

**Vision Coalition of Delaware  
Delaware Statewide Survey**

**Representative Statewide Sample of 400 Registered Voters  
Oversamples of Voters in:**

**May 17-19, 2016**

- City of Wilmington (85 Total Interviews)
- Kent County (104 Total Interviews)
- Sussex County (105 Total Interviews)

Q.3 First of all, are you currently registered to vote in Delaware?

	<b>Total</b>
Yes .....	100
No.....	-
(Don't know/refused).....	-
(ref:NRV)	

Q.4 I know it's a long way off, but thinking about the election for President, Governor, and other offices in November, what are the chances of your voting in the election - are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or don't you think you will vote?

	<b>Total</b>
Almost certain .....	77
Probably.....	11
50-50 .....	7
Will not vote.....	3
(Don't know/refused).....	1
(ref:VOTE16)	

Q.5 Generally speaking, would you say things in Delaware are headed in the right direction, or are things off on the wrong track?

	<b>Total</b>
Right direction .....	48
Wrong track.....	43
(Don't know/refused).....	10
<b>Right - Wrong .....</b>	<b>5</b>
(ref:DIRECT)	

My next questions are about Delaware's K-through-twelve public schools.

Q.6 How much do you know about the current state of public schools in Delaware?

	<b>Total</b>
A great deal .....	23
Some.....	41
A little.....	22
Nothing .....	14
(Don't know/refused).....	1
<b>Total aware .....</b>	<b>85</b>
(ref:AWARE)	

Q.7 (SKIP IF NOTHING OR DK/REF IN Q.6) Would you say your opinions on public education are mostly formed based on direct experience or what you've heard from others?

	<b>Total</b>
Direct experience .....	60
Heard from others .....	38
(Don't know/refused).....	2
(ref:AWARE2)	

Q.8 On a traditional scale of A to F, what grade would you give public schools in Delaware?

	<b>Total</b>
A .....	6
B.....	26
C.....	36
D .....	18
F .....	7
(Don't know/refused).....	6
<b>Total A/B.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Total C .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Total D/F .....</b>	<b>25</b>
(ref:SCHLQUAL)	

Q.9 How about the public schools that children in your community attend? What grade would you give the public schools in your community?

	<b>Total</b>
A .....	12
B.....	31
C.....	30
D .....	12
F.....	7
(Don't know/refused).....	8
<b>Total A/B.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Total C .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Total D/F .....</b>	<b>19</b>
(ref:LCLQUAL)	

Q.10 Generally speaking, do you think that public education in Delaware is getting better, getting worse, or not changing one way or the other?

	<b>Total</b>
Much better .....	5
Somewhat better .....	18
Somewhat worse.....	21
Much worse.....	11
Not changing .....	41
(Don't know/refused).....	4
<b>Total Better .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Total No Change .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Total Worse.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Better - Worse .....</b>	<b>-9</b>
(ref:EDUDIR)	

Q.11 What percentage of Delaware public school students do you think are receiving an excellent public education? You can choose any number between 0 and 100.

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mean .....</b>	<b>48%</b>
90+ .....	5
80-89 .....	10
70-79 .....	17
60-69 .....	7
50-59 .....	16
40-49 .....	7
30-39 .....	6
20-29 .....	13
10-19 .....	8
Under 10 .....	5
(Don't know/refused).....	5
<b>70+ .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>40-69 .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Under 40 .....</b>	<b>34</b>
(ref:EXCEL)	

Q.12 And what percentage of Delaware public school students do you think are receiving an inadequate public education? You can choose any number between 0 and 100.

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mean .....</b>	<b>47%</b>
90+ .....	8
80-89 .....	5
70-79 .....	11
60-69 .....	7
50-59 .....	20
40-49 .....	9
30-39 .....	10
20-29 .....	14
10-19 .....	7
Under 10 .....	4
(Don't know/refused).....	6
<b>70+ .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>40-69 .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Under 40 .....</b>	<b>35</b>
(ref:INADEQUATE)	

Now I am going to read you a few ways public schools can prepare students. For each one, please rate the job Delaware's public schools are doing on that issue as excellent, good, just fair, or poor.

		<b>Just</b>				<b>DK/</b>	<b>Exc/</b>	<b>Fair/</b>	<b>Ex/Gd</b>
	<b>Exc</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>-</b>	
								<b>Fr/Pr</b>	
13 Preparing students for college .....	6	29	44	20	1	35	64	-29	
14 Preparing students for a career .....	6	26	45	22	2	31	67	-36	
15 Providing a well-rounded education .....	6	33	41	18	2	39	59	-20	
16 Providing non-academic support such as counselors, social workers, and family support specialists.....	8	32	38	17	6	40	55	-15	
(ref:PREPARE)									

Now I'm going to read you some groups of people who are involved in Delaware's public schools. For each one, please rate the job Delaware's public schools are doing in meeting that group's needs as a whole.

		<b>Just</b>				<b>DK/</b>	<b>Exc/</b>	<b>Fair/</b>	<b>Ex/Gd</b>
	<b>Exc</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>-</b>	
								<b>Fr/Pr</b>	
17 Parents .....	4	29	46	17	4	34	63	-29	
18 Teachers.....	9	35	38	14	3	45	53	-8	
19 Minority students .....	8	30	39	19	4	37	59	-21	
20 Students living in poverty .....	5	24	36	28	6	29	65	-36	
21 Students with special needs.....	10	37	29	17	7	47	46	1	
22 Students who are gifted or talented.....	17	37	30	13	3	54	43	11	
(ref:NEEDS)									

Q.23 In your view, do you think we spend too much, too little, or about the right amount on public education in Delaware?

	<b>Total</b>
Too much .....	13
About the right amount.....	30
Too little .....	54
(Don't know/refused).....	3
<b>Too much - Too little.....</b>	<b>-41</b>
(ref:FUNDENOUGH)	

Now I am going to read you some statements about public education in Delaware and steps for improving it in the future. For each statement, please tell me whether you think this is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, a little convincing, or not at all convincing strategy for improving public education in Delaware.

	<b>A</b>	<b>Not</b>	<b>Very/ Little/</b>		<b>Very/ Little/</b>	<b>Not</b>	
	<b>Very Conv</b>	<b>Smwt Conv</b>	<b>Little Conv</b>	<b>At all Conv</b>	<b>DK/ Ref</b>	<b>Smwt Conv</b>	<b>Not Conv</b>
24 Effective early childhood education is essential to academic success. By the time a child celebrates his or her fifth birthday, nearly 90 percent of intellect, personality, and social skills are already developed. That's why it's so important to identify issues and address them early. When children arrive in kindergarten ready to learn, they are more likely to thrive in school and future endeavors. Delaware has built a quality system and must continue to invest to ensure children succeed later in life. ....	47	30	15	7	1	77	22
25 Research proves what parents already know - every child learns in a different way. Advancements in technology play a key role in allowing students to drive their own learning at a pace that works for them and equipping teachers with tools to provide support. We need to create a curriculum and teaching approach that puts more focus on individualized learning and outcomes instead of a one-size-fits-all approach. ....	45	31	14	9	1	76	23
26 An increasing number of jobs require at least one year of education after high school, plus concrete work experience, and our schools must do a better job of helping students identify and prepare for the path that is right for them. We must deeply integrate our public schools with local colleges and employers, allowing students to gain professional experience and build relationships before they graduate high school.....	50	34	9	7	1	84	16

	Very Conv	Smwt Conv	A Little Conv	Not At all Conv	DK/ Ref	Very/ Little/ Smwt Conv	Not Conv
27 Research proves that committed teachers and effective school leaders are the two most important in-school factors contributing to student achievement. That's why we need more rigorous training and certification for new teachers, continuing development for current teachers, renewed focus on finding and developing dynamic principals, and an evaluation system that combines student performance with feedback from parents and other teachers. ....	36	40	12	11	1	76	23
28 Delaware's funding formula for schools was developed during World War II and doesn't reflect the state's current needs. We should modernize school funding by matching funding to individual students' needs, establishing consistent revenue through rolling property reassessments, giving individual schools more flexibility in how funds are spent, and cutting waste by sharing services across schools and districts. ....	29	35	18	17	1	65	35
29 Decision making in Delaware schools is complicated and divided. The governor, the legislature, state and local boards, all play a role in deciding what happens in our schools. We must break down these artificial barriers and take advantage of our small size to measure performance consistently across all districts and charter schools, share data and best practices, and ensure those charged with running our schools are working together to support all students and increase collaboration and performance across the state. .... (ref:CORE)	33	39	13	14	0	73	27

Q.30/31 Of the six messages we just discussed, which one do you think would have the greatest impact in improving public education in Delaware? And which do you think would have the next greatest impact in improving public education in Delaware?

	Comb	1st	2nd
Access to high quality early learning .....	40	22	17
Personalized learning and technology .....	35	15	20
More support/ higher standards for teachers .....	34	18	15
More funding, meet specific student needs.....	33	17	16
Postsecondary success and career paths .....	28	16	13
Greater coordination.....	20	8	12
(None of the above).....	3	2	3
(Don't know/refused) .....	4	2	4

(ref:IMPACT/ IMPACT2)

Now I'm going to read some specific policy proposals for improving public education in Delaware. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each.

	Strng Supp	Smwt Supp	Smwt Opp	Strng Opp	DK/ Ref	Total Supp	Total Opp	Supp - Opp
32 Give high-needs schools extra support in the form of teams of expert teachers.....	55	33	5	5	2	88	10	78
33 Provide extra funding to schools dealing with students whose first language is not English.....	36	26	15	21	1	62	37	26
34 Provide extra funding to schools dealing with students from low-income families .....	54	27	7	11	1	81	18	63
35 Reassess statewide property values to ensure more consistent and accurate funding for schools.....	36	30	11	20	2	67	31	35
36 Require higher levels of education and practical experience for child care and early childhood providers .....	50	33	10	5	1	83	16	68
37 Prevent students from advancing to the next grade until they meet academic standards or attend summer school .....	66	23	5	4	2	89	9	81
38 Make voluntary pre-kindergarten available for all students.....	65	20	6	7	1	86	13	72
39 Raise starting salaries for teachers and provide more opportunities for them to advance their careers without leaving the classroom to go into an administrative role.....	55	26	9	9	1	81	18	63
40 Make a major new investment in wireless and broadband technology in Delaware .....	45	35	11	7	2	81	17	64
(ref:POLICY)								



Now let me read you some short pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right. The (first/next) pair is

	<b>1st Stmt Much</b>	<b>1st Stmt Smwt</b>	<b>2nd Stmt Smwt</b>	<b>2nd Stmt Much</b>	<b>Both</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>DK/Ref</b>	<b>Total 1st Stmt</b>	<b>Total 2nd Stmt</b>	<b>1st - 2nd</b>
41 A teacher's evaluation should be based primarily on the principal's observations and evaluations. OR A teacher's evaluation should be based primarily on how much a student learns in the classroom, as measured by state tests and other examinations designed by teachers themselves. ....	35	17	14	29	1	2	2	<b>52</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>9</b>
42 Schools in high-need communities should focus their resources on traditional academic support for students rather than trying to meet students' non-academic needs. OR It is important that schools in high-need communities provide non-academic supports for students such as counselors, social workers, health services, and family support specialists.....	20	14	16	46	0	1	3	<b>34</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>-28</b>
43 Delaware schools do a good job of focusing on students as individuals and trying to meet their unique needs. OR Delaware schools rely too much on one-size-fits-all solutions and do not focus enough on students' individual needs. ....	21	16	17	43	-	1	2	<b>37</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>-23</b>

	1st Stmt Much	1st Stmt Smwt	2nd Stmt Smwt	2nd Stmt Much	Both	Neither	DK/Ref	Total 1st Stmt	Total 2nd Stmt	1st - 2nd
44 Our elected officials in Dover understand the importance of public education in Delaware and give it the attention it deserves. OR Our next Governor and state legislature must do more to focus on improving public education in Delaware.....	18	12	17	51	0	1	1	29	68	-39
45 Delaware's current standards for new teachers when it comes to practical experience and knowledge of their subject matter are sufficient and ensure teachers are ready from day one. OR Too many new teachers are not ready to lead a classroom when they start their careers. We need higher standards for practical experience and knowledge of their subject matter to ensure these teachers are ready on day one. ....	26	21	14	37	-	1	2	46	51	-5
46 As a Delaware voter, I can find the information I need about how tax dollars are spent in our education system so I can make an informed decision when I vote. OR It is too hard to find information about how tax dollars are spent in our education system, and we need to do more to make information available so voters can make informed decisions..... (ref:PAIRS)	18	10	17	52	0	0	3	27	69	-42

As you may know, the State of Delaware currently faces a budget deficit and must cut spending, increase revenue, or find some combination of the two to balance the state budget. Please tell me whether you would approve or disapprove of each of the following proposals to help balance the state budget.

	<b>Strng App</b>	<b>Smwt App</b>	<b>Smwt Dis</b>	<b>Strng Dis</b>	<b>DK/ Ref</b>	<b>Total App</b>	<b>Total Dis</b>	<b>App - Dis</b>
47 Close or consolidate schools with declining enrollment .....	30	28	22	18	2	<b>58</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>18</b>
48 Share services such as transportation, technology, and personal development across several school districts .....	47	33	8	11	1	<b>80</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>62</b>
49 Use technology to deliver open educational resources rather than textbooks....	41	31	14	13	1	<b>71</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>44</b>
50 Lay off teachers and increase class sizes.....	5	8	11	74	2	<b>13</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>-72</b>
51 Create a dedicated state property tax to fund schools .....	23	30	13	33	2	<b>52</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>7</b>
52 Raise taxes on businesses .....	25	28	18	28	2	<b>53</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>7</b>
53 Raise taxes on individuals making more than \$250,000 a year .....	53	21	8	17	1	<b>74</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>49</b>

(ref:CUTS)

Finally, I would like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes.

Q.54 In what year were you born?

	<b>Total</b>
18 - 24.....	10
25 - 29.....	8
30 - 34.....	8
35 - 39.....	7
40 - 44.....	7
45 - 49.....	10
50 - 54.....	6
55 - 59.....	9
60 - 64.....	11
Over 64 .....	22
(No answer).....	2
(ref:AGE)	

Q.55 What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

	<b>Total</b>
1 - 11th grade.....	2
High School graduate .....	24
Non-college post H.S. ....	2
Some college .....	23
College graduate .....	26
Post-graduate school .....	21
(Don't know/refused).....	2
(ref:EDUC)	

Q.56 Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as - a Democrat, a Republican or what?

	<b>Total</b>
Strong Democrat.....	24
Weak Democrat .....	12
Independent-lean Democrat .....	16
Independent .....	8
Independent-lean Republican .....	16
Weak Republican.....	8
Strong Republican.....	14
(Don't know/Refused) .....	2
(ref:PTYID1)	

Q.59 Do you have any children eighteen years of age or younger living at home?

	<b>Total</b>
Yes .....	29
No.....	70
(Don't know/refused).....	1
(ref:KIDS2)	

Q.60 (IF YES IN Q.59) Do you have school-aged children? Do your children attend a public, private, or charter school? Or are your children home schooled?

	<b>Total</b>
Public.....	58
Private.....	14
Charter .....	14
Home schooled .....	5
No school-aged children .....	16
(Don't know/refused).....	-
(ref:KIDSPUBL)	

Q.61 Do you have any immediate family members who work for a public school system in Delaware?

	<b>Total</b>
Yes .....	19
No.....	80
(Don't know/refused).....	1
(ref:FAMILY)	

Q.62 What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

	<b>Total</b>
White/Caucasian .....	71
African-American or Black.....	15
Hispanic or Latino.....	6
Native American.....	0
Asian .....	3
(Other) .....	2
(Don't know/refused).....	3
<b>Total Non-white .....</b>	<b>26</b>
(ref:RACETHN)	

Q.2 Record respondent's gender

	<b>Total</b>
Male .....	47
Female .....	53
(ref:GENDER)	

Geographic Region

	<b>Total</b>
City of Wilmington .....	7
Rest of New Castle County .....	51
Kent County .....	17
Sussex County .....	24
(ref:GENDER)	