

Pittsburgh Today Education Survey, October 2019

Responses By Race
(Allegheny County)

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SCHOOL SAFETY

SAFE 1: How would you rate the safety of the public schools in your local community?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Very Safe	30.5%	33.3%	10.2%
Somewhat safe	53.6%	52.0%	64.6%
Somewhat unsafe	13.5%	12.5%	21.2%
Very unsafe	2.4%	2.2%	4.0%

FUNDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FUND 2: In your opinion, how much does the amount of money spent on a public school student's education affect the quality of his or her education?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Very much	58.9%	57.6%	69.9%
Somewhat	36.3%	37.2%	28.3%
Not at all	4.8%	5.2%	1.8%

FUND 3: In your view, how adequate or inadequate are the financial resources available for the public schools in your local community?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Completely adequate	13.7%	15.3%	2.2%
Generally adequate	46.5%	47.2%	40.3%
Generally inadequate	33.6%	32.4%	43.2%
Completely inadequate	6.2%	5.1%	14.3%

FUND 4: Here is a short list of possible changes to improve public schools in your community. Would you favor or oppose the following changes knowing that each would likely cost more money and could result in raising taxes?

FUND 4 (a): Paying teachers more.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	75.0%	73.4%	86.7%
Oppose	25.0%	26.6%	13.3%

FUND 4 (b): Placing more computers/technology in the classroom.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	79.6%	78.0%	91.1%
Oppose	20.4%	22.0%	8.9%

FUND 4 (c): Extending the length of the school day/school year.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	45.9%	44.3%	56.4%
Oppose	54.1%	55.7%	43.6%

FUND 4 (d): Fixing run-down schools.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	87.8%	86.5%	97.1%
Oppose	12.2%	13.5%	2.9%

FUND 4 (e): Expanding course offerings.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	89.3%	88.3%	96.7%
Oppose	10.7%	11.7%	3.3%

FUND 4 (f): Expanding after-school programs.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	84.8%	83.3%	95.2%
Oppose	15.2%	16.7%	4.8%

FUND 5: If education funding had to be reduced, would you favor or oppose reduced spending for each the following?

FUND 5 (a): Athletics and athletic facilities.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	64.0%	65.7%	50.9%
Oppose	36.0%	34.3%	49.1%

FUND 5 (b): School buildings and facilities.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	22.4%	23.4%	15.5%
Oppose	77.6%	76.6%	84.5%

FUND 5 (c): Transportation.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	28.4%	30.0%	16.7%
Oppose	71.6%	70.0%	83.3%

FUND 5 (d): School personnel (teachers and administrators).

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	22.3%	22.2%	20.7%
Oppose	77.7%	77.8%	79.3%

FUND 5 (e): After-school programs.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	30.5%	32.1%	19.6%
Oppose	69.5%	67.9%	80.4%

FUND 5 (f): Art, music or library programs.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	15.6%	15.5%	17.0%
Oppose	84.4%	84.5%	83.0%

FUND 6: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The amount of money that goes to education in your state should be equitable for all students, even if it means taking funding from some wealthy school districts and giving it to poor districts.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Agree	83.5%	82.8%	89.0%
Disagree	16.5%	17.2%	11.0%

FUND 7: Do you favor or oppose the government offering parents money or “vouchers” to send their children to private schools, religious schools, charter schools or traditional public schools outside their district?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	44.8%	42.6%	59.7%
Oppose	55.2%	57.4%	40.3%

ISSUES IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

ISSUE 8: Do you feel that the emphasis placed on statewide test scores in public schools is...

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Very appropriate	9.4%	9.9%	5.8%
Somewhat appropriate	37.9%	38.4%	34.7%
Somewhat inappropriate	36.7%	36.1%	41.6%
Very inappropriate	16.1%	15.6%	17.9%

ISSUE 9: Do you think standardized tests should be used for the following purposes?

ISSUE 9 (a): To determine the level of funding each school receives?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	18.5%	18.9%	14.4%
No	81.5%	81.1%	85.6%

ISSUE 9 (b): To identify areas where teachers need improvement.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	78.2%	78.7%	74.7%
No	21.8%	21.3%	25.3%

ISSUE 9 (c): To identify areas where students need improvement.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	93.2%	93.8%	88.6%
No	6.8%	6.2%	11.4%

ISSUE 9 (d): To determine whether students are promoted/graduate.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	47.0%	47.2%	45.5%
No	53.0%	52.8%	54.5%

ISSUE 9 (e): To rate/rank schools.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	38.5%	37.7%	42.9%
No	61.5%	62.3%	57.1%

ISSUE 9 (f): To ensure students meet adequate national education standards.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	80.2%	80.5%	77.7%
No	19.8%	19.5%	22.3%

ISSUE 10: How confident are you that the scores on standardized tests are an accurate indicator of a student's progress and abilities?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Very confident	8.1%	8.2%	7.3%
Somewhat confident	47.6%	49.3%	35.5%
Not confident	44.4%	42.5%	57.1%

ISSUE 11: To what extent do small class sizes improve educational outcomes?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
To a great extent	67.9%	67.3%	71.5%
To some extent	29.6%	30.6%	23.0%
Not at all	2.5%	2.0%	5.5%

ISSUE 12: Would you support merging your school district with any of its neighboring school districts?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	51.4%	49.7%	64.8%
No	48.6%	50.3%	35.2%

ISSUE 13: Please tell us whether you favor or oppose making the following changes in your community to improve your public schools.

ISSUE 13 (a): Greater school choice.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	70.4%	67.5%	90.8%
Oppose	29.6%	32.5%	9.2%

ISSUE 13 (b): More Career Technical Education (CTE) in schools (such as automotive repair, machine operations and culinary arts).

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	96.3%	96.3%	96.7%
Oppose	3.7%	3.7%	3.3%

ISSUE 13 (c): More technology-based education (such as the use of iPads in the classroom, adaptive learning software, maker spaces in the school).

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	83.9%	83.6%	86.4%
Oppose	16.1%	16.4%	13.6%

ISSUE 13 (d): Teacher pay tied to a measure of student performance.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	39.4%	39.0%	41.4%
Oppose	60.6%	61.0%	58.6%

ISSUE 13 (e): More art and music education.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor	80.8%	80.4%	83.0%
Oppose	19.2%	19.6%	17.0%

ISSUE 13 (f): Do you think students of different ability levels should be grouped together in the same classes, or separated into different classes based on their ability?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Favor together	51.9%	50.3%	63.4%
Favor separating	48.1%	49.7%	36.6%

ISSUE 14: In general, do you think non-white children get a better, worse, or about the same quality education as white children in your community?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Better	4.2%	3.4%	10.3%
Worse	41.0%	37.3%	68.1%
About the same	54.8%	59.3%	21.6%

ISSUE 15: Do you think students who go to racially integrated schools get a better, worse, or about the same quality education as those who do not?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Better	32.2%	31.6%	36.3%
Worse	15.5%	14.3%	23.8%
About the same	52.4%	54.1%	39.9%

ISSUE 16: Do you think children who are schooled at home rather than in a school get a better, worse, or about the same quality education as other children?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Better	22.3%	19.9%	37.9%
Worse	50.3%	52.6%	33.8%
About the same	27.4%	27.4%	28.3%

ISSUE 17: In the past two years, have you attended a school board meeting?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	10.4%	9.9%	13.9%
No	89.6%	90.1%	86.1%

ISSUE 18: How would you rate the following aspects of the public schools in your community?

ISSUE 18 (a): Student preparedness.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Poor	8.9%	7.7%	15.7%
Fair	42.4%	39.4%	63.9%
Good	41.9%	45.3%	18.2%
Excellent	6.8%	7.5%	2.2%

ISSUE 18 (b): Educational standards.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Poor	8.7%	7.2%	20.1%
Fair	34.8%	32.7%	49.8%
Good	46.0%	48.9%	24.2%
Excellent	10.5%	11.2%	5.9%

ISSUE 18 (c): Class size.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Poor	15.7%	13.5%	30.4%
Fair	42.0%	40.4%	54.2%
Good	37.1%	40.2%	15.4%
Excellent	5.3%	6.0%	0%

ISSUE 18 (d): Diversity of student body.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Poor	16.5%	13.8%	35.9%
Fair	34.7%	32.6%	48.4%
Good	40.6%	44.7%	11.7%
Excellent	8.3%	8.9%	4.0%

ISSUE 18 (e): Safe classroom and school facilities.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Poor	8.5%	8.3%	10.6%
Fair	30.5%	26.8%	55.5%
Good	46.3%	49.5%	24.1%
Excellent	14.7%	15.4%	9.9%

ISSUE 18 (f): Student behavior.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Poor	16.9%	15.5%	25.0%
Fair	39.7%	37.8%	53.7%
Good	39.6%	42.2%	21.3%
Excellent	3.9%	4.4%	0%

ISSUE 18 (g): Technology and/or school innovation.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Poor	6.3%	4.8%	17.3%
Fair	36.0%	33.7%	53.3%
Good	47.3%	50.7%	21.7%
Excellent	10.4%	10.8%	7.7%

ISSUE 18 (h): Classroom instruction.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Poor	5.1%	3.5%	16.5%
Fair	31.2%	29.0%	46.0%
Good	54.3%	57.4%	33.5%
Excellent	9.4%	10.2%	4.0%

ISSUE 18 (i): Equitable treatment of students across race and gender.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Poor	13.2%	11.2%	27.9%
Fair	31.1%	29.0%	46.7%
Good	44.5%	47.6%	21.7%
Excellent	11.2%	12.3%	3.7%

ISSUE 18 (j): Parental involvement.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Poor	17.8%	16.6%	25.1%
Fair	41.5%	39.5%	56.5%
Good	34.4%	37.2%	14.8%
Excellent	6.3%	6.6%	3.7%

ISSUE 18 (k): Funding.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Poor	19.0%	16.6%	37.0%
Fair	36.0%	34.6%	44.3%
Good	34.8%	37.6%	15.8%
Excellent	10.2%	11.2%	2.9%

ISSUE 18 (l): School administration.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Poor	14.6%	13.2%	24.6%
Fair	39.0%	36.9%	52.2%
Good	40.3%	43.8%	16.9%
Excellent	6.1%	6.1%	6.3%

ISSUE 18 (m): School board.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Poor	18.7%	17.4%	28.3%
Fair	42.4%	40.6%	54.4%
Good	35.2%	38.5%	12.9%
Excellent	3.6%	3.6%	4.4%

ISSUE 19: Is drug and alcohol use a problem in the schools in your community?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	40.6%	40.9%	38.5%
No	10.1%	9.1%	18.3%
I don't know	49.3%	50.0%	43.2%

ISSUE 20: Do you believe having teachers represented by a union to negotiate their wages, benefits and working conditions is beneficial to public schools?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	56.9%	56.8%	59.0%
No	22.4%	23.8%	12.5%
I don't know	20.7%	19.4%	28.6%

ISSUE 21: In your opinion, how important is early childhood education?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Very important	85.2%	84.5%	92.3%
Somewhat important	13.0%	14.2%	4.4%
Not at all important	1.8%	1.3%	3.3%

ISSUE 22: Do you think all public school systems should offer early childhood care and education?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	87.7%	86.8%	95.6%
No	12.3%	13.2%	4.4%

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE - SCHOOLS

PERS 23: Do you have any children aged 5-18 (kindergarten – grade 12)?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	18.6%	17.2%	28.6%
No	81.4%	82.8%	71.4%

PERS 24: Does your child/children attend ... (you can select more than one):

PERS 24 (a): Public school.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	81.8%	81.4%	83.3%
No	18.2%	18.6%	16.7%

PERS 24 (b): Private school.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	15.1%	16.3%	9.0%
No	84.9%	83.7%	91.0%

PERS 24 (c): Home school.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	3.4%	3.8%	1.3%
No	96.6%	96.2%	98.7%

PERS 24 (d): Charter school.

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	8.6%	5.8%	20.8%
No	91.4%	94.2%	79.2%

PERS 25: Does your child attend a neighborhood school?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	72.5%	74.3%	64.1%
No	27.5%	25.7%	35.9%

PERS 26: Which of the following are the most important factors in choosing a school for your child? (pick two).

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Proximity	34.8%	40.6%	9.0%
Safety	47.2%	40.9%	75.6%
Religion	2.7%	3.2%	1.3%
Specialized instruction	29.9%	30.0%	29.5%
Family tradition	2.8%	2.0%	6.4%
Academic outcomes	71.3%	72.6%	65.4%
Other	11.2%	10.7%	13.0%

PERS 27: How welcome do you feel in your child's school?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Very welcome	66.7%	69.7%	53.2%
Somewhat welcome	28.7%	27.7%	33.8%
Somewhat unwelcome	3.1%	2.3%	6.5%
Very unwelcome	1.5%	0.3%	6.5%

PERS 28: How much influence do you think you have over your children's education?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Significant	51.9%	46.7%	75.6%
Some	35.0%	39.2%	16.7%
Not much	10.7%	11.2%	7.7%
None	2.4%	2.9%	0%

PERS 29: How often do you have contact with your child's teacher?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
At least once a week	33.6%	29.1%	54.5%
Once a month	33.1%	35.2%	24.7%
Once a term	18.9%	21.3%	7.8%
Once a year	2.3%	2.6%	0%
Not at all	12.0%	11.8%	13.0%

PERS 30: Do you feel comfortable contacting your child's teacher?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	95.2%	96.0%	92.3%
No	4.8%	4.0%	7.7%

PERS 31: How often do you help your child with his or her homework?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
More than once a week	54.9%	53.0%	64.1%
About once a week	13.0%	14.1%	7.7%
A few times a month	12.6%	15.3%	0%
About once a month	3.8%	4.6%	0%
About once a term	3.3%	3.7%	1.3%
Not at all	12.4%	9.2%	26.9%

PERS 32: In the past two years, have you visited your child's school for a parent conference or attended a Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) or a meeting of a similar parent organization?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	75.8%	75.3%	78.2%
No	24.2%	24.7%	21.8%

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

PREK 33: Do you have pre-school age children?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	5.9%	5.6%	8.4%
No	94.1%	94.4%	91.6%

PREK 34: Do you regularly use any type of child care for any of your children?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Yes	60.8%	62.6%	52.2%
No	39.2%	37.4%	47.8%

PREK 35: What type of child care do you most often use?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Family members	35.3%	33.0%	47.8%
Friends	0.1%	0%	0%
In-home care	6.0%	7.1%	0%
Professional care facility	35.8%	32.1%	52.2%
None	22.8%	27.7%	0%

PREK 36: How much of a problem, if any, has it been for you to find quality child care that you can afford?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
A severe problem	44.3%	44.9%	43.5%
A moderate problem	18.1%	16.8%	21.7%
A minor problem	19.8%	17.8%	30.4%
Not a problem at all	17.9%	20.6%	4.3%

PREK 37: How often do you read to your pre-school age children?

	Overall	Not African American	African American
Every day	49.4%	49.5%	52.2%
3 to 6 days a week	23.1%	22.4%	26.1%
Once or twice a week	18.8%	17.8%	21.7%
Less than once a week	4.7%	5.6%	0%
Never	4.0%	4.7%	0%