

**DHM Panel
Back to School
August 11-17, 2016**

These next questions focus on education.

1. Which of the following statements most closely matches your view of our public education system?

Response Category	N=670
Our public education system should teach students the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the workforce and contribute to our society	42%
Our public education system should teach students critical thinking skills, independence, creativity, and social skills to prepare them for life in our society	56%
Don't know	2%

- 1b. Which of the following statements most closely matches your view on the use of standardized testing in schools?

Response Category	N=670
Standardized tests provide valuable insight into the successes and shortcomings of our education system which in turn allows us to improve educational outcomes for students	22%
The current emphasis on standardized testing limits a teacher's ability to teach and negatively impacts students who perform better in other ways	68%
Don't know	10%

2. When it comes to ensuring that all children begin kindergarten with the knowledge and skills they need to do their best in school, do you think Oregon should be doing more, less, or about the same?

Response Category	N=681
Much more	22%
Somewhat more	27%
About the same	29%
Somewhat less	5%
Much less	6%
Don't know	11%

Please rank these levels of education in their order of importance, where 1 is the most important level of education for the legislature to fund and 6 is the least important.

Response Category	Most important	Second most important	Third most important
3. Early learning and preschool	27%	11%	10%
4. Kindergarten through 3 rd grade	24%	30%	20%
5. 4 th grade through 8 th grade	12%	29%	30%
6. High school	25%	15%	22%
7. Two-year community colleges	7%	10%	11%
8. Four-year public universities	5%	5%	8%

9. If additional funds were allocated to K-12 schools in your area, would you rather the money be used for...

Response Category	N=659
Building new schools or renovating existing schools so that students have a safe and modernized place to learn.	16%
Adding teachers and expanding programs so that students are able to learn more subjects with smaller class sizes.	78%
Don't know	6%

10. To the best of your knowledge, what would you guess is the average annual starting salary for a teacher in Oregon with a bachelor's degree?

Response Category	N=625
Mean	\$36,216
Median	\$35,000

11. For a starting teacher with a bachelor's degree, what do you think is a reasonable starting salary that is both fair to taxpayers, and attracts and retains talented people?

Response Category	N=622
Mean	\$44,735
Median	\$45,000

12. Thinking about the district where you live or where your children attend school, what overall grade would you give to the public schools

Response Category	N=625
A	9%
B	38%
C	28%
D	11%
F	2%
Don't know	11%

13. Thinking about the district where you live or where your children attend school, what overall grade would you give to the quality of teachers?

Response Category	N=666
A	19%
B	38%
C	20%
D	3%
F	0%
Don't know	18%

14. Thinking about the district where you live or where your children attend school, do you believe the diversity of the teaching workforce is representative of the student body it serves?

Response Category	N=665
Yes, strongly	12%
Yes, somewhat	37%
No, somewhat	18%
No, strongly	8%
Don't know	25%

Below is a list of skills and subjects that may be taught in high school. For each, please indicate if you think it should be required for graduation, is very important, but should not be required, is only somewhat important, or is not very important.

Response Category	Req. for graduation	Very impt., not req.	Somewhat important	Not very important	Don't know
15. Strong skills in foreign language	14%	46%	24%	16%	0%
16. Strong English, writing and speaking skills	90%	9%	1%	0%	0%
17. Participation in community service	31%	36%	21%	12%	0%
18. Strong computer skills	57%	34%	9%	0%	0%
19. A knowledge of American history and government	70%	23%	6%	1%	0%
20. A knowledge of biology or chemistry	37%	40%	20%	3%	0%
21. Strong algebra skills	40%	32%	19%	9%	0%
22. Participation in athletics and sports	4%	24%	36%	36%	0%
23. An understanding and appreciation of music, art and drama	15%	44%	27%	14%	0%

Now let's focus specifically on higher education.

24. As college tuition has continued to rise, many people have questioned whether the cost of higher education is worth the benefit. Do you believe a college degree is more valuable or less valuable than it was 50 years ago?

Response Category	N=663
Much more valuable	18%
Somewhat more valuable	20%
Somewhat less valuable	30%
Much less valuable	28%
Don't know	3%

The following are statements people sometimes make about four-year degrees. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Response Category	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
25. A four-year degree is necessary for most American if they want to make a good living.	19%	38%	27%	14%	2%
26. A four-year degree is a good investment.	24%	49%	20%	5%	2%
27. A four-year degree will lead to a higher paying job than a two-year degree, apprentice, or certificate.	21%	40%	29%	9%	2%
28. Universities provide better education than community colleges.	14%	29%	28%	22%	7%
29. Students would be better off skipping college altogether than taking out student loans to pay for it.	12%	31%	32%	22%	3%

Response Category	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
30. There are better ways to get a good-paying job than by going straight to a four-year university or college.	21%	44%	26%	7%	2%

31. Do you think it is more important for the government to invest in two-year community colleges or four-year public universities?

Response Category	N=660
Community colleges	27%
Four-year public universities	14%
The government should invest in both equally	43%
The government shouldn't invest in either	11%
Don't know	4%

32. When you think about community colleges meeting the higher education needs of Oregonians, which of the following do you think should be a higher priority?

Response Category	N=661
Professional and technical training for immediate job placement	75%
Providing opportunities where students can transfer to four-year universities	18%
Don't know	7%

33. To the best of your knowledge, what would you guess the average cost of tuition for a full-time student is, per year, at Oregon's public universities?

Response Category	N=598
Mean	\$21,829
Median	\$18,000

34. To balance affordability, quality and fairness to taxpayers, what do you think is a reasonable cost of tuition for a full-time student per year, at Oregon's public universities?

Response Category	N=602
Mean	\$10,244
Median	\$8,000

In honor of back to school season, we have a few more questions related to education.

35. What advice would you give to a student just entering high school in Oregon? **(OPEN)**

36. Regardless of your education level or what you studied in college if you attended, if you were entering college this year, what would you want to study? **(OPEN)**

37. When taking notes, I prefer to use...

Response Category	N=629
A pen	65%
A pencil	20%
No preference	15%

38. In which county do you live?

Response Category	N=629
Tri County	44%
Willamette Valley	27%
Rest of State	29%

39. In what year were you born?

Response Category	N=607
18-29	11%
30-44	22%
45-64	37%
65+	30%
(DON'T READ) Refused	0%

40. I identify my gender identity as:

Response Category	N=627
Male	48%
Female	52%
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	N=1
Trans	0%
Other	N=3

41. With which of the following races of ethnicities do you identify?

Response Category	N=628
Asian/Pacific Islander	2%
Black/African American	1%
Hispanic/Latino	5%
Native American/American Indian	5%
White	90%
Other	3%

42. What is your party registration?

Response Category	N=628
Democrat	38%
Republican	31%
Independent Party of Oregon	4%
Registered as a member of another party	5%
Not registered as a member of a party	20%
Not registered to vote	2%

43. What is the highest level of education you have received?

Response Category	N=630
Less than high school diploma	3%
High school diploma	20%
2-year degree/some college/trade	35%
4-year degree	21%
Graduate degree	21%

44. What was your total household income in 2015? Remember to include everyone and your best guess is okay.

Response Category	N=624
Less than \$25,000	15%
\$25,00- \$49,999	24%
\$50,000-\$74,999	20%
\$75,000-\$99,999	19%
\$100,000-\$149,999	16%
\$150,000 or more	6%

45. Do you have children in your household under the age of 18?

Response Category	N=630
Yes	30%
No	70%

46. Are you currently a student at a college or university?

Response Category	N=629
Yes	7%
No	93%

47. Are you left-handed or right-handed?

Response Category	N=629
Left-handed	9%
Right-handed	86%
Ambidextrous	5%