

# TIME MAGAZINE/SRBI – March 28-30, 2006 Survey

FINAL DATA-March 31, 2006

BASE= 1000 Adults Except Where Noted

Q1. WHERE DO YOU THINK THE UNITED STATES RANKS INTERNATIONALLY WHEN IT COMES TO THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION WE PROVIDE OVERALL? WOULD YOU SAY THAT AMERICA IS BEST WHEN IT COMES TO QUALITY OF EDUCATION, IN THE TOP 5, TOP 10, TOP 20, OR BELOW THAT?

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
BEST	3%
TOP 5	25%
TOP 10	29%
TOP 20	22%
BELOW THAT	17%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	3%

Q2. IN GENERAL, WHAT GRADE WOULD YOU GIVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES – AN "A" FOR EXCELLENT, A "B", "C", "D" OR A FAILING GRADE OF "F"?

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
A (EXCELLENT)	5%
B	31%
C	44%
D	10%
F (FAILING GRADE)	7%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	3%

Q5. DO YOU THINK THAT WE ARE SPENDING TOO MUCH MONEY ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, TOO LITTLE MONEY, OR ABOUT THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF MONEY ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
TOO MUCH	10%
TOO LITTLE	64%
ABOUT THE RIGHT AMOUNT	22%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	4%

Q6. WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PAY HIGHER TAXES TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, OR NOT?

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
WILLING TO PAY HIGHER TAXES	59%
NOT WILLING	38%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	3%

\* = less than 1%

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Q8. DO YOU THINK THAT THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OVERALL ARE TEACHING STUDENTS THE SKILLS THEY WILL NEED FOR OUR ECONOMY IN THE 21ST CENTURY, OR NOT?

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

TEACHING SKILLS THEY WILL NEED	38%
NOT TEACHING THEM	57%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	6%

Q9. DO YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD CURRENTLY ATTENDING SCHOOL, GRADES "K" THRU GRADE 12?

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

YES	36%
NO	64%

Q10. DO ANY CURRENTLY ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOLS?  
BASE: HAVE CHILDREN ATTENDING GARDES "K" THRU 12 (323)

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

YES	86%
NO	14%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	1%

Q11. AND WHAT GRADE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL -- AN "A" FOR EXCELLENT, A "B", "C", "D" OR A FAILING GRADE OF "F"?  
BASE: HAVE CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOL (279)

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

A (EXCELLENT)	23%
B	46%
C	21%
D	7%
F (FAILING GRADE)	3%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	*

Q12. DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR CHILD OR CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE BEING ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR COLLEGE IF THEY DECIDE TO GO TO COLLEGE?  
BASE: HAVE CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOL (279)

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

YES	62%
NO	33%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	6%

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Q13. IF YOU HAD THE CHOICE OF SENDING YOUR CHILD TO A DIFFERENT SCHOOL, IN YOUR AREA, WOULD YOU SWITCH SCHOOLS, OR NOT?  
BASE: HAVE CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOL (279)

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

WOULD SWITCH SCHOOLS	40%
NOT SWITCH SCHOOLS	57%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	3%

Q14. WHAT PERCENT OF AMERICAN STUDENTS DO YOU THINK GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL?

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

0% - 25%	2%
26% - 50%	9%
51% - 75%	49%
76% - 100%	35%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	4%

Q15. HOW SERIOUS A PROBLEM DO YOU CONSIDER THE SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE IN AMERICA TO BE?

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

EXTREMELY SERIOUS	42%
SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	47%
NOT VERY SERIOUS	5%
NOT SERIOUS AT ALL	3%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	3%

Q16. HERE ARE SOME MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL.  
A) MAKE TRUANCY ENFORCEMENT STRONGER TO CUT DOWN ON THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN SKIPPING SCHOOL WITHOUT AN EXCUSE  
WOULD THIS MEASURE BE...

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

VERY EFFECTIVE	46%
SOMEWHAT EFFECTIVE	37%
NOT VERY EFFECTIVE	9%
NOT AT ALL EFFECTIVE	7%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	1%

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Q16. HERE ARE SOME MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL.  
B) INCREASE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT BY OFFERING TRAINING TO PARENTS ON HOW TO KEEP THEIR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL  
WOULD THIS MEASURE BE...

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

VERY EFFECTIVE	50%
SOMEWHAT EFFECTIVE	37%
NOT VERY EFFECTIVE	6%
NOT AT ALL EFFECTIVE	6%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	1%

Q16. HERE ARE SOME MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL.  
C) LOWER ACADEMIC STANDARDS SO THAT MORE CHILDREN CAN GRADUATE  
WOULD THIS MEASURE BE...

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

VERY EFFECTIVE	7%
SOMEWHAT EFFECTIVE	13%
NOT VERY EFFECTIVE	18%
NOT AT ALL EFFECTIVE	60%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	2%

Q16. HERE ARE SOME MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL.  
D) OUTLAW DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL UNDER THE AGE OF 18  
WOULD THIS MEASURE BE...

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

VERY EFFECTIVE	33%
SOMEWHAT EFFECTIVE	31%
NOT VERY EFFECTIVE	18%
NOT AT ALL EFFECTIVE	16%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	3%

Q16. HERE ARE SOME MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL.  
G) PENALIZE THE PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO DON'T FINISH HIGH SCHOOL  
WOULD THIS MEASURE BE...

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

VERY EFFECTIVE	18%
SOMEWHAT EFFECTIVE	27%
NOT VERY EFFECTIVE	27%
NOT AT ALL EFFECTIVE	27%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	2%

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Q17. DID YOU YOURSELF COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL OR DID YOU DROP OUT OF SCHOOL? IF YOU DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL, BUT GOT A GED, PLEASE TELL ME...

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL	87%
DROPPED OUT, BUT GOT A GED	7%
DROPPED OUT	5%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	1%

Q18. DO YOU REGRET DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL, OR NOT?

BASE: DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL (121)

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

REGRETTED	70%
NOT REGRET	28%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	2%

Q19. DID YOU EVER CONSIDER DROPPING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL?

BASE: COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL/UNSPECIFIED (879)

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

YES, CONSIDERED	11%
NO, DID NOT CONSIDER	89%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	*

Q20. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES THE MAIN REASON YOU [DROPPED OUT/CONSIDERED DROPPING OUT] OF SCHOOL?

BASE: DROPPED OUT/CONSIDERED DROPPING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL (205)

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

YOUR SCHOOL WASN'T VERY GOOD	7%
YOU WERE NOT REALLY MOTIVATED TO FINISH SCHOOL	18%
YOUR CLASS WORK WAS TOO DIFFICULT	3%
YOU HAD PROBLEMS AT HOME	17%
YOU NEEDED TO WORK TO EARN MONEY	18%
PREGNANCY	8%
ILLNESS	1%
MILITARY/DRAFT	1%
MARRIAGE	1%
SOME OTHER REASON (SPECIFY)	24%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	2%

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Q20. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES THE MAIN REASON YOU [DROPPED OUT/CONSIDERED DROPPING OUT] OF SCHOOL?  
BASE: DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL (121)

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
YOUR SCHOOL WASN'T VERY GOOD	5%
YOU WERE NOT REALLY MOTIVATED TO FINISH SCHOOL	11%
YOUR CLASS WORK WAS TOO DIFFICULT	2%
YOU HAD PROBLEMS AT HOME	15%
YOU NEEDED TO WORK TO EARN MONEY	24%
PREGNANCY	13%
ILLNESS	1%
MILITARY/DRAFT	2%
MARRIAGE	1%
SOME OTHER REASON (SPECIFY)	24%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	2%

Q21. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBES THE MAIN REASON YOU FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL?  
BASE: COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL (873)

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
YOUR PARENTS' OR FAMILY MEMBER'S INVOLVEMENT AND ENCOURAGEMENT	26%
YOUR OWN DESIRE TO SUCCEED OR GO TO COLLEGE	46%
BOTH	26%
NEITHER	2%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	*

Q24. PLEASE TELL ME HOW IMPORTANT EACH OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS ARE FOR WHY MANY STUDENTS DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL.  
1) THE SCHOOLS THEY ATTEND AND THE TEACHERS AREN'T VERY GOOD

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	14%
VERY IMPORTANT	25%
SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	33%
NOT VERY IMPORTANT	25%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	2%

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Q24. PLEASE TELL ME HOW IMPORTANT EACH OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS ARE FOR WHY MANY STUDENTS DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL.  
2) THE STUDENTS ARE NOT MOTIVATED

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	27%
VERY IMPORTANT	39%
SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	21%
NOT VERY IMPORTANT	11%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	2%

Q24. PLEASE TELL ME HOW IMPORTANT EACH OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS ARE FOR WHY MANY STUDENTS DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL.  
3) CLASSWORK IS TOO DIFFICULT

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	4%
VERY IMPORTANT	11%
SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	29%
NOT VERY IMPORTANT	54%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	2%

Q24. PLEASE TELL ME HOW IMPORTANT EACH OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS ARE FOR WHY MANY STUDENTS DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL.  
4) THEY HAVE PROBLEMS AT HOME

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	25%
VERY IMPORTANT	39%
SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	25%
NOT VERY IMPORTANT	9%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	2%

Q24. PLEASE TELL ME HOW IMPORTANT EACH OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS ARE FOR WHY MANY STUDENTS DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL.  
5) THEY NEED TO WORK TO EARN MONEY

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	12%
VERY IMPORTANT	20%
SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	39%
NOT VERY IMPORTANT	27%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	2%

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Q25. SOME PEOPLE WHO DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL CAN TAKE TESTS TO EARN A GENERAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE OR GED. IN YOUR VIEW, IS A GED AS GOOD AS A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR NOT?

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

AS GOOD AS A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	37%
NOT AS GOOD	60%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	3%

Q26. DO YOU THINK A GED CERTIFICATE PROVIDES HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS AS MANY OPPORTUNITIES AS A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA DOES, OR NOT?

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

PROVIDES AS MANY OPPORTUNITIES	29%
DOES NOT	64%
DEPENDS/SOMETIMES YES/ SOMETIMES NO	4%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	4%

Q27. IN YOUR OPINION, AT WHAT AGE SHOULD STUDENTS BE ALLOWED TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL?

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

10 - 15	1%
16	12%
17	11%
18	38%
19 - 21	6%
SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED	26%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	6%

Q29. IF A STUDENT YOUNGER THAN 18 CHOOSES TO LEAVE SCHOOL, SHOULD THE STATE BE ALLOWED TO DENY THEM DRIVER'S LICENSES UNTIL THEY TURN 18, OR NOT?

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

YES, STATE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DENY	65%
NO, STATE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DENY	32%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	3%

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Q30. AND IF A STUDENT YOUNGER THAN 18 DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL, SHOULD THE STATE BE ALLOWED TO DENY THEM CHILD WORK PERMITS, OR NOT?

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

YES, STATE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DENY	33%
NO, STATE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DENY	64%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	3%

Q31. SHOULD THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PASS LAWS MAKING IT ILLEGAL IN ALL STATES TO LEAVE HIGH SCHOOL BEFORE THE AGE OF 16?

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

YES, SHOULD MAKE ILLEGAL	69%
NO, SHOULD NOT	28%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	3%

Q32. IN YOUR OPINION, SHOULD ALL STUDENTS BE REQUIRED TO PURSUE A COLLEGE TRACK IN HIGH SCHOOL OR SHOULD STUDENTS BE OFFERED THE OPTION OF TAKING VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TO PREPARE THEM FOR WORK IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL?

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

ALL STUDENTS REQUIRED TO PURSUE COLLEGE TRACK	8%
SHOULD BE OFFERED VOCATION EDUCATION OPTION	88%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	4%

Q33. DO YOU THINK THAT SCHOOLS TODAY SHOULD SPEND MORE ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, LESS, OR ARE THEY SPENDING ABOUT THE RIGHT AMOUNT NOW?

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

SPEND MORE	51%
SPEND LESS	4%
ABOUT THE RIGHT AMOUNT NOW	33%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	12%

Q34. IN YOUR OPINION, DO YOU THINK THAT THERE IS TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON STANDARDIZED ACHIEVEMENT TESTING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN YOUR COMMUNITY, TOO LITTLE, OR ABOUT THE RIGHT AMOUNT?

ALL  
RESPONDENTS  
=====

TOO MUCH	44%
TOO LITTLE	11%
ABOUT THE RIGHT AMOUNT	39%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	6%

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Q35. IN 2001, CONGRESS PASSED PRESIDENT BUSH'S "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND" ACT. HOW MUCH WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND" ACT?

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
GREAT DEAL	17%
SOME	40%
NOT MUCH	29%
NOTHING AT ALL	14%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	1%

Q36. BASED ON ANYTHING YOU MAY HAVE SEEN OR HEARD, DO YOU THINK THAT THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT HAS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON EDUCATION, A NEGATIVE IMPACT, OR NOT MUCH IMPACT AT ALL?

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
POSITIVE	35%
NEGATIVE	23%
NOT MUCH IMPACT	35%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	8%

Q37. WHO IS MOST TO BLAME WHEN SOME PUBLIC SCHOOLS FAIL TO IMPROVE TEST SCORES?

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
NOT ENOUGH MONEY	24%
SCHOOL DISTRICTS	21%
PARENTS	18%
STUDENTS	14%
TEACHERS	11%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	11%

A. GENDER

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
MALE	48%
FEMALE	52%

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## F1. WHAT IS YOUR AGE?

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
18-24	11%
25-29	8%
30-34	10%
35-39	8%
40-44	13%
45-54	19%
55-64	13%
65 OR OLDER	17%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	1%

## F2. WHAT IS THE HIGHEST GRADE OF SCHOOLING THAT YOU'VE COMPLETED?

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
8TH GRADE OR LESS	2%
SOME HIGH SCHOOL	9%
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	21%
SOME COLLEGE	28%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	25%
POSTGRADUATE STUDY/LAW OR MEDICAL SCHOOL	14%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	1%

## F3. ARE YOU OF HISPANIC ORIGIN OR DESCENT?

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
YES	10%
NO	89%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	1%

## F4. WHAT IS YOUR RACE? ARE YOU WHITE, BLACK, ASIAN, OR SOMETHING ELSE?

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
WHITE	76%
BLACK	11%
ASIAN	2%
HISPANIC	6%
OTHER	5%
DON'T KNOW/NO ANSWER	1%

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F10. FINALLY, JUST FOR CLASSIFICATION PURPOSES, WAS YOUR TOTAL FAMILY INCOME BEFORE TAXES LAST YEAR...

	ALL RESPONDENTS =====
LESS THAN \$20,000	11%
\$20,000 TO JUST UNDER \$35,000	18%
\$35,000 TO JUST UNDER \$50,000	18%
\$50,000 TO JUST UNDER \$75,000	16%
\$75,000 TO JUST UNDER \$100,000	12%
\$100,000 OR MORE	16%
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	9%

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