

NORMINGTON, PETTS & ASSOCIATES
NPA3746 January 2025

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 | 55 |
| (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:

[RANDOMIZE]	10	8-9	6-7	5	2-4	0-1	[DK]	TOTAL HIGH (8-10)
a. Having high quality public schools.....	37%	29	18	6	6	3	1	66%
b. Lowering taxes.....	44%	23	15	7	6	4	<1	67%
c. Reforming the state pension systems.....	20%	21	23	11	10	7	7	42%
d. Balancing the state budget	35%	26	23	6	5	3	2	61%
e. Reducing crime.....	48%	26	13	5	5	3	1	74%
f. Jobs and economic growth	38%	31	19	5	4	2	1	69%
g. Reducing racial divisions	24%	20	20	10	11	13	3	44%
h. Reforming health care	31%	25	21	8	8	5	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	4%	13	43	23	11	5
b. The public schools in Illinois as a whole.....	5%	21	33	20	16	5
c. The public schools in your local community	18%	30	25	13	10	4

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 POSITIVE60%
TOTAL NEGATIVE.....26%

POSITIVE PERSONAL.....32%

CHARACTERISTICS

Dedicated.....7%
 Hard-working5%
 Good.....2%
 Great.....2%
 Caring.....2%
 Be better1%
 Smart.....1%
 Knowledgeable1%
 Excellent1%
 Committed1%
 Trying.....1%
 Educated1%
 Brave<1%
 Respect<1%
 Strong<1%
 Understanding<1%
 Motivated<1%
 Helpful<1%
 Tough<1%
 Reliable.....<1%
 Quality<1%
 Passionate.....<1%
 Competent<1%
 Resilient.....<1%
 Patient<1%
 Prioritizing students education<1%
 Determined<1%
 Courageous<1%
 Important<1%
 Cool<1%
 Hopeful<1%
 Powerful.....<1%
 Deserving.....<1%
 Encouraging.....<1%
 Friendly<1%
 Strength<1%
 Agenda-driven<1%
 Effort<1%
 Faithful.....<1%
 Devoted<1%
 Qualified<1%
 Concerned<1%
 Doing well<1%
 Fantastic<1%
 Hero<1%
 Responsible<1%
 Better educated.....<1%
 Selfless<1%
 Outstanding<1%
 Valuable.....<1%
 Tolerant<1%
 Unity<1%
 Kind<1%
 Noble<1%
 Incredible<1%
 Worthy<1%
 Resourceful.....<1%
 Preparing<1%
 Involved<1%
 Community.....<1%
 Professional.....<1%
 Angels.....<1%
 Loyal<1%
 Nice<1%

NEGATIVES22%

Lazy2%
 Greedy2%
 Woke1%
 Not qualified1%
 Political1%
 Terrible.....1%
 Failing1%
 Selfish.....1%
 Bullies/Bullying1%
 Stupid<1%
 Liberals<1%
 Bad<1%
 Corrupt.....<1%
 Entitled.....<1%
 Indoctrinated<1%
 Incompetent<1%
 Uncaring<1%
 Lack of quality<1%
 Useless<1%
 Not Good<1%
 Inconsistent.....<1%
 Undertrained<1%
 Scared<1%
 Burnt out<1%
 Ignorant<1%
 Pathetic.....<1%
 Horrible<1%
 Poor<1%
 Mediocre.....<1%
 Unprofessional<1%
 Controlled<1%
 Chaos<1%
 Lacking<1%
 Arrogant.....<1%
 Sad<1%
 Bad job.....<1%
 Not aligned with true education<1%
 Mean<1%
 Inadequate.....<1%
 Joke<1%
 Combative.....<1%
 Brats<1%
 Test driven<1%
 Weak<1%
 Get back to teaching<1%
 Misguided<1%
 Basic.....<1%
 They don't listen to the students<1%
 Biased.....<1%
 Not focused.....<1%
 Under educated<1%
 Complain.....<1%
 Feeling sorry for themselves<1%
 Whining.....<1%
 Steering off track<1%
 Impatient.....<1%
 Broken<1%
 Don't teach enough<1%
 Uninterested.....<1%
 Communists.....<1%
 Untrustworthy.....<1%
 Need more education.....<1%
 Improvement needed<1%
 Lousy<1%
 Do Nothing.....<1%
 Insufficient.....<1%
 Lackluster<1%
 Careless.....<1%
 Opportunistic.....<1%
 Unsatisfactory<1%

NEGATIVES (CONTINUED)

Complainers<1%
 Not invested<1%
 Not up there where they should...<1%
 be
 Over demanding.....<1%
 Self-centered.....<1%
 Pampered<1%
 Not considerate<1%
 Radical<1%

PAY16%

Underpaid14%
 Need better pay.....1%
 Salary/Wages.....<1%

OVER-WORKED/UNDER-

FUNDED11%

Over-worked3%
 Overwhelmed1%
 Stressed1%
 Under funded1%
 Frustrated.....1%
 Support<1%
 Tired.....<1%
 Challenged<1%
 Struggling.....<1%
 Busy.....<1%
 Lot of work<1%
 Over-burdened<1%
 Not supported<1%
 Need support<1%
 Hands tied.....<1%
 High expectations with low<1%
 resources
 Exhausted<1%
 Screwed<1%
 It's a hard job.....<1%
 Restricted.....<1%
 Under served<1%
 Held back.....<1%
 Need Help<1%
 Under-resourced<1%

OVERPAID4%

Over paid2%
 Want more money.....1%
 Teachers worry more about their ..<1%
 pay than their students
 Spoiled<1%
 Waste of taxpayers money<1%
 Paid well<1%
 Not earning their pay<1%

NEUTRAL3%

Fair/Alright.....<1%
 Okay<1%
 Some good, some bad<1%
 Under utilized<1%
 Unique<1%
 Teachers.....<1%
 Decent<1%
 Educators.....<1%
 Unequal<1%
 Average<1%
 Grades<1%
 Fine.....<1%
 Testing<1%
 Communication<1%

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 ISSUES2%	NOT APPRECIATED ENOUGH2%	OTHER6%
Union 1%	Under-appreciated 1%	Education 1%
Pensions 1%	Under-valued 1%	Diverse <1%
Strikes 1%	Disrespected <1%	School <1%
Tenure <1%	Caught in the middle <1%	Protection <1%
Non-union <1%	I feel sorry for them <1%	Teach <1%
	Mistreated <1%	Technology <1%
NOT ENOUGH TEACHERS2%	Stuck between a rock and a <1%	Progressive <1%
Need more teachers 1%	hard place	Democrat <1%
Class size 1%	Forgotten <1%	No kids in school <1%
Under staffed <1%	Thank you <1%	Accountability <1%
Illinois has no teachers <1%		Safety <1%
		Misinformed <1%
		Mixed emotions <1%
		Lucky to have job <1%
		Self, I am a teacher <1%
		Engagement <1%
		More about math <1%
		Other 2%
		Don't know 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	10%	21	31	19	15	4
b. Meeting the social and emotional needs of students.....	8%	20	32	19	13	8
c. Attracting and retaining the best educators	8%	20	29	21	15	7

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

Increase.....	58%
Decrease	12
Stay the same.....	24
(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.....	71%
Decrease	11
Stay the same.....	14
(Don't know)	4

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

Too little	53%
Too much.....	13
About right.....	25
(Don't know)	9

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 per hour. Do you think that paraprofessionals in your community are paid too little, too much or about right?

Too little	69%
Too much.....	4
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	67%
Cut some	15
Eliminated.....	8
(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	30%
Somewhat favor.....	32
Somewhat oppose.....	16
Strongly oppose.....	11
(Don't know)	11
Total Favor	62%
Total Oppose.....	27%

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	6%
Somewhat easier.....	12
Somewhat harder	36
Much harder	38
(Don't know)	8
Total Easier	18%
Total Harder.....	74%

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	61%	31	6	1	1	92%	7%
b. Students	46%	33	12	6	2	79%	18%
c. Administrators.....	36%	46	10	6	1	82%	17%
d. Teachers.....	73%	21	3	2	1	94%	6%
e. The school board.....	34%	47	13	5	1	80%	18%
f. Politicians	10%	25	32	30	3	35%	62%

14. Let's change topics. As far as you know, is your community school district currently experiencing teacher shortages?
- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Yes | 34% |
| No..... | 25 |
| (Don't know) | 41 |
15. **[IF Q14=1]** How worried are you about these shortages? (n=341)
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very worried | 32% |
| Somewhat worried..... | 46 |
| Not very worried | 17 |
| Not worried at all..... | 3 |
| (Don't know) | 2 |
| Total Worried | 78% |
| 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 | 40% |
| No..... | 22 |
| (Don't know) | 38 |
17. **[IF Q16=1]** How worried are you about these shortages? (n=404)
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very worried | 31% |
| Somewhat worried..... | 49 |
| Not very worried | 15 |
| Not worried at all..... | 3 |
| (Don't know) | 2 |
| Total Worried | 80% |
| Total Not Worried | 18% |
18. 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) | 2 |
| Total Agree | 91% |
| Total Disagree | 8% |
19. 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 | 73% |
| Somewhat agree | 17 |
| Somewhat disagree..... | 5 |
| Strongly disagree..... | 3 |
| (Don't know) | 1 |
| Total Agree | 91% |
| Total Disagree | 8% |

20. 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]	TOTAL FAV	TOTAL OPP
a. An Illinois state law that bans the teaching of critical race theory in public schools	25%	12	15	36	12	36%	52%
b. Teaching Illinois high school students about slavery in the United States and its impacts	54%	27	8	7	3	81%	16%
c. Teaching Illinois high school students about racism and its impact in the United States	49%	26	8	14	3	75%	22%
d. Banning books from Illinois school libraries	9%	8	14	67	3	17%	80%
e. Banning teaching about sexuality in Illinois high schools.....	21%	15	19	38	7	36%	58%

21. Let's change topics again. As you may know, Illinois public schools are governed by local school boards. People running for school board often focus on different things and have different priorities. What do you think is MOST important for a school board member to prioritize...? [RANDOMIZE]

Preparing students with the skills they need to succeed after graduating ...	62%
Getting political ideology out of the classroom	9
Meeting the social and emotional needs of students	9
Improving student test performance	7
Attracting and retaining teachers	7
Making sure taxpayers get their money's worth	6

22. And which one do you think is LEAST important for a school board member to prioritize...? [RANDOMIZE]

Getting political ideology out of the classroom	35%
Making sure taxpayers get their money's worth	28
Meeting the social and emotional needs of students	16
Improving student test performance	13
Attracting and retaining teachers	5
Preparing students with the skills they need to succeed after graduating	4

23. As you may know school board members are elected by the people in their community. However, in these elections national political groups sometimes spend money to help elect their preferred candidate for school board in your community. Before now, were you aware or not that national political groups could spend money in your local school board elections?

Yes	50%
No	35
(Don't know)	16

24. And do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the fact that national political groups can spend money in your local school board elections?

Strongly favor	5%
Somewhat favor.....	13
Somewhat oppose.....	22
Strongly oppose.....	50
(Don't know)	10
Total Favor	18%
Total Oppose	72%

25. Let's change topics one more time. As you may know, an adjunct professor teaches at a college or university part-time. Adjunct professors often teach the same classes as tenured professors, but adjuncts make a lot less money and do not have benefits despite usually having the same education and experience. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that adjunct professors should make less than tenured professors?

Strongly agree	9%
Somewhat agree	28
Somewhat disagree	28
Strongly disagree.....	21
(Don't know)	14
Total Agree	37%
Total Disagree	49%

26. Some people say that adjunct professors who teach the same college courses that are taught by tenured professors should be paid the same amount. They say that students pay the same amount of money for the course no matter who teaches it. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that adjunct professors should be paid the same amount as tenured professors when they teach the same college courses?

Strongly agree	26%
Somewhat agree	35
Somewhat disagree	20
Strongly disagree.....	7
(Don't know)	12
Total Agree	62%
Total Disagree	27%

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

100. What is your sex?
 Male..... 49%
 Female 51

101. What is your age?
 18-29 16%
 30-34 11
 35-39 8
 40-44 9
 45-49 7
 50-54 8
 55-59 9
 60-64 9
 65-69 9
 70+ 13

102. What is the last grade you completed in school?
 Some grade school (1-8) 0%
 Some high school (9-11) 3
 Graduated high school 22
 Technical/vocational 4
 Some college but no degree 22
 Associates degree 12
 Bachelors degree 22
 Graduate school/professional 15

103. Do you now, or have you ever had, a child living at home with you?
 Yes 61%
 No 39

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	25%	36	0
b. I had a child who attended public school.....	46%	15	0
c. I currently have a child who attends a charter school.....	4%	56	<1
d. I had a child who attended charter school.....	6%	55	<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%	49	0

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 22%
 No 78

106. Are you registered to vote in Illinois?
 Yes 88%
 No 12

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..... 35%
 A local newspaper online or on paper 20
 Facebook or other social media..... 22
 Directly from your child's school 18
 (Don't know) 6

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.....	15
Ind/Lean Democrat.....	13
Independent.....	9
Ind/Lean Republican.....	9
Weak Republican	10
Strong Republican	17
(Don't know)	5

TOTAL WITH LEANS

Democrat.....	50%
Independent.....	14%
Republican.....	36%

TOTAL WITHOUT LEANS

Democrat.....	37%
Independent.....	35%
Republican.....	28%

111. To make sure we have a representative sample, could you please tell me your race?

Black.....	14%
White	62
Hispanic.....	18
Asian-American	6

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	11%
\$15,000 – 34,999.....	13
\$35,000 – 49,999.....	14
\$50,000 – 74,999.....	17
\$75,000 – 99,999.....	12
\$100,000-\$150,000	19
More than \$150,000	12
(Don't know/Refused).....	1

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	10
Downstate North.....	13
Downstate South	17