

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..... 32%  
 Wrong track ..... 58  
 (Don't know) ..... 10

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.....	39%	30	16	8	4	4	2	68%
b. Lowering taxes.....	43%	23	14	9	7	3	1	66%
c. Reforming the state pension systems.....	20%	20	22	16	9	7	5	41%
d. Balancing the state budget .....	32%	30	20	8	5	3	2	63%
e. Reducing crime.....	49%	29	9	5	3	2	2	79%
f. Jobs and economic growth.....	36%	31	20	7	3	1	1	68%
g. Reducing racial divisions .....	26%	22	20	12	8	10	1	49%
h. Reforming health care .....	30%	28	18	13	6	4	1	58%

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 .....	3%	13	46	22	10	6
b.	The public schools in Illinois as a whole.....	3%	20	39	20	13	5
c.	The public schools in your local community .....	14%	33	28	11	8	6

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.

**POSITIVE PERSONAL.....31%**  
**CHARACTERISTICS**

Dedicated.....	5%
Hard-working.....	5%
Good.....	3%
Caring.....	2%
Helpful.....	1%
Smart.....	1%
Nice.....	1%
Amazing.....	1%
Great.....	1%
Influential.....	1%
Responsible.....	1%
Committed.....	1%
Reliable.....	1%
Brave.....	1%
Competent.....	<1%
Kind.....	<1%
Qualified.....	<1%
Trying.....	<1%
Agenda-driven.....	<1%
Top notch.....	<1%
Interesting.....	<1%
Resourceful.....	<1%
Educated.....	<1%
Hero.....	<1%
Knowledgeable.....	<1%
Tolerant.....	<1%
I appreciate them.....	<1%
Quality.....	<1%
Devoted.....	<1%
Deserving.....	<1%
Hopeful.....	<1%
Excellent.....	<1%
Strong.....	<1%
Determined.....	<1%
Improving.....	<1%
Awesome.....	<1%
Unity.....	<1%
Passionate.....	<1%
Sacrifice.....	<1%
Open.....	<1%
Faithful.....	<1%
Community.....	<1%
Optimistic.....	<1%
Wonderful.....	<1%
Resilient.....	<1%
Difficult job.....	<1%
Necessary.....	<1%
Better educated.....	<1%
Security.....	<1%
Fresh new ideas making it.....	<1%
interesting for kids.....	<1%
Encouraging.....	<1%
Innovative.....	<1%
Friendly.....	<1%
Diligent.....	<1%
Incredible.....	<1%
Angels.....	<1%
Talented.....	<1%
Patient.....	<1%
Professional.....	<1%
Concerned.....	<1%
Love their students.....	<1%
Valuable.....	<1%
Prioritizing students education.....	<1%
Doing well.....	<1%
Reasonable.....	<1%
Outstanding.....	<1%

**NEGATIVES.....17%**

Lazy.....	1%
Liberals.....	1%
Greedy.....	1%
Bullies/Bullying.....	1%
Indoctrinated.....	1%
Incompetent.....	1%
Woke.....	1%
Entitled.....	1%
Need better priorities.....	1%
Stupid.....	1%
Don't teach enough.....	<1%
Uncaring.....	<1%
Uninspiring.....	<1%
Not qualified.....	<1%
Under worked.....	<1%
Horrible.....	<1%
Not Good.....	<1%
Political.....	<1%
Improvement needed.....	<1%
Selfish.....	<1%
Terrible.....	<1%
Crazy.....	<1%
Corrupt.....	<1%
Unbalanced.....	<1%
Opportunistic.....	<1%
Mob.....	<1%
Uninterested.....	<1%
Scared.....	<1%
Poor.....	<1%
Neglecting.....	<1%
Undertrained.....	<1%
Sucks.....	<1%
Too young.....	<1%
Unprepared.....	<1%
Lacking.....	<1%
Complain.....	<1%
Garbage.....	<1%
Babies.....	<1%
Broken.....	<1%
Privileged.....	<1%
Needy.....	<1%
Failing.....	<1%
Ill-equipped.....	<1%
Not like they were, not the same.....	<1%
Pathetic.....	<1%
Not concerned enough with.....	<1%
mental health.....	<1%
Lack of quality.....	<1%
Controlled.....	<1%
Out Of Touch.....	<1%
Inadequate.....	<1%
Troubled.....	<1%
Need caring teachers.....	<1%
Under educated.....	<1%
Untrustworthy.....	<1%
Complacent.....	<1%
Under performing.....	<1%
Get back to teaching.....	<1%
Misguided.....	<1%
Inexperience.....	<1%
Useless.....	<1%
Inconsistent.....	<1%
Socialist.....	<1%
Not prepared.....	<1%
Non-performers.....	<1%
Insufficient.....	<1%
Non-efficient.....	<1%
Biased.....	<1%
Retire all of them.....	<1%
Steering off track.....	<1%
Need more structure.....	<1%

**NEGATIVES (CONTINUED)**

Unprofessional.....	<1%
Irresponsible.....	<1%
Limited.....	<1%
No compassion.....	<1%
Mediocre.....	<1%
Bad.....	<1%

**PAY.....17%**

Underpaid.....	15%
Need better pay.....	2%
Salary/Wages.....	<1%

**OVER-WORKED/UNDER-FUNDED 9%**

Over-worked.....	4%
Overwhelmed.....	1%
Challenged.....	1%
Not supported.....	1%
Under-resourced.....	<1%
Struggling.....	<1%
Under funded.....	<1%
Tired.....	<1%
Need Help.....	<1%
Under pressure.....	<1%
Frustrated.....	<1%
Need support.....	<1%
Restricted.....	<1%
Exhausted.....	<1%
Lot of work.....	<1%
More funding.....	<1%
Have hard time.....	<1%
Hands tied.....	<1%
Over-burdened.....	<1%
Lack of help from parents.....	<1%

**OVERPAID.....4%**

Over paid.....	2%
Want more money.....	1%
Teachers worry more about their.....	<1%
pay than their students.....	<1%
Spoiled.....	<1%
Paycheck.....	<1%
Comfortable.....	<1%
Expensive.....	<1%
Paid well.....	<1%

**NEUTRAL.....4%**

Average.....	1%
Okay.....	1%
Learning.....	<1%
Educators.....	<1%
Grades.....	<1%
Fine.....	<1%
Communication.....	<1%
Some good, some bad.....	<1%
Fair/Alright.....	<1%
Unique.....	<1%
Unequal.....	<1%
Teachers.....	<1%
Adequate.....	<1%
Discipline.....	<1%
More attention.....	<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.

**NOT APPRECIATED ENOUGH .....3%**

Under-appreciated .....2%  
 Oppressed .....<1%  
 Under rated .....<1%  
 Under-valued .....<1%  
 Thank you .....<1%  
 Under supplied .....<1%  
 Stuck between a rock and hard .....<1%  
 place

**UNION/CONTRACT ISSUES .....2%**

Union .....2%  
 Pensions .....<1%  
 Tenure .....<1%  
 Non-union .....<1%  
 Strikes .....<1%

**NOT ENOUGH TEACHERS .....1%**

Under staffed .....1%  
 Shortage .....<1%  
 Need quality teachers .....<1%  
 Need more teachers .....<1%

**OTHER .....7%**

Education .....1%  
 Teach .....<1%  
 No kids in school .....<1%  
 Accountability .....<1%  
 Misinformed .....<1%  
 Self, I am a teacher .....<1%  
 Relative is teacher .....<1%  
 Needs reform .....<1%  
 Progressive .....<1%  
 Safety .....<1%  
 Other .....5%

Don't know .....4%

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]**

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>[DK]</b>
a. Preparing students with the skills they need to succeed after graduating .....	4%	24	37	19	11	4
b. Meeting the social and emotional needs of students.....	5%	19	34	20	13	8
c. Attracting and retaining the best educators .....	5%	19	35	21	14	6

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

Increase ..... 65%  
 Decrease ..... 9  
 Stay the same..... 20  
 (Don't know) ..... 6

7. As you may know, 80% of Illinois public schools are not funded at the level required by the evidence-based model. This funding model was designed to prioritize state funding for students with the most need and school districts with the lowest local funding, allocating resources based on research-based best practices in education. Right now, just 20% of schools are fully funded. Having heard that, do you think funding for public schools in Illinois should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Increase ..... 74%  
 Decrease ..... 8  
 Stay the same..... 14  
 (Don't know) ..... 5

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

Too little ..... 58%  
 Too much..... 10  
 About right ..... 24  
 (Don't know) ..... 8

9. As you may know, public schools in Illinois have support staff in classrooms called paraprofessionals. These paraprofessionals work with students with disabilities and behavior challenges. They get paid an average of \$15 an hour. Do you think that paraprofessionals in your community are paid too little, too much or about right?

Too little ..... 71%  
 Too much..... 3  
 About right ..... 20  
 (Don't know) ..... 6

10. As you may know, teachers in Illinois do not pay into Social Security and therefore do not collect 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 ..... 72%  
 Cut some ..... 12  
 Eliminated..... 6  
 (Don't know) ..... 10

11. Right now, the teacher pension system in Illinois is divided into two tiers. Tier One is for teachers hired before 2011 and Tier Two is for those who began working as teachers in 2011 or more recently. Tier One teachers are eligible for their full pension at age 60 or at age 55 if they have been teachers for 35 years. Tier Two teachers are required to work until the age of 67 to get their full pension benefits. All teachers pay 9% of their salary into the pension system. Would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose changes to the teacher pension system that would allow Tier Two teachers to retire before age 67 and still receive their full benefits?

Strongly favor ..... 36%  
 Somewhat favor..... 26  
 Somewhat oppose..... 14  
 Strongly oppose..... 11  
 (Don't know) ..... 13

Total Favor ..... 63%  
 Total Oppose ..... 25%

12. 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..... 10  
 Somewhat harder ..... 30  
 Much harder ..... 46  
 (Don't know) ..... 7

Total Easier ..... 17%  
 Total Harder..... 76%

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?

[RANDOMIZE]		VERY IMP	SMWT IMP	NOT VERY	NOT AT ALL	[DK]	TOTAL IMP	TOTAL NOT
a.	Parents .....	63%	30	4	1	2	92%	6%
b.	Students .....	43%	36	13	5	3	79%	18%
c.	Administrators.....	38%	44	10	4	4	82%	14%
d.	Teachers.....	69%	23	4	2	2	92%	5%
e.	The school board.....	36%	43	13	4	4	79%	17%
f.	Politicians .....	11%	24	29	32	4	36%	60%

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

Yes ..... 38%  
 No..... 25  
 (Don't know) ..... 37

15. **[IF Q14=1]** How worried are you about these shortages? (n=380)

Very worried ..... 31%  
 Somewhat worried ..... 47  
 Not very worried ..... 14  
 Not worried at all..... 6  
 (Don't know) ..... 2

Total Worried ..... 79%  
 Total Not Worried ..... 20%

16. And as far as you know, is your community school district currently experiencing staffing shortages for support roles like paraprofessionals, bus drivers, nurses, librarians, and custodians?
- Yes ..... 49%  
No ..... 17  
(Don't know) ..... 33
17. **[IF Q16=1]** How worried are you about these shortages? (n=492)
- Very worried ..... 34%  
Somewhat worried ..... 44  
Not very worried ..... 16  
Not worried at all ..... 5  
(Don't know) ..... <1
- Total Worried ..... 78%  
Total Not Worried ..... 21%
18. Let's change topics again. As far as you know, are college students in Illinois currently experiencing more mental health problems lately, fewer problems lately, or about the same as always?
- More mental health problems lately ..... 60%  
Fewer mental health problems lately ..... 3  
About the same ..... 21  
(Don't know) ..... 16
19. As you may know, the rate of higher education students seeking out mental health services is growing. There are not enough mental health workers to meet the demand. Would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose more funding to hire mental health workers to address the demand for mental health services on college campuses?
- Strongly favor ..... 51%  
Somewhat favor ..... 28  
Somewhat oppose ..... 8  
Strongly oppose ..... 6  
(Don't know) ..... 7
- Total Favor ..... 80%  
Total Oppose ..... 14%
20. Let's change topics again. Have you or have you not heard anything about teachers and paraprofessionals in Illinois being physically assaulted at school?
- Yes ..... 48%  
No ..... 42  
(Don't know) ..... 9
21. To the best of your knowledge, has a teacher or paraprofessional been physically assaulted at school in your community?
- Yes ..... 22%  
No ..... 49  
(Don't know) ..... 30
22. In 2022, there were over two thousand reports of violence against school staff at Illinois public schools. Would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose new legislation to stop the violence against teachers, paraprofessionals, and other school staff?
- Strongly favor ..... 63%  
Somewhat favor ..... 24  
Somewhat oppose ..... 4  
Strongly oppose ..... 3  
(Don't know) ..... 6
- Total Favor ..... 87%  
Total Oppose ..... 7%

23. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the statement that every child in Illinois has the right to an education at a public school?

Strongly agree ..... 76%  
 Somewhat agree ..... 15  
 Somewhat disagree ..... 4  
 Strongly disagree ..... 3  
 (Don't know) ..... 3

Total Agree ..... 91%  
 Total Disagree ..... 6%

24. And do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the statement that every child with a disability in Illinois has the right to an education at a public school?

Strongly agree ..... 76%  
 Somewhat agree ..... 15  
 Somewhat disagree ..... 3  
 Strongly disagree ..... 2  
 (Don't know) ..... 3

Total Agree ..... 92%  
 Total Disagree ..... 6%

25. 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 .....25%	13	12	35	14	38%	47%	
b. Teaching Illinois high school students about slavery in the United States and its impacts .....60%	22	7	6	5	83%	12%	
c. Teaching Illinois high school students about racism and its impact in the United States .....55%	21	9	11	4	76%	20%	
d. Banning books from Illinois school libraries .....9%	9	9	67	6	18%	76%	
e. Banning teaching about sexuality in Illinois high schools.....25%	15	18	36	7	39%	54%	

**[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 ..... 12  
35-39 ..... 9  
40-44 ..... 9  
45-49 ..... 7  
50-54 ..... 7  
55-59 ..... 10  
60-64 ..... 7  
65-69 ..... 11  
70+ ..... 11  
(Refused)..... <1

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

Some grade school (1-8) ..... 1%  
Some high school (9-11) ..... 3  
Graduated high school ..... 19  
Technical/vocational ..... 4  
Some college but no degree..... 25  
Associates degree ..... 11  
Bachelors degree ..... 25  
Graduate school/professional ..... 12  
(Don't know/Refused) ..... <1

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

Yes ..... 63%  
No..... 37  
(Don't know/Refused) ..... <1

104. 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 .....	27%	36	0
b. I had a child who attended public school.....	48%	15	0
c. I currently have a child who attends a charter school.....	2%	61	<1
d. I had a child who attended charter school.....	5%	58	<1
e. I currently have a child who attends a private or parochial school .....	5%	58	<1
f. I had a child who attended private or parochial school.....	13%	50	<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?

Yes ..... 26%  
No..... 73  
(Don't know/Refused) ..... <1

106. Are you registered to vote in Illinois?

Yes ..... 87%  
No..... 13  
(Don't know) ..... <1

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..... 33%  
A local newspaper online or on paper ..... 19  
Facebook or other social media..... 23  
Directly from your child's school ..... 18  
(Don't know) ..... 7

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 .....	20%
Weak Democrat.....	17
Ind/Lean Democrat.....	11
Independent.....	10
Ind/Lean Republican.....	11
Weak Republican .....	11
Strong Republican .....	15
(Don't know) .....	7

**TOTAL WITH LEANS**

Democrat.....	48%
Independent.....	16%
Republican.....	36%

**TOTAL WITHOUT LEANS**

Democrat.....	37%
Independent.....	38%
Republican.....	25%

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.....	13%
White .....	63
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 .....	10%
\$15,000 – 34,999.....	17
\$35,000 – 49,999.....	17
\$50,000 – 74,999.....	16
\$75,000 – 99,999.....	13
\$100,000-\$150,000 .....	15
More than \$150,000 .....	11
(Don't know/Refused) .....	1

Thank you for taking the time to complete this interview.

**Region**

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