

TSTA Education and Border Community Study - March 2013

Top Line Results - Posted May 6, 2013

1. Do you, or any of your close friends or family members, work for a public school district in [El Paso, Laredo, or the Valley]?

Yes39

No.....61

[if yes] The people you personally know who work for a school district, are any of them:

2. teachers or coaches

Yes73

No.....27

3. principals or assistant principals

Yes35

No.....64

Don't know/Refuse..... 1

4. counselors or nurses

Yes40

No.....59

Don't know/Refuse..... 1

5. bus drivers or custodians

Yes29

No.....71

6. classroom or office assistants

Yes46

No.....53

Don't know/Refuse..... 1

7. school board members

Yes20

No.....77

Don't know/Refuse..... 3

8. Did you attend a public elementary, junior high, middle school or high school here in Texas?

Yes61

No.....39

And what about your family's connection to the public schools? Do you have:

9. Children currently attending a public elementary, middle school, junior high or high school?

Yes40

No.....60

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10. Adult children who attended public schools in Texas when they were younger?

Yes63
No.....37

11. Grandchildren enrolled in a Texas public school district, or adult grandchildren who attended Texas public schools when they were younger?

Yes39
No.....61

12. Any other close family members, like nieces, nephews or cousins, currently attending a Texas public elementary, middle school, junior high or high school?

Yes76
No.....23
Don't know/Refuse..... 1

Tell me if you have ever participated in any of the following school-related activities. Have you ever:

13. Attended a parent conference with a teacher

Yes70
No.....30

14. Talked with teachers about topics other than school or classroom issues

Yes47
No.....53

15. Attended a public event or activity like a football game, school play, or music performance

Yes82
No.....18

16. Attended a meeting with a principal or school counselor

Yes61
No.....39

17. Attended a school board meeting

Yes56
No.....44

18. Helped buy or sell things for school fundraisers

Yes73
No.....27

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19. Volunteered with any school-related activities

Yes55
No.....45

20. Thinking of all the people who work in the public education system, who would you say has the most influence on whether or not students reach their goals? Would you say it is teachers, principals, superintendents and administration, or the school board?

Teachers.....66
Principals.....5
Superintendent and administration.....5
The School Board.....13
Other.....5
Don't know.....6
Refuse.....7

Do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable impression of:

	very fav	some fav	some unfav	very unfav	no opin	don't know	total favor	total unfav
21. local public school teachers	52	33	5	1	7	1	85	6
22. school principals	35	34	11	6	10	4	69	17
23. public school district administrators	24	32	15	13	12	4	55	28
24. the local school boards	27	30	11	15	13	5	57	26
25. The United States Congress	21	27	18	16	14	3	49	34
26. The Texas Legislature	20	32	12	12	19	6	52	24
27. the local police department	49	33	8	6	3	2	81	13
28. nurses and doctors in community	49	36	8	2	3	1	85	10

29. Okay, now thinking specifically about the teachers in your local school district, how would you rate the quality of teachers? Overall, how good or bad of a job do you think teachers in your local school district are doing? Would you say teachers are doing [excellent, good, fair, poor, or bad] job at educating our children today?

Excellent.....25
Good38
Fair.....26
Poor.....7
Bad.....1
Don't Know2
Refused1

Total Excellent/Good: 63

Total Poor/Bad: 8

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30. Over the last two years, the Texas Legislature cut spending on Texas public schools by over five billion dollars. Have you experienced or heard about budget cuts to [El Paso, Laredo, Valley] schools?

Yes.....	67
No.....	32
Don't know.....	1

31. [if yes] From what you have heard or experienced, how have budget cuts affected [El Paso, Laredo, Valley] schools? [Open ended, may select two]

Bigger classes/more students in each class	18
Fewer teachers/losing teachers	29
New/higher fees for books, supplies, bus, etc.....	9
Fewer sports/music/arts/student activities	9
Students not learning as much.....	3
Layoffs/people fired.....	4
School closings/shut down.....	2
Teachers/school employees pay/benefit cuts	14
Not enough books/computers/supplies.....	12
Fewer after/before school programs	13
Higher taxes	0
Something else [DO NOT RECORD].....	14
Don't know	19

32. How far would you like to see the children in your family go in school?

Graduate from high school or earn a GED.....	3
Receive some vocational training after graduating from high school.....	2
Graduate from college.....	31
Earn a graduate or advanced professional degree.....	62
Don't know/Refused.....	1

33. Thinking about today's students, in the long run, do you think it is : Better for our students to get a full-time job as soon as they finish high school, OR, better for our students to attend college full-time as soon as they finish high school?

Get a job.....	10
Go to college.....	85
Don't know.....	5

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For each item that I read, tell me if you think this is a challenge for our teacher's today? Is that a very serious challenge, somewhat serious challenge, only a little bit of a challenge, not too much of a challenge, or not at all a challenge?

	very serious	some serious	only a little	not much	not at all	don't know	total serious	total not serious
34. dealing with discipline problems	60	27	4	2	4	2	87	6
35. not getting the respect they deserve	60	25	5	2	4	3	85	6
36. being underpaid	57	26	3	5	5	3	83	11
37. getting a lot of pressure to teach to test	55	27	7	5	2	3	82	7
38. getting a lot of pressure from principals	42	33	10	4	3	7	75	8
39. having a stressful job	51	32	8	3	5	2	83	8
40. not getting support from parents	69	23	2	1	1	2	93	2
41. expected to do a lot more than teach	46	30	8	5	5	5	77	10

42. Because jobs today require more education, Texas needs to do more to support teachers, even if that means raising taxes or using funds from the state rainy day savings fund.

Strongly Agree.....46
 Somewhat Agree.....29
 Somewhat Disagree.....7
 Strongly Disagree.....12
 Don't know.....5
 Refused.....1
Total Agree 75
Total Disagree 17

43. The entire community, not just those with children in school, benefits from the work that teachers do. It is important for the entire community to support teachers and public schools.

Strongly Agree.....76
 Somewhat Agree.....19
 Somewhat Disagree.....3
 Strongly Disagree.....0
 Don't know.....1
 Refused.....1
Total Agree 95
Total Disagree 3

44. Teachers are respectful of people from all cultures.

Strongly Agree.....56
 Somewhat Agree.....27
 Somewhat Disagree.....10
 Strongly Disagree.....5
 Don't know.....3
Total Agree 83
Total Disagree 15

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45. Teachers sometimes use their own money to provide school supplies, clothes, or even food to students.

Strongly Agree.....	34
Somewhat Agree.....	20
Somewhat Disagree.....	13
Strongly Disagree.....	25
Don't know.....	7
Total Agree	64
Total Disagree	38

46. Thinking about the current status of education and schools in [El Paso, Laredo, the Valley], who do you trust most to make the right decisions and improve education today? Would you say you have the most confidence in: ? Would you say: [the Texas Legislature, the Superintendent and district administration, the school board, the principals, or teachers] (rotate)

The Texas Legislature.....	12
The Superintendent and administration.....	14
The School board.....	10
Principals	11
Teachers.....	45
All of these [do not ask]	3
Someone else/ OTHER [do not ask].....	1
Do not trust anyone [do not ask]	1
Don't know	3

Methodology

Latino Decisions implemented The Education and Border Community Study in March 2013 on behalf of the Texas State Teachers Association (TSTA). The study was implemented in El Paso, Laredo, and the Rio Grande Valley to assess public opinion on education topics including: perceptions about and interactions with local schools and teachers, educational aspirations, and policy-related issues. Four hundred Latino origin respondents in these Texas border metro areas were interviewed between March 14 and March 24, 2013. Telephone interviews over both landlines (80%) and cell phones (20%) lasted about 16 minutes and were conducted by fully bilingual interviewers. Half of all interviews were conducted in Spanish and half were conducted in English. The survey carries a 4.9% margin of error.