

2019 Education Poll of Kentucky

1,000 Kentucky registered voters interviewed statewide by telephone June 14 through June 26, 2019 by Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy. Margin for error is +/-3.2%

QUESTION #1: Which ONE of the following issues do you feel should be the top priority for your elected officials in Kentucky to address? (ORDER ROTATED)

Healthcare	32%
Jobs and the economy	24%
K-12 public education	20%
Infrastructure	12%
Public safety	6%
Postsecondary education	3%
Preschool and Childcare	1%
Not Sure (DO NOT READ)	2%

QUESTION #2: Over the last few years, do you believe the quality of education in your local public schools has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

Gotten better	15%
Gotten worse	38%
Stayed about the same	43%
Not Sure	4%

QUESTION #3: Over the last few years, do you believe the quality of education in schools across the state have gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

Gotten better	14%
Gotten worse	40%
Stayed about the same	40%
Not Sure	6%

QUESTION #4: Would you support or oppose increasing state taxes in Kentucky to provide more funding for Kentucky's public schools? (Is that strongly support/oppose or somewhat support/oppose?)

Strongly support	25%
Somewhat support	23%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	32%
Undecided	4%

QUESTION #5: Would you support or oppose your local government increasing taxes to provide more funding for your local public schools? (Is that strongly support/oppose or somewhat support/oppose?)

Strongly support	17%
Somewhat support	27%
Somewhat oppose	17%
Strongly oppose	36%
Undecided	3%

QUESTION #6: Do you think salaries for teachers in your community are too high, too low, or just about right?

Too High	3%
Too Low	58%
Just about right	34%
Not Sure	5%

QUESTION #7: Imagine that the average starting salary for a public-school teacher in your community was \$36,500 a year. Would you consider that too high, too low, or just about right?

Too High	4%
Too Low	55%
Just about right	40%
Not Sure	1%

QUESTION #8: How prepared do you think Kentucky students are for the workplace and/or postsecondary education after high school?

Very prepared	6%
Somewhat prepared	52%
Somewhat unprepared	24%
Very unprepared	16%
Not Sure (NOT READ)	2%

QUESTION #9: How would you rate tuition prices at Kentucky's public universities and colleges? Do you believe they are:

Much too high	45%
Somewhat too high	32%
About right	18%
Too low	4%
Not Sure (DO NOT READ)	1%

QUESTION #10: Thinking about different levels of education, how well do you think each of the following prepares someone for a good-paying job in today's economy?

- A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Very Well	10%
Somewhat well	37%
Not so well	35%
Not at all well	17%
Not Sure	1%

- A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL OR CERTIFICATE THAT IS LESS THAN A DEGREE

Very Well	12%
Somewhat well	62%
Not so well	17%
Not at all well	7%
Not Sure	2%

- **A TWO-YEAR DEGREE FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Very Well	19%
Somewhat well	65%
Not so well	9%
Not at all well	6%
Not Sure	1%

- **A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE FROM A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY**

Very Well	46%
Somewhat well	40%
Not so well	9%
Not at all well	3%
Not Sure	2%

QUESTION #11: Which of the following statements do you agree with more: (ORDER ROTATED)

55% – a four-year degree is a key to someone’s future success

33% - a four-year college degree is not worth the cost

12% – Not Sure (NOT READ)

QUESTION #12: If you knew the following were true about a candidate for Governor would it make you more likely to support that candidate or less likely to support that candidate? (is that much more likely/less likely or somewhat more likely/less likely?)

- **Supports increasing teacher pay**

Much More Likely	35%
Somewhat More Likely	33%
Somewhat Less Likely	18%
Much Less Likely	8%
No Effect/ Not Sure (NOT READ)	6%

- **Favors increasing education funding**

Much More Likely	32%
Somewhat More Likely	39%
Somewhat Less Likely	15%
Much Less Likely	7%
No Effect/Not Sure (NOT READ)	7%

- **Favors improving early learning opportunities**

Much More Likely	45%
Somewhat More Likely	39%
Somewhat Less Likely	7%
Much Less Likely	4%
No Effect/Not Sure (NOT READ)	5%

- **Favors expanding early workforce training opportunities**

Much More Likely	58%
Somewhat More Likely	33%
Somewhat Less Likely	5%
Much Less Likely	1%
No Effect/Not Sure (NOT READ)	3%

- **Supports expanding the options of parents to choose the school they send their children to**

Much More Likely	44%
Somewhat More Likely	26%
Somewhat Less Likely	14%
Much Less Likely	10%
No Effect/Not Sure (NOT READ)	6%

- **Favors teacher evaluations that measure multiple factors**

Much More Likely	38%
Somewhat More Likely	40%
Somewhat Less Likely	9%
Much Less Likely	5%
No Effect/Not Sure (NOT READ)	8%

- **Has a plan designed to increase student achievement in reading and math by the end of 3rd grade**

Much More Likely	54%
Somewhat More Likely	30%
Somewhat Less Likely	5%
Much Less Likely	3%
No Effect/Not Sure (NOT READ)	8%

- **Favors state support for universal preschool**

Much More Likely	50%
Somewhat More Likely	24%
Somewhat Less Likely	13%
Much Less Likely	8%
No Effect/Not Sure (NOT READ)	5%

QUESTION #13: For each of the following issues that your community may be currently facing, please say if the issue is very important, somewhat important, of little importance, or not important at all.

- **Quality, affordable childcare for working parents**

Very important	52%
Somewhat important	31%
Of little importance	8%
Not important at all	6%
Not Sure (NOT READ)	3%

- **Pre-Kindergarten education**

Very important	47%
Somewhat important	33%
Of little importance	18%
Not important at all	2%
Not Sure (NOT READ)	-

- **K-12 public education**

Very important	75%
Somewhat important	16%
Of little importance	6%
Not important at all	2%
Not Sure (NOT READ)	1%

- **Postsecondary education**

Very important	51%
Somewhat important	40%
Of little importance	6%
Not important at all	2%
Not Sure (NOT READ)	1%

- **Infrastructure**

Very important	61%
Somewhat important	25%
Of little importance	9%
Not important at all	2%
Not Sure (NOT READ)	3%

- **Crime and Public safety**

Very important	71%
Somewhat important	23%
Of little importance	4%
Not important at all	1%
Not Sure (NOT READ)	1%

- **Jobs and the economy**

Very important	83%
Somewhat important	16%
Of little importance	1%
Not important at all	-
Not Sure (NOT READ)	-

- **Health care**

Very important	74%
Somewhat important	18%
Of little importance	6%
Not important at all	1%
Not Sure (NOT READ)	1%

SECTION 2: EARLY CHILDHOOD FOCUS QUESTIONS

QUESTION #14: Do you oppose or support increasing state funding for low-income working parents to provide quality childcare and preschool for their children? (Is that strongly oppose/support or somewhat oppose/support?)

Strongly Support	40%
Somewhat Support	34%
Strongly Oppose	12%
Somewhat Oppose	11%
Undecided	3%

QUESTION #15: If your state legislator voted in favor of increasing the state funding provided for quality childcare and preschool for low-income working parents, would that make you less likely or more likely to re-elect them?

Much Less Likely	14%
Somewhat Less Likely	16%
Much More Likely	35%
Somewhat More Likely	26%
No Effect/Not Sure (NOT READ)	9%

QUESTION #16: Would you oppose or support increasing taxes to help low-income working parents pay for quality childcare and preschool? (Is that strongly oppose/support or somewhat oppose/support?)

Strongly Support	21%
Somewhat Support	30%
Strongly Oppose	27%
Somewhat Oppose	18%
Undecided	4%

QUESTION #17: What should be government's role in providing quality childcare and preschool for working parents who cannot afford it? Do you think the government should have a significant role, a small role, or no role at all?

A significant role	29%
A small role	48%
No role at all	22%
Not Sure	1%

QUESTION #18: I'm going to describe two points of view. Please tell me which point of view you agree with the most (ORDER ROTATED)

- Some/other people say we need to make sure that funding for early childhood development and education programs are available to all children, regardless of financial situation.

- Some/other people say we need to target funding for early childhood development and education programs to families who are struggling to make ends meet.

Would you say that you strongly agree or somewhat agree with that statement?

Strongly agree "All"	35%
Somewhat agree "All"	19%
Strongly agree "Struggling"	19%
Somewhat agree "Struggling"	21%
Not Sure (DO NOT READ)	6%

QUESTION #19: Imagine that the average wage for a childcare professional in your community was \$11/hour. Would you consider that too high, too low, or just about right?

Too High	4%
Too Low	49%
Just about right	44%
Not Sure	3%

QUESTION #20: I am going to read you some brief statements that you may see or hear in advertisements in the coming months. For each statement, please tell me if that statement would cause you to be less likely or more likely to support increasing state funding for quality childcare and preschool.

- **Increasing state funding for quality childcare and preschool will allow parents to work or go to job training. (Is that much less likely/more likely or somewhat less likely/more likely?)**

Much Less Likely	6%
Somewhat Less Likely	19%
Much More Likely	26%
Somewhat More Likely	45%
No Effect/Not Sure (NOT READ)	4%

- **Increasing state funding for quality childcare and preschool improves children’s outcomes and boosts their future academic success.**

Much Less Likely	7%
Somewhat Less Likely	13%
Much More Likely	36%
Somewhat More Likely	40%
No Effect/Not Sure (NOT READ)	4%

- **Children’s brains develop the most before age three. This means that taxpayers get the biggest return by investing in children from birth to age three.**

Much Less Likely	12%
Somewhat Less Likely	19%
Much More Likely	32%
Somewhat More Likely	32%
No Effect/Not Sure (NOT READ)	5%

- **Increasing state funding for quality childcare and preschool is an investment in the children of Kentucky and their futures. It will provide a positive return to our state's economy.**

Much Less Likely	11%
Somewhat Less Likely	9%
Much More Likely	42%
Somewhat More Likely	34%
No Effect/Not Sure (NOT READ)	4%

- **Increasing state funding for quality childcare and preschool will increase children’s safety and lessen the risk for child abuse.**

Much Less Likely	12%
Somewhat Less Likely	13%
Much More Likely	38%
Somewhat More Likely	32%
No Effect/Not Sure (NOT READ)	5%

- Children that receive early childhood education services before age five are more likely to succeed in grade school, high school, and beyond. Increasing state funding for quality child care and preschool ensures that all Kentucky children are given this advantage.

Much Less Likely	8%
Somewhat Less Likely	8%
Much More Likely	51%
Somewhat More Likely	30%
No Effect/Not Sure (NOT READ)	3%

- Increasing state funding to raise wages for qualified childcare providers will attract and retain the best professionals for our kids.

Much Less Likely	11%
Somewhat Less Likely	9%
Much More Likely	39%
Somewhat More Likely	38%
No Effect/Not Sure (NOT READ)	3%

THINKING AGAIN ABOUT CURRENT STATE FUNDING FOR QUALITY CHILD CARE...

QUESTION #21: Do you oppose or support increasing the state funding provided for quality child care and preschool for low-income working parents? (Is that strongly oppose/support or somewhat oppose/support?)

Strongly Support	40%
Somewhat Support	32%
Strongly Oppose	9%
Somewhat Oppose	15%
Undecided	4%

QUESTION #22: Would you oppose or support increasing taxes to pay for quality child care and preschool for low-income working parents? (Is that strongly oppose/support or somewhat oppose/support?)

Strongly Support	30%
Somewhat Support	27%
Strongly Oppose	22%
Somewhat Oppose	17%
Undecided	4%

QUESTION #23: Would you say finding quality, affordable childcare and preschool is:

Very difficult	12%
Somewhat difficult	24%
Somewhat easy	9%
Very easy	3%
Or, do you have no need for childcare	48%
Not Sure (NOT READ)	4%

QUESTION #24: What would you say is the primary obstacle to getting quality, affordable childcare and preschool? (NOT READ)

Too expensive	24%
Not enough quality child care teachers	13%
Not enough quality child care programs	12%
Don't know about current child care options	8%
Insufficient government support	4%
Other	3%
Not Sure	36%

QUESTION #25: What would you say are the two most important things that define quality childcare and preschool? (NOT READ)

	<u>1ST</u>	<u>2ND</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Staff training and education	25%	8%	33%
Low teacher-to-child ratio	13%	3%	16%
Impact on child's learning/education	7%	9%	16%
Affordability	6%	8%	14%
Health and safety licensing	6%	5%	11%
Convenient location	1%	3%	4%
Facilities	1%	2%	3%
Vaccination rate of children at a facility	-	-	-
Other	1%	-	1%
Not Sure	40%	62%	

QUESTION #26: Which of the following organizations should be primarily responsible for funding additional quality childcare and preschool options? (ORDER ROTATED)

State government	29%
School districts	17%
Businesses for their employees	11%
Federal government	11%
Non-profit organizations	10%
Local government	9%
Churches	1%
Other (NOT READ)	1%
Not Sure (NOT READ)	11%

DEMOGRAPHICS:

PARTY REGISTRATION:

Democrat	492 (49%)
Republican	420 (42%)
Independent or Other	88 (9%)

AGE:

18-34	167 (17%)
35-49	289 (29%)
50-64	287 (29%)
65+	250 (25%)
Refused	7 (1%)

RACE/ETHNICITY:

White	876 (88%)
Black or African-American	72 (7%)
Hispanic or Latino	19 (2%)
Asian or Other	24 (2%)
Refused	9 (1%)

EDUCATION:

Less than high school graduate	36 (4%)
High school graduate	351 (35%)
Some college /Associate Degree	284 (28%)
Bachelor's Degree	284 (28%)
Post graduate Degree	43 (4%)
Refused	2

HOUSEHOLD INCOME:

<\$25,000	62 (6%)
\$25,000 - \$49,999	174 (17%)
\$50,000 - \$74,999	135 (14%)
\$75,000 - \$99,999	139 (14%)
\$100,000 - \$124,999	72 (7%)
\$125,000 - \$149,999	47 (5%)
\$150,000+	63 (6%)
Refused	308 (31%)

SEX:

Male	474 (47%)
Female	526 (53%)

REGION:

Louisville Metro	240 (24%)
Lexington/Bluegrass	180 (18%)
Northern Kentucky	110 (11%)
Eastern Kentucky	220 (22%)
Western Kentucky	250 (25%)