



Perceptions of K-12 Education in Cleveland

A Survey of Cleveland Residents

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Thomas C. Sutton, Ph.D.
Professor, Political Science
Director, Community Research Institute
Baldwin Wallace University
Berea, Ohio 44017
tsutton@bw.edu | 440-826-2460

Survey methodology: A telephone survey of 421 residents of Cleveland, Ohio was conducted during the period of March 15 – April 22, 2021. Calls were conducted by students in the BW Community Research Institute Call Center on Mondays – Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. The time period is longer than a typical phone survey due to Covid-19 related restrictions on the number of callers allowed in the call center. The sampling margin of error is $\pm 5\%$ at the 95% confidence interval. Data is unweighted.

Part I: Respondent perceptions of Cleveland schools

1. Respondent impression of quality of the Cleveland Municipal School District (CMSD)

What is your impression of the quality of the Cleveland Municipal School District today?	Percentage
Excellent	2%
Good	15%
Fair	26%
Poor	29%
Varies	12%
I am not sure	16%

2. Respondent comparison of CMSD five years ago and this year

How does the quality of education provided by the Cleveland Municipal School District today compare with the quality provided by the District five years ago?	Percentage
Much better now	6%
Somewhat better now	21%
About the same as five years ago	26%
Somewhat worse than five years ago	12%
Much worse than five years ago	9%
Not sure	27%

3. Respondent knowledge of families with children attending a CMSD school

Do you know anyone whose children attend one of the schools in the Cleveland Municipal School District?	Percentage
Yes	52%
No	48%

4. (follow up to respondents answering 'yes' to Q3)

Does the child attend a public school, charter school, or Catholic school? (check all that apply if more than one child being referenced)	Percentage
public school	56%
charter school	22%
Catholic school	17%
not sure	6%

5. Respondent recommendations for schools in Cleveland

Which of the following education options would you recommend to a Cleveland family that has or expects to have school-aged children? (please check all that apply)	Percentage
a CMSD public K-8 school	9%
a CMSD high school	9%
a charter K-8 school	10%
a charter high school	10%
a Catholic or other religious K-8 school	14%
a Catholic or other religious high school	14%
I have no idea	6%
I would encourage them to make time to research educational options	20%
I would encourage them to move out of Cleveland	9%

6. Respondent knowledge of CMSD

As a resident of Cleveland, how much do you think you know about the Cleveland Municipal School District?	Percentage
I know a lot about the District	15%
I know some of what is happening in the District	30%
I know a little about the District	35%
I don't really know anything about the District	20%

7. Respondent perception of CMSD high school graduation rate

If you were to guess the high school graduation rate of students from the Cleveland Municipal School District public schools, what would be your estimate?	Percentage
80% or above	16%
70-79%	29%
60-69%	25%
50-59%	14%
below 50%	16%

Note: The four-year graduation rate in 2018-19 for CMSD students was 80.1%, an increase of 27.9 percentage points from the 2009-10 graduation rate of 52.2%. The gap between the Ohio average graduation rate and CMSD during this period has narrowed from 26.2 percentage points to 5.8 percentage points. (Source: Cleveland Transformation Alliance 2020 Report to the Community).

8. Respondent perception of Cleveland charter high school graduation rate

If you were to guess the high school graduation rate of students from charter schools in the Cleveland Municipal School District, what would be your estimate?	Percentage
80% or above	44%
70-79%	23%
60-69%	18%
50-59%	10%
below 50%	5%

Note: Composite graduation rates for charter schools in Cleveland are not available. The Ohio Department of Education indicates the average graduation rate of community schools (charters) in the 'Big 8' urban districts for 2017-18, including Cleveland, was 61.5% (Source: Ohio Department of Education: 2017-2018 Community Schools Annual Report).

9. Respondent perception of post-secondary school enrollment rate

If you were to guess the percentage of CMSD public and charter school graduates who enroll in college, what would be your estimate?	Percentage
80% or above	8%
60-79%	31%
40-59%	43%
30-49%	12%
below 30%	7%

Note: For the CMSD class of 2019, 49% enrolled in a post-secondary college program (Source: Cleveland Transformation Alliance 2020 Report to the Community). Post-high school college enrollment data for Cleveland charter schools not available.

10. Respondent perception of elected officials responsible for CMSD

Which of the following elected officials do you think are responsible for the Cleveland Municipal School District?	Percentage
The District School Board	55%
Cleveland City Council	8%
The Mayor of Cleveland	28%
The Cuyahoga County Executive	9%

Note: CMSD changed from an elected school board to mayoral control in 1998.

11. Respondent sources of information about CMSD

How do you get most of your information about the Cleveland Municipal School District? Please check all that apply:	Percentage
Reading the newspaper	18%
Flyers you receive in the mail	13%
On the Internet and social media	25%
Talking with parents and kids who attend the schools	14%
Talking with staff that work at the schools	11%
Visiting the School District's website	5%
Other (fill in box)	6%
Unsure/no answer	7%

12. Respondent rating of CMSD management of tax revenue

In your opinion, how would you rate the job that the Cleveland Municipal School District is doing managing its tax dollars? Would you say it is excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor?	Percentage
Excellent	3%
Good	21%
Fair	40%
Poor	24%
Very poor	13%

13. Respondent opinion about level of property taxation in Cleveland

Do you think that property taxes in Cleveland are too high, pretty fair, or too low?	Percentage
Too high	33%
Pretty fair	47%
Too low	3%
Not sure	17%

14. Respondent perception of effect of CMSD on property values

If you own your home and/or own commercial property in Cleveland, what effect do you think the Cleveland Municipal School District has on the value of your property?	Percentage
Increases property value	14%
Does not have any effect on property value	25%
Decreases property value	27%
Don't know/unsure (only if respondent offers)	31%
Refuses to answer (for interviewer use only)	2%

Part II: Perceptions of respondents with children in Cleveland schools

15. Respondents with children in Cleveland K-12 schools

Have you had or do you currently have children enrolled in a K-12 school?	Percentage
Yes, I currently have one or more children enrolled in a K-12 school.	26%
Yes, I had one or more children enrolled in a K-12 school.	11%
No; I have children whom I am home schooling.	0%
No, I have never had children enrolled in a K-12 school.	63%

Questions 16-19 only asked of respondents indicating they have children currently enrolled in a K-12 school in Cleveland.

16. Respondent perceptions of challenges of online instruction during Covid period

Are there any challenges that your child/children face with online instruction? (check all that apply)	Percentage
We do not have internet access at home	1%
We have some internet access at home, but sometimes it does not work	5%
We do not have a computer or tablet for each child (one or more rely on a smartphone)	3%
It is difficult to get individual questions answered by the instructor	14%
It is hard to keep track of the schedule of classes and days online/in-person	12%
There is too much free time for the children	11%
Group work with other students online is difficult	12%
My child has gotten more comfortable with online challenges over time	15%
No challenges – online instruction has gone smoothly	28%
(Note: total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses for a few respondents)	101%

17. Respondent perceptions about teachers and staff

Question	strongly agree	agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
The teachers do their best to help my child learn.	38%	45%	6%	4%	6%
I can share my concerns with my child's teacher/s.	40%	50%	2%	4%	4%
School staff are responsive when I contact them.	37%	47%	3%	6%	7%

18. Respondent likelihood of recommending this school

How likely are you to recommend this school to a parent looking for a school for their child?	Percentage
Extremely likely	44%
Somewhat likely	35%
Neither likely nor unlikely	5%
Somewhat unlikely	8%
Extremely unlikely	8%

19. Respondent satisfaction with child's school

Overall, how satisfied are you with your child's education at this school?	Percentage
Extremely satisfied	44%
Somewhat satisfied	40%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3%
Somewhat dissatisfied	8%
Extremely dissatisfied	5%

Part III: Perceptions of respondents who graduated from a Cleveland school

20. Is respondent a graduate of a Cleveland high school?

Did you graduate from a public or charter high school in Cleveland?	Percentage
Yes	60%
No	40%

Table 1: Respondent graduates of Cleveland schools (follow up question asked about which high school and year of graduation)

		2010- 2021	2000- 2009	1990- 1999	1980- 1989	1970- 1979	1960- 1969
Decade of graduation (all schools)	***	10.3%	20.1%	18%	16%	17%	6.7%
<u>East side high schools</u> (Aviation, Central, Cleveland School of the Arts, Collinwood, East High, East Tech, Glenville, Jane Adams, John Adams, John Hay, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, South.)	62.6%						
<u>West side high schools</u> (Garrett Morgan, John Marshall, John Ford Rhodes, Lincoln-West, Max Hayes, West Tech)	28.2%						
Parochial or charter school	8.2%						

Note: 174 respondents reported a specific school in Cleveland from which they graduated

21. Respondent rating of education (only asked of respondents who graduated from a Cleveland high school)

How would you rate the quality of education you received?	Percentage
Excellent	23%
Good	39%
Average	27%
Poor	8%
Varied	3%

22. Respondent perception of life path effects of Cleveland schools

How did your education in the Cleveland City Schools affect your ability to achieve your work, higher education, or career goals?	Percentage
Positive	51%
Negative	6%
No effect either way	23%
both positive and negative	20%

Part IV: Respondent familiarity and choices for the 2021 Cleveland mayoral race

23. Each of the following individuals has declared or may be considering running for mayor of Cleveland. How familiar are you with each individual?

Question	Very familiar	Somewhat familiar	Not familiar at all
Justin Bibb	5%	13%	82%
Ross DiBello	3%	9%	88%
Blaine Griffin	8%	21%	71%
Basheer Jones	27%	27%	46%
Kevin Kelley	16%	31%	53%
Dick Knoth	3%	6%	91%
Dennis Kucinich	54%	24%	22%
Zach Reed	40%	30%	30%
Sandra Williams	13%	20%	66%

24. If you were to vote today for a candidate for Mayor of Cleveland, who would be your first and second choice? (List of individuals who have are considering or have received petitions from the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections)

Question	First choice	Second choice	Number/Percentage of total respondents
Justin Bibb	62%	38%	21/5.0%
Ross DiBello	50%	50%	4/.9%
Blaine Griffin	50%	50%	22/5.2%
Basheer Jones	73%	27%	56/13.3%
Kevin Kelley	48%	52%	25/5.9%
Dick Knoth	29%	71%	7/1.7%
Dennis Kucinich	75%	25%	75/17.8%
Zach Reed	35%	65%	37/8.8%
Sandra Williams	47%	53%	30/7.1%
Unsure	59%	41%	202/48.0%

Part V: Respondent demographics

25. In which of the following neighborhoods do you live? (individual neighborhood choices compiled as West Side and East Side)

		Percentage
	West Side neighborhood	31%
2	East Side neighborhood	28.5%
3	Did not identify	40.5%

26. Length of residence at current address (follow-up to question asking for specific street address)

How long have you lived at this address?	Percentage
Less than one year	4%
1-3 years	18%
4-6 years	12%
7-10 years	15%
11-15 years	9%
16-20 years	11%
More than 20 years	31%

27. Do you rent or own your home?

	Percentage
rent	33%
own	67%

28. Voting registration status

Are you currently registered to vote?	Percentage
Yes, I am registered to vote	95%
No, I am not registered to vote	4%

29. Respondent vote on CMSD property tax levy issue in November 2020

Did you vote on the levy for the Cleveland Municipal School District in November 2020?	Percentage
Yes	79%
No	17%
Do not remember	4%

30. Respondent attention to government and political issues

How often do you pay attention to what's going on in government and politics?	Percentage
Never	7%
Sometimes	29%
About half the time	17%
Most of the time	23%
Always	24%

31. Respondent political perspective

Thinking about politics these days, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?	Percentage
Very liberal	7%
Liberal	22%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	15%
Very conservative	2%
Not political	24%

31. Respondent gender

What is your gender?	Percentage
female	61%
male	39%

32. Respondent level of educational attainment

What is the highest level of education you have completed?	Percentage
Less than high school diploma	3%
High school diploma or GED	18%
Some college	30%
4-year college degree	33%
Masters, doctoral, or professional degree (MA, MS, MBA, PhD, JD, MD)	15%

33. Respondent age

What is your current age?	Percentage
18 to 24 years	5%
25 to 34 years	13%
35 to 44 years	22%
45 to 54 years	20%
55 to 64 years	23%
65 years or older	17%

34. Respondent annual household income

What is your annual household income?	Percentage
\$25,000 or below	11%
\$25,001 - \$50,000	26%
\$50,001 - \$75,000	25%
\$75,001 - \$100,000	17%
\$100,001 - \$125,000	8%
\$125,001 - \$150,000	9%
More than \$150,000	5%

35. Respondent race/ethnicity?

What is your race/ethnicity? - Selected Choice	Percentage
White/Caucasian	40%
Black/African-American	48%
Hispanic or Latino	5%
Asian or Asian-American	1%
Native American	0%
Middle Eastern	1%
Mixed race or Multi-racial	3%
Other	3%

36. Respondent family structure

Please indicate your current family structure:	Percentage
Single without children	28%
Single with children	27%
Married without children	9%
Married with children	28%
Life partner without children	2%
Life partner with children	6%

37. Respondent employment status

Which of the following describes your current employment status? (please check all that apply)	Percentage
Working full time	59%
Working part time	7%
Temporarily laid off	3%
Unemployed	4%
Retired	16%
Permanently disabled	4%
Taking care of home or family	3%
Student	4%