

## **MISCONCEPTIONS FUEL DEEP UNPOPULARITY OF COMMON CORE**

As millions of students across the country prepare to take the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) exam or the Smarter Balanced Assessment, the most recent national survey from Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind finds that the educational reform behind these standardized tests remains a mystery to many Americans and faces widespread disapproval.

Currently, 40 percent of Americans say they disapprove of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), often referred to as just the "Common Core," with 42 percent who are unsure and 17 percent who favor the standards. The goal of the Core is to establish national standards for learning so that all students, regardless of where they live, leave high school with the skills necessary to enter college or the labor force.

Interestingly, a much greater proportion of Americans – 40 percent – say that they approve of attempts by the federal government to establish educational standards than approve of the Common Core. This indicates that opposition to the Common Core – which was put together by the states, rather than by the federal government – isn't based on a generalized dislike of standards, but of the Common Core in particular. A majority of Democrats (55%) say that they approve of federal attempts to establish standards, along with only 25 percent of Republicans but only 27 percent of Democrats and 9 percent of Republicans say that they approve of the Common Core.

"The CCSS was designed to arm high school graduates with the knowledge and skills required to succeed in college and their future careers. The Common Core State Standards were internationally benchmarked and intended to ensure consistent expectations across states. The effort to raise standards was meant to be encouraging. However, the issue has not been publicized effectively to the community, and especially to parents. Political ideology is affecting a nationwide effort to increase achievement in all children," said Dr. Vicki Cohen, director of the Peter Sammartino School of Education at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

The same survey finds that most Americans say that they don't know very much about the Common Core standards, and they seem to be right: misconceptions about the content of the standards are widespread – almost half of Americans (44%) think that sex education are part of them – and are strongly connected with opposition to them.

Forty-seven percent of Americans say that they've heard "some" or "a lot" about the Common Core standards, leaving the majority (52%) to say that they've heard "just a little," or "nothing at all" People who say that they've heard about the standards are more likely to say that they disapprove: those

who say that they've heard "a lot" about them disapprove 58 to 36 percent; those who say that they've heard "nothing" approve of them 43 to 16 percent.

"Parents are very concerned about the amount of testing that is being required to assess students on the Core Common State Standards. They are also confused with the new way that mathematics is being taught, with an emphasis on understanding how a problem is solved. Their children are being asked to read more complex and difficult books. Their exposure to the CCSS has been influenced by these factors. Parents need to understand why the standards are important steps to raising achievement in literacy and math. Teachers need more time to implement the standards effectively and inform parents of their successes," said Cohen.

A lack of information is evident from misconceptions about what topics are included in the standards. In the survey, Americans were also asked if four specific topics – sexual education, global warming, evolution, and the American Revolution – are included in the Common Core. In reality, none of these are part of the Common Core standards, which only include topics in math and reading. Still, two-thirds of Americans say that at least one of these is in the standards, with 37 percent saying that three or four of them are.

Forty-four percent of Americans think that sexual education is included in the Common Core, and 43 percent think that Common Core includes teaching about evolution, with an equal number saying that global warming is part of the standards. A larger group, 48 percent, say that the American Revolution is covered in the Common Core. Very few Americans know that these topics aren't included: only around one-in-ten correctly identify that they're not included in the standards. Respondents who say that they know more about Common Core were actually more likely to hold these sort of misperceptions: 40 percent who say that they've heard "a lot" about Common Core think that three or four of the false items are in the standards, compared with 32 percent of those who say that they've heard "nothing at all."

"In the absence of information about the Common Core, Americans are projecting their own beliefs about government influence on public education on to them," said Dan Cassino, associate professor of political science at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and an analyst for the poll. "Those who think that the government is trying to indoctrinate their children with beliefs they're opposed to think that the Common Core is the way they're doing it."

Among Democrats and independents, more false beliefs about the inclusion of topics that might be controversial – sex education, global warming and evolution – corresponds with greater support for Common Core. Only 21 percent of Democrats who correctly say that none of these are included approve of the Common Core, with 23 percent disapproving. In contrast, 33 percent of Democrats who incorrectly think that all of them are included approve the Common Core, with only 27 percent disapproving.

"The American public is clearly confused about what the CCSS is and isn't. These standards establish competencies in literacy and math that are required for children to succeed in college and their

careers. The standards were a joint effort from 43 states, and policymakers should be concerned that opposition seems to be fueled by partisan beliefs and misinformation about what it contains,” said Cohen. Among Republicans, false beliefs about these controversial topics lead to a dislike of the standards: 34 percent of those who know that none of the controversial topics are included disapprove of Common Core; among those who think that all of them are included, disapproval is 54 percent.

“Disapproval of the Common Core among Republicans is driven by false beliefs about what’s in the standards,” said Cassino. “But Democrats and independents seem to like the standards because of what they incorrectly think is included.”

Americans have very mixed views about who, exactly, should be taking the lead in making educational policy. When offered the options of the federal government, state government, local governments or school officials, 39 percent of Americans said that school officials should take the lead, 23 percent chose the states, and 21 percent favored local governments. Only 11 percent nationwide said that the federal government should be in charge. Views on this vary with political predispositions: 32 percent of Republicans say that states should be in charge, with only 17 percent of Democrats agreeing, and Democrats are more likely (43%) to say that school officials should take the lead, while only 31 percent of Republicans say the same.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University poll of 964 was conducted by telephone with both landline and cell phones from December 8 through December 15, 2014 and has a margin of error of +/- three percentage points.

*Methodology, questions, and tables on the web at: <http://publicmind.fdu.edu>*

*Radio actualities at 201.692.2846*

*For more information, please call 201.692.7032*

## **Methodology**

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University’s PublicMind was conducted by telephone from December 8 through December 15 using a randomly selected sample of 964 adults nationwide. One can be 95 percent confident that the error attributable to sampling has a range of +/- three percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies by the size of that subgroup. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling error. This kind of error, which cannot be measured, arises from a number of factors including, but not limited to, non-response (eligible individuals refusing to be interviewed), question wording, the order in which questions are asked, and variations among interviewers.

PublicMind interviews are conducted by Opinion America of Cedar Knolls, NJ, with professionally trained interviewers using a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system. Random selection is achieved by computerized random-digit dialing. This technique gives every person with a landline phone number (including those with unlisted numbers) an equal chance of being selected.

Landline households are supplemented with a separate, randomly selected sample of cell-phone respondents interviewed in the same time frame. The total combined sample is mathematically weighted to match known demographics of age, race and gender.

The sample was purchased from Marketing Systems Group and the research was funded by Fairleigh Dickinson University.

| <b>From what you've heard about it, do you approve or disapprove of the new Common Core Standards initiative? [Option Order Randomly Determined]</b> |     |          |      |     |            |              |           |
|--|-----|----------|------|-----|------------|--------------|-----------|
|  | All | Party ID |      |     | Education  |              |           |
|  |     | Dem      | Indp | Rep | HS or Less | Some College | College + |
| Approve  | 17  | 27%      | 14%  | 9%  | 16%        | 14%          | 20%       |
| Disapprove   | 40  | 32%      | 45%  | 48% | 34%        | 35%          | 46%       |
| Don't know (Vol)   | 42  | 41%      | 38%  | 42% | 48%        | 50%          | 33%       |
| Refused (Vol)  | 1   | 1%       | 3%   | 1%  | 1%         | 2%           | 1%        |

| <b>From what you've heard about it, do you approve or disapprove of the new Common Core Standards initiative? [Option Order Randomly Determined]</b> |     |        |        |       |           |  |
|--|-----|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--|
|  | All | Gender |        | Race  |           |  |
|  |     | Male   | Female | White | Non-White |  |
| Approve  | 17  | 22%    | 12%    | 16%   | 20%       |  |
| Disapprove   | 40  | 37%    | 42%    | 42%   | 35%       |  |
| Don't know (Vol)   | 42  | 39%    | 44%    | 41%   | 45%       |  |
| Refused (Vol)  | 1   | 1%     | 2%     | 1%    | 0%        |  |

| <b>From what you've heard, do you approve or disapprove of attempts by the federal government to establish educational standards? [Option Order Randomly Determined]</b> |     |          |      |     |            |              |           |
|--|-----|----------|------|-----|------------|--------------|-----------|
|  | All | Party ID |      |     | Education  |              |           |
|  |     | Dem      | Indp | Rep | HS or Less | Some College | College + |
| Approve  | 40  | 55%      | 36%  | 25% | 39%        | 40%          | 40%       |
| Disapprove   | 38  | 26%      | 33%  | 54% | 33%        | 34%          | 43%       |
| Don't know (Vol)   | 22  | 18%      | 29%  | 20% | 28%        | 25%          | 16%       |
| Refused (Vol)  | 1   | 1%       | 3%   | 1%  |            | 0%           | 2%        |

| <b>From what you've heard, do you approve or disapprove of attempts by the federal government to establish educational standards? [Option Order Randomly Determined]</b> |     |        |        |       |           |
|--|-----|--------|--------|-------|-----------|
|  | All | Gender |        | Race  |           |
|  |     | Male   | Female | White | Non-White |
| Approve  | 40  | 42%    | 38%    | 38%   | 44%       |
| Disapprove   | 38  | 37%    | 38%    | 43%   | 25%       |
| Don't know (Vol)   | 22  | 21%    | 22%    | 19%   | 30%       |
| Refused (Vol)  | 1   | 1%     | 2%     | 1%    | 1%        |

| How much have you heard about educational reform known as the Common Core State Standards Initiative? |    |          |      |     |            |              |           |
|---|----|----------|------|-----|------------|--------------|-----------|
|   |    | Party ID |      |     | Education  |              |           |
|   |    | Dem      | Indp | Rep | HS or Less | Some College | College + |
| A lot   | 18 | 22%      | 20%  | 27% | 12%        | 15%          | 34%       |
| Some  | 19 | 24%      | 26%  | 26% | 15%        | 25%          | 28%       |
| Just a little   | 14 | 18%      | 16%  | 18% | 17%        | 20%          | 16%       |
| Nothing at all  | 26 | 35%      | 38%  | 29% | 54%        | 39%          | 21%       |
| Don't know (Vol)  | 1  | 1%       | 1%   | 1%  | 3%         | 1%           | 0%        |

| How much have you heard about educational reform known as the Common Core State Standards Initiative? |    |        |        |       |           |
|---|----|--------|--------|-------|-----------|
|   |    | Gender |        | Race  |           |
|   |    | Male   | Female | White | Non-White |
| A lot   | 23 | 21%    | 25%    | 25%   | 15%       |
| Some  | 24 | 24%    | 25%    | 26%   | 19%       |
| Just a little   | 18 | 19%    | 16%    | 19%   | 14%       |
| Nothing at all  | 34 | 36%    | 33%    | 29%   | 50%       |
| Don't know (Vol)  | 1  | 1%     | 1%     | 1%    | 2%        |

| Sex Education?   |    |          |      |     |            |              |           |
|------------------|----|----------|------|-----|------------|--------------|-----------|
|                  |    | Party ID |      |     | Education  |              |           |
|                  |    | Dem      | Indp | Rep | HS or Less | Some College | College + |
| Yes              | 44 | 41%      | 45%  | 47% | 49%        | 48%          | 40%       |
| No               | 16 | 22%      | 14%  | 11% | 10%        | 16%          | 18%       |
| Don't know (Vol) | 40 | 37%      | 40%  | 42% | 40%        | 36%          | 42%       |
| Refused (Vol)    | 1  | 0%       | 1%   | 1%  | 1%         | 0%           | 0%        |

| Sex Education?   |    |        |        |       |           |
|------------------|----|--------|--------|-------|-----------|
|                  |    | Gender |        | Race  |           |
|                  |    | Male   | Female | White | Non-White |
| Yes              | 44 | 48%    | 41%    | 42%   | 48%       |
| No               | 16 | 14%    | 17%    | 16%   | 18%       |
| Don't know (Vol) | 40 | 38%    | 41%    | 42%   | 35%       |
| Refused (Vol)    | 1  | 1%     | 1%     | 1%    |           |

| Evolution?       |     |          |      |     |               |              |              |
|------------------|-----|----------|------|-----|---------------|--------------|--------------|
|                  | All | Party ID |      |     | Education     |              |              |
|                  |     | Dem      | Indp | Rep | HS or<br>Less | Some College | College<br>+ |
| Yes              | 43  | 46%      | 40%  | 41% | 39%           | 41%          | 46%          |
| No               | 17  | 16%      | 17%  | 20% | 16%           | 22%          | 15%          |
| Don't know (Vol) | 39  | 37%      | 41%  | 39% | 43%           | 37%          | 38%          |
| Refused (Vol)    | 1   | 0%       | 2%   | 0%  | 2%            | 0%           | 0%           |

| Evolution?       |     |        |        |       |           |
|------------------|-----|--------|--------|-------|-----------|
|                  | All | Gender |        | Race  |           |
|                  |     | Male   | Female | White | Non-White |
| Yes              | 43  | 46%    | 39%    | 42%   | 43%       |
| No               | 17  | 17%    | 18%    | 18%   | 18%       |
| Don't know (Vol) | 39  | 36%    | 42%    | 39%   | 39%       |
| Refused (Vol)    | 1   | 1%     | 1%     | 1%    |           |

| Global Warming?  |     |          |      |     |               |              |              |
|------------------|-----|----------|------|-----|---------------|--------------|--------------|
|                  | All | Party ID |      |     | Education     |              |              |
|                  |     | Dem      | Indp | Rep | HS or<br>Less | Some College | College<br>+ |
| Yes              | 43  | 48%      | 37%  | 43% | 46%           | 41%          | 44%          |
| No               | 17  | 16%      | 20%  | 16% | 11%           | 19%          | 17%          |
| Don't know (Vol) | 39  | 35%      | 42%  | 41% | 41%           | 39%          | 38%          |
| Refused (Vol)    | 1   | 0%       | 1%   | 1%  | 1%            | 1%           | 0%           |

| Global Warming?  |     |        |        |       |           |
|------------------|-----|--------|--------|-------|-----------|
|                  | All | Gender |        | Race  |           |
|                  |     | Male   | Female | White | Non-White |
| Yes              | 43  | 42.6%  | 44.2%  | 41.4% | 48.4%     |
| No               | 17  | 19.1%  | 14.1%  | 16.8% | 15.6%     |
| Don't know (Vol) | 39  | 37.7%  | 41.1%  | 41.1% | 35.9%     |
| Refused (Vol)    | 1   | .6%    | .6%    | .6%   |           |

| <b>The American Revolution?</b> |     |          |      |     |            |              |           |
|---------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-----|------------|--------------|-----------|
|                                 | All | Party ID |      |     | Education  |              |           |
|                                 |     | Dem      | Indp | Rep | HS or Less | Some College | College + |
| Yes                             | 48  | 55%      | 43%  | 44% | 43%        | 50%          | 49%       |
| No                              | 13  | 10%      | 14%  | 16% | 14%        | 13%          | 13%       |
| Don't know (Vol)                | 39  | 35%      | 43%  | 40% | 43%        | 36%          | 38%       |
| Refused (Vol)                   | 1   | 0%       | 1%   | 0%  |            | 0%           | 0%        |

| <b>The American Revolution?</b> |     |        |        |       |           |
|---------------------------------|-----|--------|--------|-------|-----------|
|                                 | All | Gender |        | Race  |           |
|                                 |     | Male   | Female | White | Non-White |
| Yes                             | 48  | 51%    | 45%    | 47%   | 49%       |
| No                              | 13  | 13%    | 13%    | 14%   | 12%       |
| Don't know (Vol)                | 39  | 36%    | 42%    | 39%   | 38%       |
| Refused (Vol)                   | 1   | 0%     | 1%     | 0%    |           |

| <b>Overall Number of False Beliefs About the Common Core (out of 4)</b> |     |          |      |     |
|---|-----|----------|------|-----|
|   | All | Party ID |      |     |
|   |     | Dem      | Indp | Rep |
| None  | 33  | 29%      | 40%  | 32% |
| One   | 12  | 14%      | 8%   | 12% |
| Two   | 18  | 16%      | 18%  | 19% |
| Three   | 18  | 18%      | 17%  | 21% |
| Four  | 19  | 22%      | 17%  | 16% |

| <b>Overall Number of False Beliefs About the Common Core (out of 4)</b> |     |        |        |       |           |
|---|-----|--------|--------|-------|-----------|
|   | All | Gender |        | Race  |           |
|   |     | Male   | Female | White | Non-White |
| None  | 33  | 32.4%  | 34.0%  | 32.8% | 32.8%     |
| One   | 12  | 9.4%   | 14.3%  | 12.5% | 11.7%     |
| Two   | 18  | 17.4%  | 18.3%  | 19.4% | 15.2%     |
| Three   | 18  | 20.0%  | 16.5%  | 20.2% | 13.7%     |
| Four  | 19  | 20.8%  | 16.9%  | 15.1% | 26.6%     |

| <b>Overall Number of False Beliefs About the Common Core (out of 4)</b> |     |                |                |               |            |
|---|-----|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
|   | All | Heard About CC |                | Approve of CC |            |
|   |     | A Lot          | Nothing at all | Approve       | Disapprove |
| None  | 33  | 22%            | 49%            | 17%           | 23%        |
| One   | 12  | 17%            | 7%             | 13%           | 16%        |
| Two   | 18  | 20%            | 12%            | 19%           | 23%        |
| Three   | 18  | 25%            | 13%            | 21%           | 22%        |
| Four  | 19  | 15%            | 20%            | 30%           | 16%        |

| <b>Overall Number of False Beliefs About the Common Core (out of 4)</b> |                         |         |              |         |             |         |
|---|-------------------------|---------|--------------|---------|-------------|---------|
|   | Heard About Common Core |         |              |         |             |         |
|   | Democrats               |         | Independents |         | Republicans |         |
|   | A Lot                   | Nothing | A Lot        | Nothing | A Lot       | Nothing |
| None  | 25%                     | 44%     | 26%          | 56%     | 18%         | 49%     |
| One   | 20%                     | 8%      | 11%          | 2%      | 18%         | 7%      |
| Two   | 16%                     | 8%      | 26%          | 12%     | 20%         | 15%     |
| Three   | 21%                     | 14%     | 26%          | 15%     | 30%         | 11%     |
| Four  | 19%                     | 26%     | 11%          | 15%     | 14%         | 19%     |

| <b>Overall Number of False Beliefs About the Common Core (out of 4)</b> |                        |            |              |            |             |            |
|---|------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|
|   | Approve of Common Core |            |              |            |             |            |
|   | Democrats              |            | Independents |            | Republicans |            |
|   | Approve                | Disapprove | Approve      | Disapprove | Approve     | Disapprove |
| None  | 23%                    | 17%        | 8%           | 30%        | 12%         | 23%        |
| One   | 8%                     | 23%        | 16%          | 10%        | 27%         | 15%        |
| Two   | 18%                    | 22%        | 24%          | 25%        | 18%         | 21%        |
| Three   | 25%                    | 18%        | 20%          | 20%        | 18%         | 27%        |
| Four  | 27%                    | 21%        | 32%          | 14%        | 24%         | 14%        |

| <b>Number of False Beliefs on Controversial Topics (out of 3)</b> |     |        |        |       |           |
|---|-----|--------|--------|-------|-----------|
|   | All | Gender |        | Race  |           |
|   |     | Male   | Female | White | Non-White |
| None  | 37% | 36%    | 39%    | 38%   | 36%       |
| One   | 19% | 19%    | 19%    | 19%   | 21%       |
| Two   | 21% | 19%    | 22%    | 24%   | 13%       |
| Three   | 24% | 27%    | 21%    | 20%   | 31%       |



| Number of False Beliefs on Controversial Topics (out of 3) |     |          |      |     |            |              |           |
|--|-----|----------|------|-----|------------|--------------|-----------|
|  | All | Party ID |      |     | Education  |              |           |
|  |     | Dem      | Indp | Rep | HS or Less | Some College | College + |
| None   | 37% | 34%      | 43%  | 36% | 39%        | 33%          | 38%       |
| One  | 19% | 21%      | 15%  | 18% | 14%        | 26%          | 17%       |
| Two  | 21% | 20%      | 19%  | 23% | 20%        | 20%          | 20%       |
| Three  | 24% | 25%      | 23%  | 23% | 27%        | 21%          | 24%       |

| Number of False Beliefs on Controversial Topics (out of 3) |                        |            |              |            |             |            |
|--|------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|
|  | Approve of Common Core |            |              |            |             |            |
|  | Democrats              |            | Independents |            | Republicans |            |
|  | Approve                | Disapprove | Approve      | Disapprove | Approve     | Disapprove |
| None   | 27%                    | 25%        | 12%          | 37%        | 31%         | 26%        |
| One  | 17%                    | 32%        | 36%          | 15%        | 19%         | 21%        |
| Two  | 26%                    | 22%        | 20%          | 26%        | 25%         | 28%        |
| Three  | 30%                    | 21%        | 32%          | 22%        | 25%         | 25%        |

| From what you've heard about it, do you approve or disapprove of the new Common Core Standards initiative? [Option Order Randomly Determined] |   |     |      |           |     |      |             |     |      |
|---|---|-----|------|-----------|-----|------|-------------|-----|------|
|   | Number of False Beliefs About Common Core |     |      |           |     |      |             |     |      |
|   | Democrats                                 |     |      | Democrats |     |      | Republicans |     |      |
|   | None                                      | Two | Four | None      | Two | Four | None        | Two | Four |
| Approve   | 20%                                       | 29% | 32%  | 3%        | 19% | 27%  | 4%          | 9%  | 14%  |
| Disapprove  | 18%                                       | 42% | 30%  | 35%       | 63% | 37%  | 34%         | 54% | 43%  |
| Don't know (Vol)  | 61%                                       | 25% | 38%  | 58%       | 16% | 33%  | 60%         | 37% | 43%  |
| Refused (Vol)   | 1%  | 3%  |      | 4%        | 3%  | 3%   | 3%          |     |      |

| From what you've heard about it, do you approve or disapprove of the new Common Core Standards initiative? [Option Order Randomly Determined] |  |     |       |              |     |       |             |     |       |
|---|--|-----|-------|--------------|-----|-------|-------------|-----|-------|
|   | Number of False Beliefs on Controversial Topics (out of 3) |     |       |              |     |       |             |     |       |
|   | Democrats  |     |       | Independents |     |       | Republicans |     |       |
|   | None   | Two | Three | None         | Two | Three | None        | Two | Three |
| Approve   | 21%  | 35% | 33%   | 4%           | 15% | 20%   | 8%          | 10% | 10%   |
| Disapprove  | 23%  | 35% | 27%   | 39%          | 61% | 43%   | 34%         | 60% | 54%   |
| Don't know (Vol)  | 56%  | 30% | 40%   | 53%          | 21% | 35%   | 55%         | 30% | 36%   |
| Refused (Vol)   | 1%   |     |       | 4%           | 3%  | 3%    | 2%          |     |       |

| <b>In your opinion, who should take the most leadership in making educational policy?</b> |     |          |      |     |            |              |           |
|---|-----|----------|------|-----|------------|--------------|-----------|
|   | All | Party ID |      |     | Education  |              |           |
|   |     | Dem      | Indp | Rep | HS or Less | Some College | College + |
| The federal government  | 11  | 18%      | 8%   | 6%  | 7%         | 11%          | 13%       |
| The state government  | 23  | 17%      | 19%  | 32% | 21%        | 26%          | 22%       |
| Local governments like towns and cities   | 21  | 17%      | 21%  | 25% | 23%        | 20%          | 19%       |
| School officials like teachers and principals   | 39  | 43%      | 46%  | 31% | 43%        | 35%          | 39%       |
| Parents (Vol)   | 3   | 2%       | 2%   | 5%  | 2%         | 5%           | 3%        |
| Students (Vol)  | 0   |          |      | 0%  |            | 0%           |           |
| Don't know (Vol)  | 3   | 4%       | 3%   | 1%  | 3%         | 2%           | 3%        |
| Refused (Vol)   | 0   | 1%       |      |     | 0%         |              | 0%        |

| <b>In your opinion, who should take the most leadership in making educational policy?</b> |     |        |        |       |           |
|---|-----|--------|--------|-------|-----------|
|   | All | Gender |        | Race  |           |
|   |     | Male   | Female | White | Non-White |
| The federal government  | 11  | 10%    | 11%    | 9%    | 16%       |
| The state government  | 23  | 23%    | 23%    | 27%   | 16%       |
| Local governments like towns and cities   | 21  | 24%    | 18%    | 20%   | 21%       |
| School officials like teachers and principals   | 39  | 34%    | 42%    | 38%   | 43%       |
| Parents (Vol)   | 3   | 5%     | 2%     | 4%    | 2%        |
| Students (Vol)  | 0   |        | 0%     | 0%    |           |
| Don't know (Vol)  | 3   | 3%     | 3%     | 3%    | 2%        |
| Refused (Vol)   | 0   | 0%     | 1%     | 0%    |           |

| <b>As far as you are aware, is the Common Core State Standards Initiative supposed to establish standards for what children should learn or establish standards for what teachers should teach?</b> |     |          |      |     |            |              |           |
|---|-----|----------|------|-----|------------|--------------|-----------|
|   | All | Party ID |      |     | Education  |              |           |
|   |     | Dem      | Indp | Rep | HS or Less | Some College | College + |
| Standards for what children should learn  | 37  | 44%      | 29%  | 33% | 32%        | 33%          | 42%       |
| Standards for what teachers should teach  | 23  | 21%      | 20%  | 28% | 18%        | 27%          | 23%       |
| Both (Vol)  | 12  | 9%       | 16%  | 12% | 14%        | 11%          | 11%       |
| Neither (Vol)   | 3   | 2%       | 3%   | 3%  | 3%         | 3%           | 3%        |
| Don't know (Vol)  | 25  | 23%      | 30%  | 23% | 32%        | 26%          | 21%       |
| Refused (Vol)   | 1   | 1%       | 1%   | 1%  | 2%         | 0%           | 1%        |

| As far as you are aware, is the Common Core State Standards Initiative supposed to establish standards for what children should learn or establish standards for what teachers should teach? |     |        |        |       |           |
|--|-----|--------|--------|-------|-----------|
|  | All | Gender |        | Race  |           |
|  |     | Male   | Female | White | Non-White |
| Standards for what children should learn   | 37  | 37%    | 36%    | 36%   | 37%       |
| Standards for what teachers should teach   | 23  | 21%    | 25%    | 24%   | 19%       |
| Both (Vol)   | 12  | 12%    | 11%    | 12%   | 11%       |
| Neither (Vol)  | 3   | 2%     | 4%     | 2%    | 2%        |
| Don't know (Vol)   | 25  | 27%    | 23%    | 24%   | 30%       |
| Refused (Vol)  | 1   | 1%     | 1%     | 1%    |           |

### Exact Question Wording and Order

US1 through US3 released December 17, 2014

*EDUC1* Now let me ask you about something called the Common Core. How much have you heard about educational reform known as the Common Core State Standards Initiative?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Just a little
- 4 Nothing at all
- 8 DK/Refused (vol)

*EDUC2A* From what you've heard, do you approve or disapprove of attempts by the federal government to establish educational standards?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

*EDUC2B* From what you've heard about it, do you approve or disapprove [RANDOMIZE] of the new Common Core Standards initiative?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

*EDUC3* As far as you are aware, is the Common Core State Standards Initiative supposed

*to establish standards for what all children should learn OR establish standards for how all teachers should teach? [Rotate]*

- 1 Standards for what children should learn
- 2 Standards for what teachers should teach
- 3 Both (vol)
- 4 Neither (vol)
- 8 DK/Refused (vol)

*EDUC4 In your opinion, who should take the most leadership in making educational policy? [RANDOMIZE LIST FOR OPTIONS 1 THRU 4]*

- 1 The federal government
- 2 The state government
- 3 Local governments like towns and cities
- 4 School officials like teachers and principals
- 5 Parents (vol)
- 6 Students (vol)
- 7 Combination (vol) [Ask “IF you had to pick just one...”]
- 8 DK/Refused (vol)

*EDUC5 To the best of your knowledge, does the Common Core include teaching regarding ... [Rotate]*

- EDUC6A Sex education?
- EDUC6B Evolution?
- EDUC6C Global Warming?
- EDUC6D The American Revolution?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK/Refused (vol)

[Rotate EDUC7A and EDUC7B]

*EDUC6A Do you think it's fair to punish teachers based on how well their students do on standardized tests?*

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK/Refused (vol)

*EDUC6B Do you think it's fair to reward teachers based on how well their students do on standardized tests?*

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK/Refused (vol)

**Sample Characteristics**

|                             |                         | <b>Registered voters<br/>N = 994; MoE = +/- 3</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Gender</b>               | <i>Male</i>             | 49%   |
|                             | <i>Female</i>           | 51%   |
| <b>Age</b>                  | <i>18-29</i>            | 22%   |
|                             | <i>30-44</i>            | 26%   |
|                             | <i>45-59</i>            | 26%   |
|                             | <i>60+</i>              | 24%   |
|                             | <i>Refused</i>          | 1%  |
| <b>Race</b>                 | <i>White</i>            | 68%   |
|                             | <i>African American</i> | 10%   |
|                             | <i>Hispanic</i>         | 13%   |
|                             | <i>Asian</i>            | 3%  |
|                             | <i>Other/Refused</i>    | 7%  |
| <b>Party (with leaners)</b> | <i>Dem</i>              | 39%   |
|                             | <i>Ind/DK/Refused</i>   | 27%   |
|                             | <i>Repub</i>            | 35%   |