 No 35
 (Don't know) 7

21. 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	TOTAL NOT
a. Classrooms will get more crowded	41%	33	15	8	3	74%	23%
b. Taxes will go up because school districts will have to pay everyone more to keep them	41%	31	18	7	3	72%	25%
c. Students will end up performing worse	49%	32	10	6	3	81%	16%
d. Standards will have to be lowered to allow people into the profession	47%	32	12	6	3	79%	18%
e. There will be a push to more online learning	36%	31	18	11	4	67%	29%

22. To attract new people into the profession, a new law has been proposed that would allow teachers who graduate from Illinois public colleges and universities and who then teach in Illinois public schools for five years to apply for a tax credit for 100% of their student loan debt over the next five years. Do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this new law?

Strongly favor 36%
 Somewhat favor..... 31
 Somewhat oppose..... 13
 Strongly oppose..... 14
 (Don't know) 6

Total favor..... 67%
 Total oppose..... 27%

23. Let's change topics again. Have you or have you not heard anything about fighting, yelling, or other contention at school board meetings in Illinois?

Yes 44%
 No..... 47
 (Don't know) 8

24. To the best of your knowledge, has there been any fighting, yelling, or other contention at a school board meeting in your community?

Yes 20%
 No..... 50
 (Don't know) 29

25. And do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the fighting, yelling, or other contention at school board meetings that has been happening around the country?

Strongly favor 11%
 Somewhat favor..... 14
 Somewhat oppose..... 17
 Strongly oppose..... 49
 (Don't know) 9

Total favor..... 25%
 Total oppose..... 66%

26. A new topic. As you may know, Illinois enacted the Invest in Kids Scholarship Tax Credit Program in 2017. First, how much have you heard about this program?
- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| A lot | 4% |
| Some | 9 |
| Not much | 25 |
| Nothing at all..... | 59 |
| (Don't know) | 3 |
| Total hearing..... | 13% |
27. Do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the Invest in Kids Scholarship Tax Credit?
- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Strongly favor | 25% |
| Somewhat favor..... | 27 |
| Somewhat oppose..... | 9 |
| Strongly oppose..... | 7 |
| (Don't know) | 32 |
| Total favor..... | 52% |
| Total oppose..... | 16% |
28. Here is how Eric Zorn from the Chicago Tribune describes the Invest in Kids Scholarship Tax Credit Program.
- Invest in Kids works this way: Citizens interested in supporting private education donate to nonprofit scholarship granting organizations that oversee the disbursal of tuition stipends to lower-income students so they can afford to attend nonpublic schools that have the Illinois State Board of Education seal of approval.
- Currently, donors can claim 75% of their donation as a tax credit, meaning that if they contribute 10 thousand dollars to a scholarship granting organization, they can subtract seventy-five hundred dollars from the amount that they would normally owe in state income taxes. This means that the state does not technically give out the money. But that seventy-five hundred dollars would have gone into the state's general revenue fund if it had not ended up at one of the schools on the approved list, many of which are run by religious organizations.
- Having heard that, do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the Invest in Kids Program?
- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Strongly favor | 21% |
| Somewhat favor..... | 33 |
| Somewhat oppose..... | 18 |
| Strongly oppose..... | 14 |
| (Don't know) | 14 |
| Total favor..... | 54% |
| Total oppose..... | 32% |
29. Opponents of the program say that it takes money away from public schools. In 2020 alone, more than 22 million dollars did not go to the Illinois general fund that could have been spent on public schools. Having heard this, do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose making the Invest in Kids Program permanent?
- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Strongly favor | 16% |
| Somewhat favor..... | 25 |
| Somewhat oppose..... | 24 |
| Strongly oppose..... | 23 |
| (Don't know) | 12 |
| Total favor..... | 41% |
| Total oppose..... | 47% |

30. Do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose each of the following?

[RANDOMIZE]	STRG FAV	SMWT FAV	SMWT OPP	STRG OPP	[DK]	TOT FAV	TOT OPP
a. An Illinois state law that bans the teaching of critical race theory in public schools	26%	15	15	35	9	42%	50%
b. Teaching Illinois high school students about slavery in the United States and its impacts	49%	28	9	10	4	77%	19%
c. Teaching Illinois high school students about racism and its impact in the United States	46%	26	10	14	4	72%	24%
d. Banning books from Illinois school libraries	11%	9	15	60	5	20%	75%

[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 17%
30-34 11
35-39 7
40-44 10
45-49 6
50-54 9
55-59 8
60-64 8
65-69 9
70+ 14
(Refused)..... 1

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

Some grade school (1-8) 1%
Some high school (9-11) 4
Graduated high school 20
Technical/vocational 5
Some college but no degree..... 19
Associates degree 13
Bachelors degree 23
Graduate school/professional 13
(Don't know/Refused) 1

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

Yes 61%
No..... 39
(Don't know/Refused) 1

104. [IF Q103=1] Which of the following is true for you [READ ITEM]? (n=606)

[DO NOT RANDOMIZE]	YES	NO	[DK]
a. I currently have a child who attends a public school	22%	38	<1
b. I had a child who attended public school.....	43%	17	<1
c. I currently have a child who attends a charter school.....	3%	57	1
d. I had a child who attended charter school.....	6%	54	1
e. I currently have a child who attends a private or parochial school	5%	55	1
f. I had a child who attended private or parochial school.....	12%	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 through 12, as a teacher, principal or in another school job?

Yes 24%
No..... 74
(Don't know/Refused) 2

106. Are you registered to vote in Illinois?
- Yes 82%
 No 16
 (Don't know) 2
107. Thinking about how you get information about what is going on with schools in Illinois, where would you say you hear about things most often? **[RANDOMIZE]**
- Local Illinois television news 19%
 A local newspaper online or on paper 33
 Facebook or other social media 25
 Directly from your child's school 14
 (Don't know) 9
108. Even if you are not registered to vote, do you generally think of yourself – as a **[RANDOMIZE]** Democrat, an Independent or a Republican?
- Strong Democrat 22%
 Weak Democrat 13
 Ind/Lean Democrat 12
 Independent 10
 Ind/Lean Republican 11
 Weak Republican 9
 Strong Republican 17
 (Don't know) 6
- TOTAL WITH LEANS
 Democrat 47%
 Independent 16%
 Republican 37%
- TOTAL WITHOUT LEANS
 Democrat 35%
 Independent 39%
 Republican 26%
111. 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 15%
 White 62
 Hispanic 15
 Asian-American 5
 (Other) 3
113. 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 15
 \$35,000 – 49,999 14
 \$50,000 – 74,999 18
 \$75,000 – 99,999 12
 \$100,000-\$150,000 11
 More than \$150,000 12
 (Don't know/Refused) 10

Thank you for taking the time to complete this interview.

Region

- City of Chicago 21%
 Rest of Cook County 20
 Collar Counties 19
 Rest of Chicago MM 10
 Downstate North 13
 Downstate South 17