

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Global Strategy Group
RE: Connecticut Education Survey
DATE: 02.13.13

Global Strategy Group conducted a statewide survey of 601 voters in Connecticut between January 23 and January 27, 2013. The survey was commissioned by ConnCAN. The margin of error at the 95% confidence level is +/- 4.0%. The margin of error on sub-samples is greater.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Despite tough economic times and an issue environment dominated by concerns about jobs and the state budget, improving public education remains a high priority for voters.** Even as voters' top concerns are jobs (20%) and the state budget (16%), improving the quality of education remains a key issue for the Governor and the State Legislature. Nearly 9 of 10 voters (86%) say improving the quality of public education is a high priority, including nearly half (49%) that say it is a top priority that needs to be addressed by the Governor and the State Legislature.
- **Connecticut voters are not willing to sacrifice progress on education reform, even in the face of difficult budget decisions.** While voters recognize the need to tackle Connecticut's budget issues (41%), a majority of voters (52%) believe that, even in these difficult times, we must protect the progress made with last year's landmark education reforms.
- **Voters see the Governor as a strong advocate for education reform.** Voters give the Governor favorable ratings (54% favorable/36% unfavorable) and believe he is doing a good job when it comes to education. A majority of voters (54%) approve of the job he is doing when it comes to Connecticut's public schools. Parents are especially supportive of the Governor's efforts and rate his performance on schools favorably by a margin of nearly 2 to 1 (60% approve/31% disapprove).
- **Voters desire a continued focus on improving the quality of public education in the state.** While one-third of voters say that state leaders are spending the right amount of time focusing on education, fully 57% of voters believe that the Governor and the State Legislature are not spending enough time on education-related issues, including improving the quality of public schools.
- **There is broad support for continuing education reforms.** Connecticut voters are overwhelmingly in favor of continuing the education reforms passed last year (73% support). Support for reform crosses party lines (79% Democrat/64% Republican) and demographic groups. Men and women (69% men/77% women), parents and non-parents (73% parents/74% non-parents), younger and older voters (75% under 55/71% 55+), and white and non-white voters (72% white/84% non-white) all support continuing reforms.