



NY1-Marist Poll

Schools Open:

Chancellor Little-Known to One in Four New Yorkers

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Contact: Lee M. Miringoff
Barbara L. Carvalho
Mary E. Azzoli
Marist College
845.575.5050

This NY1-Marist Poll Reports:

A new school year is here for a new schools chancellor. As New York City Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott faces his first full school year in his post, what do New York City residents think of the job he has done since his appointment in April? A notable proportion of New Yorkers have yet to form an opinion.

According to this NY1-Marist Poll, 28% believe Walcott is doing either an excellent or good job as chancellor. Included here are just 2% who say he is doing an excellent job and 26% who report he is doing a good one. About one-third -- 33% -- gives Walcott fair marks while 13% report he is performing poorly. Slightly more than one in four -- 26% -- has either never heard of Walcott or are unsure how to rate him. Households with a child in the city's public schools have similar impressions of the schools chancellor.

"This will be a year when New Yorkers become much more familiar with Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "The big question is whether he can impact favorably upon the mayor's education policy."

In the boroughs, 34% of residents in the Bronx, 30% of those in Manhattan, 29% of adults living in Brooklyn, and 25% of those in Queens and Staten Island rate Walcott's job performance as excellent or good.

What about the schools themselves? Only 43% of adults in New York City give the public schools in their community above average grades. This includes 10% who rate them as excellent and 33% who say they are good. 28% report the schools in their area are fair while 19% think they are performing poorly. One in ten -- 10% -- is unsure.

When NY1-Marist last asked this question in April, 38% thought the school in their community was either excellent or good. 34% reported they were average while 20% rated them as poor. Eight percent, at the time, were unsure.

By Borough:

- Nearly half of those in **Queens and Staten Island** -- 48% -- praise the city's public schools. 42% shared this view in April.
- More than four in ten **Manhattan** residents -- 42% -- rate the public schools in their area as excellent or good compared with 37% in NY1-Marist's previous survey.
- Almost four in ten in the **Bronx** -- 39% -- currently give the schools high marks while 34% did so in April.
- In **Brooklyn**, 39% approve of the public schools in their community. This compares with 35% who thought the same in April.

Teachers Top Spending Priorities

Budgetary constraints are an issue for New York City's public schools. 38% of adults in the Big Apple believe providing a sufficient number of qualified teachers should be the highest spending priority. 23% want money allocated to expanding classroom resources while nearly one in five -- 19% -- thinks reducing class size should top the list of expenditures. One in ten -- 10% -- views the need for increased school safety and security as paramount while only 4% think school infrastructure should top the list. Six percent are unsure.

Key points:

- Spending on qualified teachers tops the priority list for residents living in **Manhattan** -- 43% -- those in **Queens and Staten Island** -- 42% -- and in **Brooklyn** -- 34%.
- In the **Bronx**, there is less of a consensus. In fact, 30% in this borough place expanding classroom resources as the most important expenditure while 28% believe providing qualified teachers is.
- A plurality of **residents without children** -- 40% -- thinks the city should spend money on making sure there are enough qualified teachers. However, there is less of a consensus among **those with children** in their households. Here, about one-third -- 33% -- share this view. 23% place the most importance on reducing class size while 22% think providing more resources is the key.
- Looking at households with a child in the public schools, 32% say money should be put toward qualified teachers. 25% think reducing class size is the most important while 21% believe providing more resources is the top priority.

Charter Schools Still Popular, But Drop in Approval

Nearly six in ten adults in New York City -- 58% -- think charter schools are a good thing because they provide families with more of a choice. 27%, however, say they are a bad thing because they take resources away from public schools. 15% are unsure.

Although 58% of New Yorkers currently believe charter schools are a benefit, fewer residents share this view compared with Marist's September 2010 survey. At that time, about two-thirds of adults citywide -- 66% -- were for charter schools while 24% were against them. One in ten -- 10% -- was unsure.

There are age differences. 65% of adults younger than 45 years old back charter schools while 52% of those 45 and older agree.

Lack of Respect for Public School Teachers

66% of adults citywide think teachers today receive less respect now compared with when they were in school. 18% believe they have the same amount of respect while 7% say they get more respect. Only 9% are unsure.

In NY1-Marist's April survey, similar proportions of New York City residents had these views. At that time, 65% thought teachers are not given as much respect, 20% said they receive the same amount of respect while 7% reported they are respected even more. Eight percent, at that time, were unsure.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: New York City Poll of 808 Adults

This survey of 808 New York City adults was conducted on July 20th, 2011 through July 27th, 2011. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the five boroughs of New York City were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the city. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each borough was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this land-line sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined. Results are statistically significant within ± 3.5 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample: Adults

Nature of the Sample - NYC Adults		
		NYC Adults
		Col %
NYC Adults		100%
Registered Voters		78%
NYC Borough	Bronx	15%
	Brooklyn	30%
	Manhattan	21%
	Queens and Staten Island	34%
Income	Less than \$50,000	53%
	\$50,000 or more	47%
Race	White	35%
	African American	24%
	Latino	28%
	Other	13%
Race	White	35%
	Non White	65%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	24%
	Gen X (31-46)	30%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	31%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	16%
Age	Under 45	50%
	45 or older	50%
Gender	Men	48%
	Women	52%
HH with Child in NYC Public School		23%
Interview Type	Landline	75%
	Cell Phone	25%

NY1-Marist Poll NYC Adults: Interviews conducted July 20th through 27th, 2011, N=808 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

New York City Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott Job Approval Rating

Asked of NYC Adults:

Question Wording: Would you rate the job New York City Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

		NYC Adults				
		Would you rate the job New York City Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure- Never Heard
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
NYC Adults		2%	26%	33%	13%	26%
NYC Registered Voters		3%	27%	33%	13%	24%
NYC Borough	Bronx	4%	30%	32%	10%	24%
	Brooklyn	2%	27%	31%	13%	26%
	Manhattan	3%	27%	29%	12%	30%
	Queens and Staten Island	2%	23%	37%	14%	24%
Income	Less than \$50,000	2%	29%	34%	13%	22%
	\$50,000 or more	2%	25%	33%	14%	25%
Race	White	2%	26%	30%	11%	31%
	African American	3%	27%	31%	13%	26%
	Latino	3%	27%	38%	14%	18%
Education	Not college graduate	3%	24%	35%	14%	25%
	College graduate	2%	28%	31%	12%	28%
Age	Under 45	2%	24%	34%	14%	26%
	45 or older	3%	28%	33%	11%	24%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	3%	24%	37%	12%	24%
	Gen X (31-46)	1%	23%	31%	17%	28%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	3%	26%	36%	12%	23%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	3%	35%	28%	9%	25%
Gender	Men	3%	24%	34%	13%	25%
	Women	2%	28%	32%	13%	26%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	3%	25%	31%	17%	24%
	No children in household	2%	26%	35%	10%	27%
HH with Child in NYC Public School		3%	21%	34%	17%	25%
Interview Type	Landline	2%	25%	34%	13%	25%
	Cell Phone	4%	29%	29%	11%	28%

NY1-Marist Poll NYC Adults: Interviews conducted July 20th through 27th, 2011, N=808 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

New York City Public Schools Rating

Asked of NYC Adults:

Question Wording: Would you rate the public schools in your community as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

		NYC Adults				
		Would you rate the public schools in your community as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
NYC Adults		10%	33%	28%	19%	10%
NYC Registered Voters		11%	32%	27%	21%	9%
NYC Borough	Bronx	4%	35%	28%	27%	6%
	Brooklyn	9%	30%	32%	19%	11%
	Manhattan	10%	32%	20%	21%	17%
	Queens and Staten Island	13%	35%	30%	15%	7%
Income	Less than \$50,000	10%	26%	30%	25%	8%
	\$50,000 or more	10%	40%	26%	16%	8%
Race	White	11%	33%	27%	16%	13%
	African American	4%	33%	27%	25%	10%
	Latino	10%	34%	29%	22%	5%
Education	Not college graduate	8%	33%	29%	20%	9%
	College graduate	12%	32%	27%	18%	10%
Age	Under 45	10%	32%	30%	19%	8%
	45 or older	9%	33%	27%	20%	10%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	11%	35%	31%	18%	5%
	Gen X (31-46)	9%	33%	27%	20%	10%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	10%	30%	28%	23%	9%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	8%	34%	29%	15%	14%
Gender	Men	9%	33%	32%	17%	9%
	Women	10%	33%	25%	21%	11%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	9%	36%	29%	20%	6%
	No children in household	10%	31%	27%	19%	13%
HH with Child in NYC Public School		9%	39%	26%	22%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	10%	32%	28%	21%	9%
	Cell Phone	8%	34%	31%	15%	13%

NY1-Marist Poll NYC Adults: Interviews conducted July 20th through 27th, 2011, N=808 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Highest Spending Priority in the Public Schools

Asked of NYC Adults:

Question Wording: Do you think the highest priority for spending in public schools today should be to:

		NYC Adults					
		Do you think the highest priority for spending in public schools today should be to:					
		Provide a sufficient number of qualified teachers	Reduce class size	Build or remodel school buildings	Increase school safety and security	Expand classroom resources such as textbooks, computers, and supplies	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
NYC Adults		38%	19%	4%	10%	23%	6%
NYC Registered Voters		39%	21%	4%	9%	22%	4%
NYC Borough	Bronx	28%	19%	10%	4%	30%	8%
	Brooklyn	34%	19%	2%	13%	25%	6%
	Manhattan	43%	23%	4%	11%	15%	4%
	Queens and Staten Island	42%	16%	4%	9%	22%	7%
Income	Less than \$50,000	32%	19%	5%	13%	27%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	45%	21%	4%	5%	20%	6%
Race	White	42%	23%	3%	7%	18%	8%
	African American	36%	17%	3%	9%	30%	4%
	Latino	29%	19%	7%	15%	26%	4%
Education	Not college graduate	32%	17%	5%	14%	25%	8%
	College graduate	45%	22%	4%	5%	21%	4%
Age	Under 45	37%	15%	6%	12%	24%	7%
	45 or older	38%	23%	3%	9%	22%	6%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	37%	15%	5%	14%	23%	6%
	Gen X (31-46)	38%	16%	6%	9%	24%	6%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	36%	24%	3%	8%	24%	5%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	41%	19%	2%	9%	19%	9%
Gender	Men	41%	15%	3%	10%	25%	6%
	Women	35%	22%	6%	10%	21%	6%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	33%	23%	5%	11%	22%	7%
	No children in household	40%	17%	4%	9%	24%	6%
HH with Child in NYC Public School		32%	25%	6%	9%	21%	6%
Interview Type	Landline	38%	21%	4%	10%	22%	6%
	Cell Phone	38%	14%	6%	8%	26%	7%

NY1-Marist Poll NYC Adults: Interviews conducted July 20th through 27th, 2011, N=808 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Charter Schools in NYC

Asked of NYC Adults:

Question Wording: Which of the following statements comes closer to your view:

		NYC Adults		
		Which of the following statements comes closer to your view:		
		Charter schools are a good thing because they give more choices to parents and kids	Charter schools are a bad thing because they take resources away from public schools	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
NYC Adults		58%	27%	15%
NYC Registered Voters		58%	29%	13%
NYC Borough	Bronx	57%	24%	20%
	Brooklyn	61%	25%	13%
	Manhattan	59%	26%	15%
	Queens and Staten Island	54%	31%	15%
Income	Less than \$50,000	60%	26%	14%
	\$50,000 or more	59%	29%	12%
Race	White	56%	30%	14%
	African American	53%	33%	14%
	Latino	66%	21%	13%
Education	Not college graduate	59%	24%	17%
	College graduate	57%	30%	13%
Age	Under 45	65%	22%	13%
	45 or older	52%	33%	15%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	71%	19%	10%
	Gen X (31-46)	58%	26%	16%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	55%	33%	12%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	47%	32%	21%
Gender	Men	57%	29%	15%
	Women	59%	26%	15%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	61%	26%	12%
	No children in household	56%	27%	17%
HH with Child in NYC Public School		59%	31%	11%
Interview Type	Landline	59%	28%	13%
	Cell Phone	54%	24%	22%

NY1-Marist Poll NYC Adults: Interviews conducted July 20th through 27th, 2011, N=808
 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Respect for Public School Teachers

Asked of NYC Adults:

Question Wording: Thinking back to when you were in school, do you think public school teachers get more respect now, less respect, or about the same amount of respect as they did then?

		NYC Adults			
		Thinking back to when you were in school, do you think public school teachers get more respect now, less respect, or about the same amount of respect as they did then?			
		More respect	Less respect	Same amount of respect	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
NYC Adults		9%	66%	18%	7%
NYC Registered Voters		8%	69%	17%	6%
NYC Borough	Bronx	14%	64%	17%	5%
	Brooklyn	9%	65%	17%	9%
	Manhattan	7%	65%	21%	7%
	Queens and Staten Island	7%	69%	18%	6%
Income	Less than \$50,000	9%	66%	18%	7%
	\$50,000 or more	8%	71%	15%	6%
Race	White	6%	73%	15%	6%
	African American	10%	73%	13%	4%
	Latino	11%	59%	24%	6%
Education	Not college graduate	10%	65%	18%	7%
	College graduate	6%	69%	18%	7%
Age	Under 45	9%	59%	25%	7%
	45 or older	7%	74%	11%	7%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	10%	50%	37%	3%
	Gen X (31-46)	8%	67%	14%	10%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	7%	74%	11%	8%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	7%	75%	11%	7%
Gender	Men	7%	66%	20%	7%
	Women	10%	66%	16%	7%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	11%	66%	15%	8%
	No children in household	7%	67%	20%	7%
HH with Child in NYC Public School		12%	65%	16%	7%
Interview Type	Landline	8%	68%	18%	6%
	Cell Phone	11%	61%	18%	10%

NY1-Marist Poll NYC Adults: Interviews conducted July 20th through 27th, 2011, N=808 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.