

SHEA EDUCATION SURVEY (2012)

[These are all the survey items, organized here by central themes, that were included in systematic telephone interviews with a scientifically selected representative sample of 1,200 Harris County residents, reached by landline (72%) and cell phone (28%) between 29 January and 17 March 2012.]

ASSESSMENTS OF LOCAL CONDITIONS.

- BIGPROB1 What would you say is the biggest problem facing people in the Houston area today? Open-ended: Coded into eighteen categories.
- BIGPROB2 What else would you say is a serious problem facing people in the area? Open-ended: Coded into eighteen categories.
- JOBOPPS How would you rate job opportunities, in terms of living in the Houston area? Would you say: excellent, good, fair, or poor?
- ETHRELS How would you rate the relations among ethnic groups in the Houston area? Would you say: excellent, good, fair, or poor?
- HOUSTON How would you rate the Houston area in general as a place to live? Would you say: excellent, good, fair, or poor?

ASSESSMENTS OF LOCAL SCHOOLS.

- DISTRICT Do you happen to know the name of the school district where you live? Open-ended.
- JRCOLLS How would you rate the area's community colleges? Would you say: excellent, good, fair, or poor?
- SCHOOLS Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D, and Fail to denote the quality of their performance. Suppose the public schools in your school district were graded in the same way. What grade would you give the public schools in your district?
- SERVCOMM Agree/Disagree: The public schools provide the community with important services, such as places to meet and recreational areas.
- PROPVALS Agree/Disagree: Good public schools enhance local property values.
- SCHLNOW If R has lived in the Houston area for 3 or more years (HOWLONG2): Over the past few years, do you think the public schools in the Houston area have been getting better, getting worse, or have they stayed about the same?
- SCHLNEED Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion about the public schools in your district? – [ROTATE:] The schools have enough money, if it were used wisely, to provide a quality education; or: the schools will need more money to provide a quality education?

GOVERNMENT SPENDING.

- POVERTY** As a government program, do you think we're now spending too little, too much, or about the right amount of money on improving the conditions of the poor?
- INFRASTR** As a government program, do you think we're now spending too little, too much, or about the right amount of money on highways, bridges, mass transit, and other infrastructure improvements?
- SCIENCE** As a government programs, do you think we're now spending too little, too much, or about the right amount of money on support for basic scientific research?
- PUBSCHLS** As a government program, do you think we're now spending too little, too much, or about the right amount of money on improving the public schools?
- COLLAID** As a government program, do you think we're now spending too little, too much, or about the right amount of money on increasing financial aid to encourage college attendance and completion?

CUTTING EDUCATIONAL SPENDING.

- PARSPAY** If your local school district is forced to deal with declining budgets, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose charging parents for their children's participation in sports and extracurricular activities?
- NOTUTORS** If your local school district is forced to deal with declining budgets, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose reducing the schools' tutoring programs?
- CLASSIZE** If your local school district is forced to deal with declining budgets, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose increasing the number of students per classroom?
- ONLINE** If your local school district is forced to deal with declining budgets, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose providing more online instruction to replace traditional in-person teaching?
- CUTSTAFF** If your local school district is forced to deal with declining budgets, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose cutting non-teaching positions?
- NOGIFTED** If your local school district is forced to deal with declining budgets, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose reducing programs for gifted students?
- RAISEFEE** As a way for the Texas Legislature to deal with state budget short-falls, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose increasing the tuition and fees that students have to pay in order to attend the state's public universities?

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

- NEEDCOLL For a person to be successful in today's world, do you think it is necessary to get an education beyond high school, or do you think there are many ways to succeed without having more than a high school education?
- COLLBNFT Agree/Disagree: The overall American economy would benefit greatly if more young people were able to get a college degree.
- COSTS2HI Agree/Disagree: The costs of a college education today keep too many qualified students from being able to go to college.
- GETLOANS Agree/Disagree: Almost anyone who needs financial help to go to college can get the loans or scholarships they need.
- WORTHIT Agree/Disagree: Even if a student ends up with very high college loans, a college education will still pay off in the long run.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES.

- AFTSCHL Favor/Oppose: What about paying for more after-school academic programs for public school students?
- SOMESPAN Favor/Oppose: What about requiring all English-speaking students in Houston-area public schools to be able to speak at least some Spanish before they graduate?
- PRESCHL Favor/Oppose: What about paying for universal preschool education to ensure that all low-income children are ready for kindergarten?
- EQUALIZE Favor/Oppose: What about requiring the Texas Legislature to do more to equalize per-pupil expenditures across the state?
- CHARTERS Favor/Oppose: What about establishing more public charter schools in your community?
- TEACHPAY Favor/Oppose: What about using students' academic progress in reading and math on state assessment exams to help determine teacher salaries?
- SCHLLANG In schools where there are many students who do not speak English well, . . . [ROTATE:] Should the schools teach them English as quickly as possible, even if they fall behind in other subjects, or: should the schools teach some subjects in their native language, even if it takes them longer to learn English?

EDUCATIONAL COMPARISONS.

- SCHLTIME Students in some other countries spend about 25 percent more time in school than American students. Would you favor or oppose increasing the amount of time that U.S. students spend in school each year?
- SCHLTAX If "favor" (SCHLTIME): Would you be willing to pay higher taxes if that were needed to increase student class time?

- HOUSRANK Compared to other metropolitan areas in America, where do you think Houston generally ranks in academic achievement? Are Houston students near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?
- HOUSPEND Compared to other metropolitan areas in America, is it your impression that spending per student in Houston public schools is near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?
- USRANK Compared to other developed countries, where do you think the United States generally ranks in academic achievement? Is the U.S. near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?
- USSPEND Compared to other developed countries, where do you think the United States ranks in its spending per student on public elementary and secondary schools? Is the U.S. near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?

EDUCATIONAL DISPARITIES.

- MINSCHLS Do you think black and Hispanic children in Houston generally go to schools that are much better, somewhat better, just as good, somewhat worse, or much worse than the schools that white and Asian children usually attend?
- CLOSEGAP As you may know, white and Asian students generally out-perform black and Hispanic students on tests of academic achievement. How important do you think it is to close this achievement gap? Would you say: very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?
- PARINVOL How important is the family's involvement in their children's education in contributing to the achievement gap? Do you think this is generally a very important factor, only somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?
- EFFORT How important is the interest, discipline, and motivation on the part of the students themselves in contributing to the achievement gap? Do you think this is generally a very important factor, only somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?
- SCHLQUAL How important is the quality of teaching in the schools that the students attend in contributing to the achievement gap? Do you think this is generally a very important factor, only somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?
- OTHPROGS How important is access to after-school activities and enriching summer programs in contributing to the achievement gap? Do you think this is generally a very important factor, only somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?
- BADENVT How important is the poverty, crime, and instability in the communities where the students live in contributing to the achievement gap? Do you think this is generally a very important factor, only somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES.

FAMSIZE	Counting yourself, how many people in all live in your household?
MARRIAGE	Are you married, in a domestic partnership, separated, divorced, widowed, or have you never been married?
ANYCHILD	Do you have any children?
NCHLDN	If “yes” (ANYCHILD): How many children do you have?
CHLDHOME	If “yes” (ANYCHILD): How many of them are living at home?
CHILDPREK	If “yes” (ANYCHILD): Are any of your children in preschool?
SCHLCHLD	If “yes” (ANYCHILD): Are any of your children currently attending a Houston-area K through 12 school?

IF R HAS A CHILD IN SCHOOL.

SCHLCHLDN	If “yes” (SCHLCHLD): How many of them are in school this year? If “more than one” (SCHLCHLDN): These next few questions ask about the experience of the oldest of your children who is still in school ...)
WCHGRADE	Is (he/she) in kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, or high school?
SCHLTYPE	Is that a regular public school, a public charter school, or a private or parochial school?
WHYSCHL	What was the main reason you chose the school that (he/she) attends? Open-ended: Coded into ten categories.
SCHLGRADE	What grade would you give the school (he/she) is attending, in terms of its overall quality and effectiveness? Would you give it a grade of A, B, C, D, or Fail?
EDUCHOPE	Thinking about your child’s future education, what do you hope will be the highest grade level that (he/she) will achieve; or have you not thought much about this yet? Open-ended: Coded into seven categories.
HAVEENUF	If R specifies an educational level (EDUCHOPE): How confident are you that your family has the resources and information to enable (him/her) to reach that level of education?

SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS.

OWNEDUC	What is the highest grade of school or year of college that you’ve completed? Open-ended: Coded into nine categories.
MOMSEDUC	What was the highest grade of school or year of college that your mother completed?
POPSEDUC	What was the highest grade of school or year of college that your father completed?

WORKING	Are you working full-time, part-time, going to school, managing the house, or something else? Coded into eight categories.
SELFINC8	If R is working full- or part-time (WORKING): Which of the following income categories includes the total salary that you personally earned from all jobs during the year 2011? Please stop me when I reach the correct category. Eight categories (from “less than \$12,500” to “more than \$100,000”).
INCOME9	Please stop me when I reach the category that includes your total household income in 2011; that is, the income for all members of the household during the past year. Coded into nine categories (from “less than \$12,500” to “more than \$150,000”).
INTERNET	Do you have access to the Internet in your home or place of work?
OWNRENT	Do you own or rent the place where you live?

MIGRATION PATTERNS.

HOWLONG2	How many years have you lived in the Houston area? Open-ended.
CHLDPLA2	Where did you live when you were growing up (when you were 16 years old)? [If R says, “Mexico”:] Which state is that? Open-ended.
LASTPLA2	Where did you live just before coming to the Houston area? [If R says, “Mexico”:] Which state is that? Open-ended.
SELFBORN	Were you born in the United States?
SELFHOM	If “no” (SELFBORN): What is your country of origin? Open-ended.
YRSINUS	If “no” (SELFBORN): How many years have you lived in the U.S.? Open-ended.
PARSBORN	Were both of your parents born in the United States?
MOMSHOM	If a parent was not born in the U.S. (PARSBORN): Where does your mother’s family come from? [If R says, “Mexico”:] Which state is that? Open-ended.
POPSHOM	If a parent was not born in the U.S. (PARSBORN): Where does your father’s family come from? [If R says, “Mexico”:] Which state is that? Open-ended.
CITIZEN	If “no” (SELFBORN): Are you an American citizen?
FTRCITIZ	If “no” (CITIZEN): Do you think you will become an American citizen sometime within the next ten years? Would you say: definitely yes, probably yes, probably not, or definitely not?
COUNTY	Just to be sure, do you live in Harris County?
WHERELIV	Do you live in the city of Houston or in the suburbs?
ZIPCODE	What is your home ZIP code? Open-ended.
NUMBER	To learn more about the people living in your area, we would like to ask for your home address. This information is absolutely confidential. We will not use it to contact anyone at your residence, and no one will ever see it. Please give me your home address, beginning with the house number.

STREET What is the name of the street? (Can you spell that for me?)
TOWN In what city or town do you live?

RELIGION AND POLITICS.

RELIG1 What is your religious preference, if any? (Is it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?) Open-ended: Five categories.
DENOM5 If “Protestant” (RELIG1): What specific denomination is that, if any? Open-ended: Nine categories.
CHURCH1 In the past thirty days, did you attend a religious service, other than a wedding or funeral?
PARTY Would you call yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?
LEANING If R does not name either major party (PARTY): Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or to the Democratic Party?
POLITIC7 Do you think of yourself as conservative, moderate, or liberal in your politics? [If “conservative” or “liberal”:] Do you consider yourself to be very (conservative/-liberal) or only somewhat (conservative/liberal)? [If “moderate”:] Do you think of yourself as more like a conservative or more like a liberal?
CANVOTE If “yes” (SELFBORN) or “yes” (CITIZEN): Right now, are you registered so that you can vote in the local or national election if you want to?
VOTED If “yes” (CANVOTE): Did you get a chance to vote in the elections last November?

OTHER PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES.

AGE How old were you on your last birthday?
GENDER Gender of the respondent, recorded by the interviewer.
ETHGROUP Are you Anglo (or non-Hispanic white), Black (or African American), Hispanic (or Latino), Asian, or of some other ethnic background? [IF R names more than one ethnicity:] Which ethnic group do you generally identify with?
LINGO1 Language of the interview: English or Spanish.
ANYENGL If the interview is in Spanish (LINGO1): Do you speak any English?
TALKENGL If “yes” (ANYENGL): Would you say that you speak English very well, fairly well, or only a little?
ANYSPAN If the interview is in English (LINGO1): Do you speak any Spanish?
TALKSPAN If “yes” (ANYSPAN): Would you say that you speak Spanish very well, fairly well, or only a little?
HOMELANG What language do you speak (most often) at home?

THE INTERVIEW.

INTETH The ethnicity of the interviewer.

INTGEN The gender of the interviewer.

LANDCELL Landline phone or cell phone.
