

# Public Education in North Carolina

## *Statewide Voter Survey 2015*

Prepared for the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation  
June 18, 2015

# Methodology

- 2015 statewide survey of 1,235 NC voters: April 16 – May 6, 2015
  - 100% voted in the 2012 election and 85% voted in the 2014 elections
    - Not work in education or other sensitive industry (news, advertising, etc.)
    - Representative of the state in terms of race, urban/rural residence, and presence of school-aged children
    - Respondents self-identified themselves as liberal, moderate or conservative based on their views on social issues and these sub-groups are identified in the analysis when there are meaningful differences
  
- 2013 Statewide survey of 1,519 NC voters: January 28 – February 6, 2013
  - 100% voted in 2012 elections, 85% voted in 2010 elections.
  
- Respondents self-identified themselves as liberal, moderate or conservative based on their views on social issues and these sub-groups are identified in the analysis when there are meaningful differences.

# Demographics

## Number of Children by Age

Base: Have children, n=916

	Under 5	5 to 12	13 to 18	19 to 25	26 or older
None	83%	75%	76%	76%	56%
1	14%	15%	18%	17%	14%
2	3%	9%	6%	6%	19%
3	-	1%	1%	1%	6%
4	-	<1%	<1%	<1%	3%
5	-	-	-	<1%	1%
6+	-	<1%	-	-	1%

## Voted in Last Presidential Election

Yes 100%

## Voted in 2014 Elections for US and State Congress

Yes 85%  
 No 12%  
 Not sure/can't recall 3%

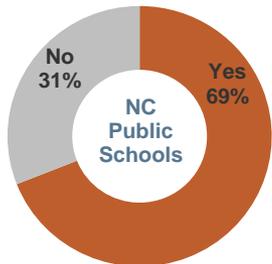
## Views on Economic Issues

Conservative 34%  
 Moderate 49%  
 Liberal 16%

## Views on Social Issues

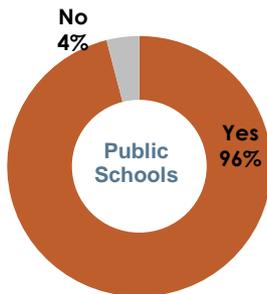
Conservative 29%  
 Moderate 45%  
 Liberal 26%

## Currently Attend NC Public Schools

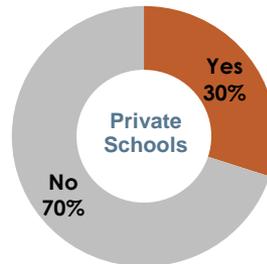


Base: Have children under 19, n=448

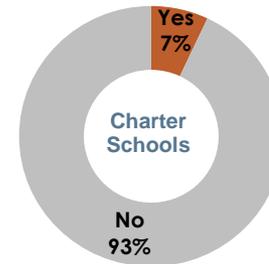
## Types of Schools Children Have Ever Attended



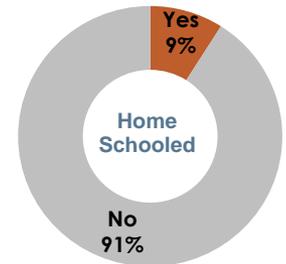
Base: Have children ALL over 18, n=559



Base: Have children 5 years and older, n=835



Base: Have children 5 years and older, n=835



Base: Have children 5 years and older, n=835

# Demographics

## Gender

Female	50%
Male	50%

## Age

18-34	21%
35-54	46%
55+	33%

## Current Employment Status

Employed full-time	52%
Self-employed	7%
Employed part-time	6%
Student	3%
Full-time homemaker	7%
Not employed but looking for work	3%
Not employed and not looking for work	2%
Retired	21%

## Marital Status

Married	66%
Living with partner	4%
Single, never married	15%
Divorced	10%
Separated	2%
Widowed	3%
Prefer not to answer	1%

## Highest Level of Educ. Completed

Less than high school	<1%
High school graduate	7%
Some college or trade school	22%
College graduate	45%
Post graduate	26%

## Race

Asian/Asian-American	3%
Black/African-American	22%
White/Caucasian	74%
Some other race	1%
Hispanic or Latino	
Yes	4%
No	96%

## Total Annual HH Income Before Taxes

Less than or equal to \$50K	25%
At least \$50K but less than \$75K	17%
At least \$75K but less than \$100K	18%
At least \$100K but less than \$150K	20%
At least \$150K but less than \$200K	6%
\$200K or more	5%
Don't know / Prefer not to say	9%

## Length NC Resident

Less than 1 year	2%
1 to 5 years	14%
6 to 10 years	15%
11 years or more	42%
All of my life	28%

## Type of Area Live In

Urban	18%
Suburban	55%
Rural	27%

## Children

Yes	74%
No	26%

# Reputation benchmarks

Positive perceptions of K-12 public education have eroded over the past two years.

- “On the wrong track” perceptions of K-12 public education increased significantly (48% to 59%).
  - Driven by shift among Liberals from 44% in 2013 to 70% in 2015.
  - Supported by shift among Moderates from 44% to 54%.
  - Driven by concerns about teacher workforce, curriculum and testing.
- “Grades” for K-12 public education were lower in 2015 than in 2013.
  - Charter schools receive comparable grades.
- Importance and benefit of K-12 public education to the state is strong, but has declined.
  - Importance down from 93% to 85%.
  - Beneficial down from 85% to 80%.
  - Charter schools are weaker with 45% Importance and 60% Beneficial.

# Primary concerns

- Greatest concerns unchanged: Underpaid teachers; Inadequate funding; Large class sizes.
  - Consensus among Liberals, and to a lesser extent Moderates and Conservatives, drive these issues to the top.
  - Conservatives coalesce more around student discipline and teacher competency issues.
- Responsibility for addressing problems is largely attributed to the state level.
  - 49% indicate State Legislature responsible to fix inadequate funding; 24% Governor.
  - 38% see State Legislature responsible to fix teacher pay; 23% Governor.
- Ability to fire poor performing teachers and competition from private and charter schools are seen as less important to school improvement than they were in 2013.
- Voters ambivalent about K-12 public schools as the best education option to focus on.
- Charter schools as part of the solution remains unchanged (43%).
  - Conservatives (49%) vs. Moderates (41%) or Liberals (39%).
  - More parents of school-aged children view it as a critical part (28% vs. 21% of non-parents).

# Topical issues

- No differences in outcome language – success in life, workforce, career.
- Vouchers remain reactive to framing language.
  - *Public tax dollars for exclusive private schools*
    - Conservative opposition is high and has increased from 2013 (67% vs. 60%).
    - Liberal opposition still strong, but has decreased slightly since 2013 (82% vs. 86%).
  - Consistent from 2013 to 2015, half support the idea that “parents should be able to choose the best school and pay for it with state education dollars” with stronger support from parents of school-aged children (60% vs. 46% not parent of school aged child).
- Seven in ten strongly support requiring the same accountability for charter schools.
  - Accountability element strengthens opposition to charter school funding.

# Decision making

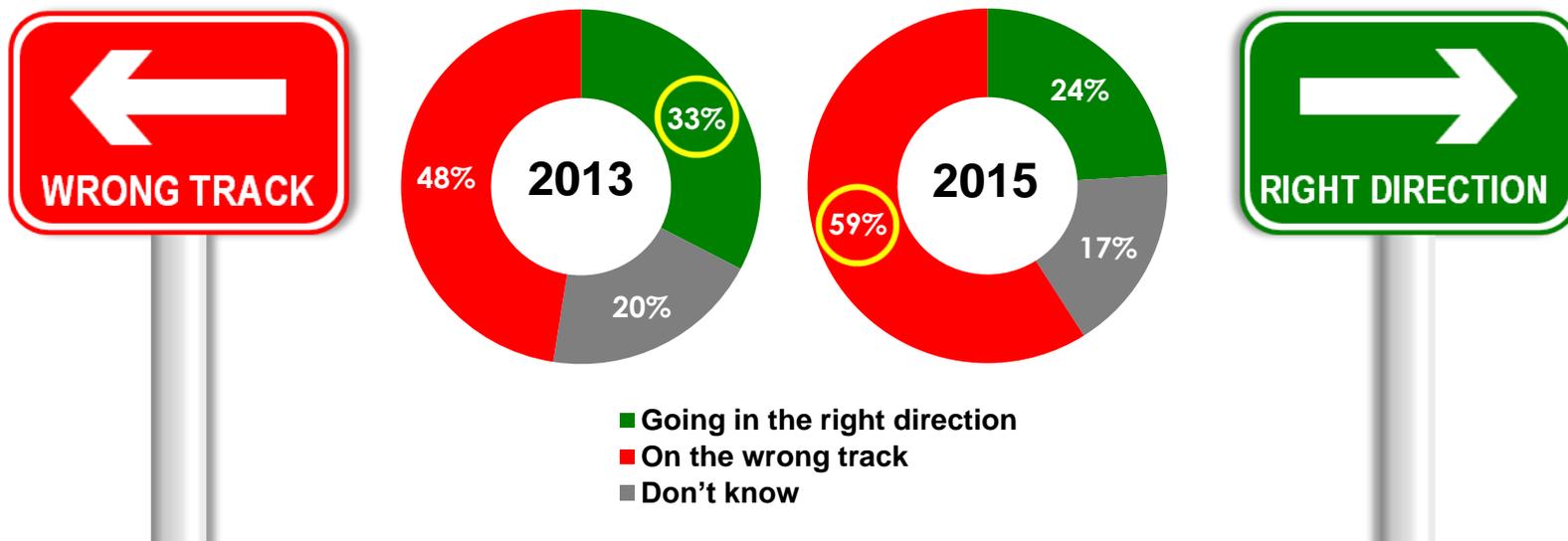
- The three main orientations from 2013 were included in 2015:
  - Better Society
  - Successful Individuals
  - Parental Accomplishment
- Successful Individuals and Parental Accomplishment predominate.
- 2015 voters focus more on the benefits of:
  - Involving Parents
  - Excellent Parent/Teacher Interactions
  - Educational Quality
- Support Programs are less important for individual aspirations.

# Reputation benchmarks

# Perceptions have gotten worse

## Direction K-12 public education in North Carolina is going

Liberals are the a force behind the shift (70% vs. 44% Wrong Track). Moderates have made a smaller negative shift (54% vs. 44%). Conservatives remained virtually constant (56% vs. 55%)



Base: Total Respondents, 2013 (N=1519), 2015 (N=1235)

Q1. Overall, do you think K-12 public education in North Carolina is going in the right direction or is it on the wrong track?

S19. Thinking about social issues, would you say your views on social issues are [ROTATE: conservative, moderate, or liberal]?

# Why Right Direction or Wrong Track?



59%

**Curriculum** (Common Core, not teaching basics, etc.)



**Teacher pay** (underpaid teachers, pay cuts, etc.)



**Testing** (teaching to the test, too much testing, etc.)



**Not enough funding** (lack of funding, cuts, etc.)



**Teachers** (losing, not enough, turnover, etc.)



**Students aren't learning enough** (no basics, etc.)



24%



**Curriculum**

(STEM, advanced classes, improvements, etc.)



**Improved teacher pay** (increases, better salaries, etc.)



**Personal knowledge** (my child/grandchild is doing well, etc.)



**Improved schools** (building more schools, better schools, etc.)



**Positive teacher responses** (good teachers, better teachers, etc.)



**Improved testing scores**



**Improved student outcomes** (students learning, grad. rates up, etc.)



# Right Direction or Wrong Track verbatims



**59%**

**Verbatim responses for why K-12 public education in NC is on the wrong track/right direction**

**24%**



- Low teacher pay, Teaching for tests, Low per pupil spending, Discipline issues, Low graduation rates.
- Teacher pay is too low, and I believe teaching for proficiency on a specific test is wholly inappropriate.
- Core curriculum, poor pay for teachers, cutting school budgets, larger class sizes.
- Per student spending is decreasing on public schools, spending is increasing on charter/private schools that are not state regulated. Decisions are being made by business people and not educators.
- I encounter too many young people without the basic skills they should have learned in school. Their writing abilities are atrocious: run on sentences, incomplete sentences, subject and verb disagreement, misspellings, and other basic communication issues. They can't do basic math without a calculator. They are unable to make proper change for currency.

- Public education, at least in my county, is well supported, and improving yearly.
- Smaller class rooms, more individual attention to each student, better teachers.
- Leaders are acknowledging the importance of charter, Montessori, alternative learning institutions in children's education.
- My children are getting a good education that is preparing them for their futures.
- Graduation rates are increasing.
- The schools are expanding with more campus locations and programs to further our children.
- North Carolina is pushing students to learn more about science and math. These are the skills that are needed for the future.

# Public education grades



**Public School(s)**



**K-12 Teachers**

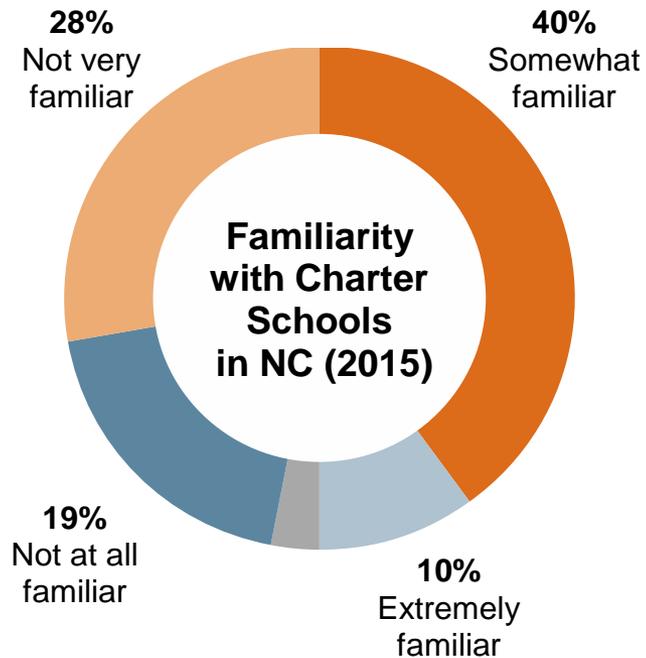


**Public Education Leaders/Adminin.**

**Report Card**  
Mean Rating

	2013	2015	2013	2015	2013	2015
<b>Where child attends</b>	<b>B+</b> (3.3)	<b>B</b> (3.1)	<b>B+</b> (3.3)	<b>B</b> (3.1)	<b>B</b> (3.1)	<b>B-</b> (2.8)
<b>In district</b>	<b>B-</b> (2.8)	<b>B-</b> (2.6)	<b>B</b> (2.9)	<b>B</b> (2.9)	<b>B-/C+</b> (2.5)	<b>C+</b> (2.4)
<b>In state of NC as a whole</b>	<b>C+</b> (2.4)	<b>C</b> (2.2)	<b>B-</b> (2.6)	<b>B-</b> (2.7)	<b>C+</b> (2.3)	<b>C</b> (2.1)

# Charter school grades



## Report Card

Mean Rating

Overall Grade

Don't Know %

“Extremely Familiar” Grade

	<b>K-12 Charter School(s) in your Community</b>	<b>B</b> (2.9)	41%	<b>B</b> (2.9)
	<b>K-12 Charter Education in NC</b>	<b>B-</b> (2.8)	43%	<b>B-</b> (2.6)
	<b>K-12 Charter Teachers</b>	<b>B</b> (3.0)	41%	<b>B</b> (2.9)
	<b>Charter School Leaders/Admin.</b>	<b>B-</b> (2.8)	42%	<b>B-</b> (2.7)

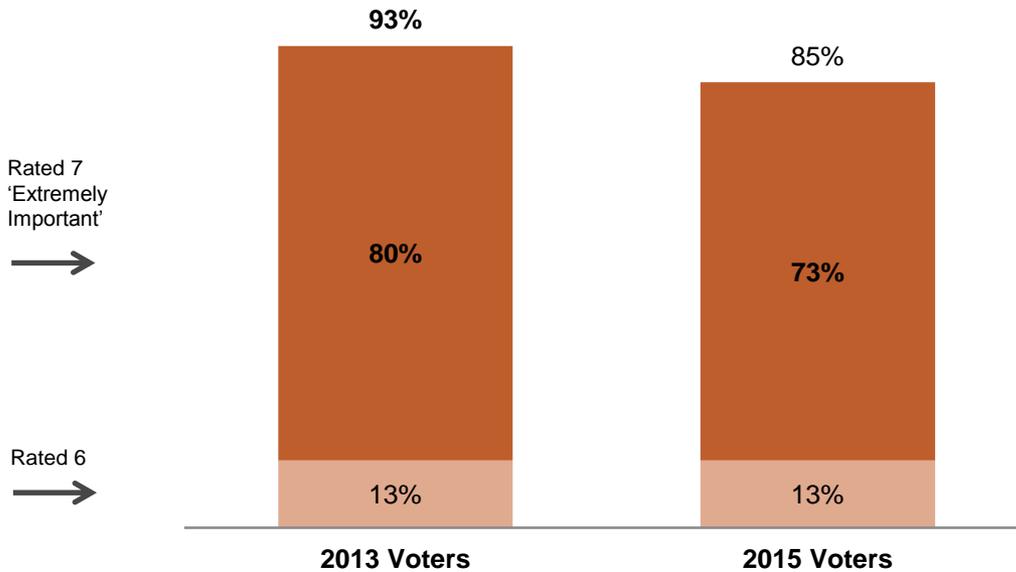
Base: Total Respondents (N=1235)

Q7a. Overall, how familiar would you say you are with charter schools in North Carolina?

Q7b. Thinking about K-12 charter education, what grade would you give each of the following?

# Importance of North Carolina's K-12 public education system

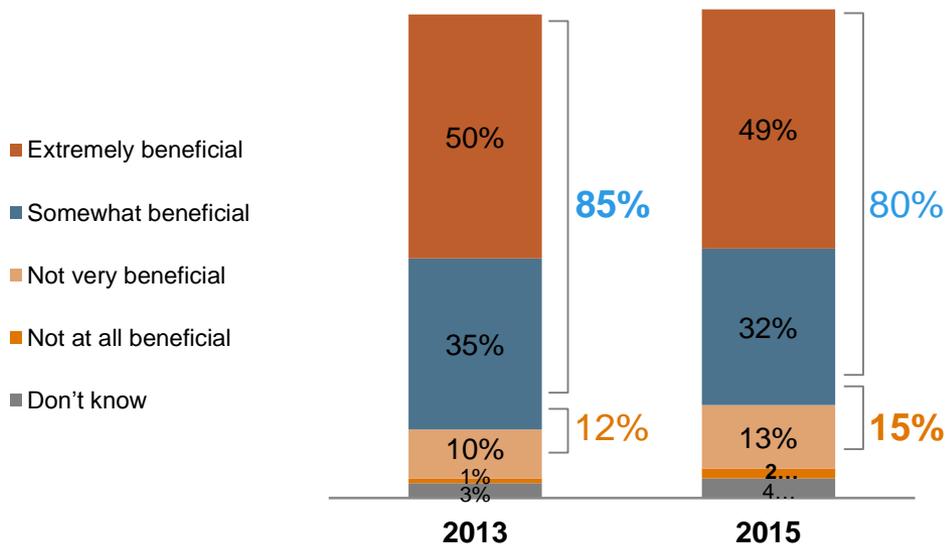
## Importance of the state K-12 public education system overall Top 2 Box (rated 6 / 7)



**Bold font** indicates statistically significant difference

# Benefit of the K-12 public education system

## Benefit the K-12 public education system is to the state of NC Top 2 Box (extremely/somewhat beneficial)



Moderates are more likely to rate it as *beneficial overall* – top two boxes - **(84%)** compared to Conservatives (74%) and Liberals (81%)

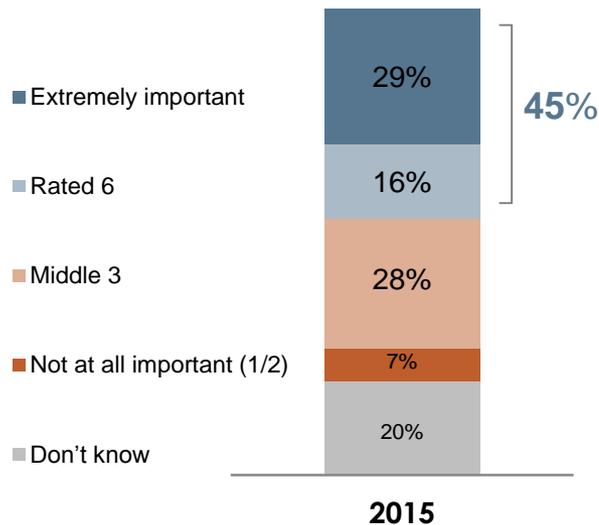
Liberals are more likely to rate it as *extremely beneficial* – top box - **(53%)** compared to Conservatives (44%) and Moderates (49%)

Moderates are less likely to rate it as *not very beneficial* (**9%**) compared to Conservatives (19%) and Liberals(14%)

**Bold font** indicates statistically significant difference

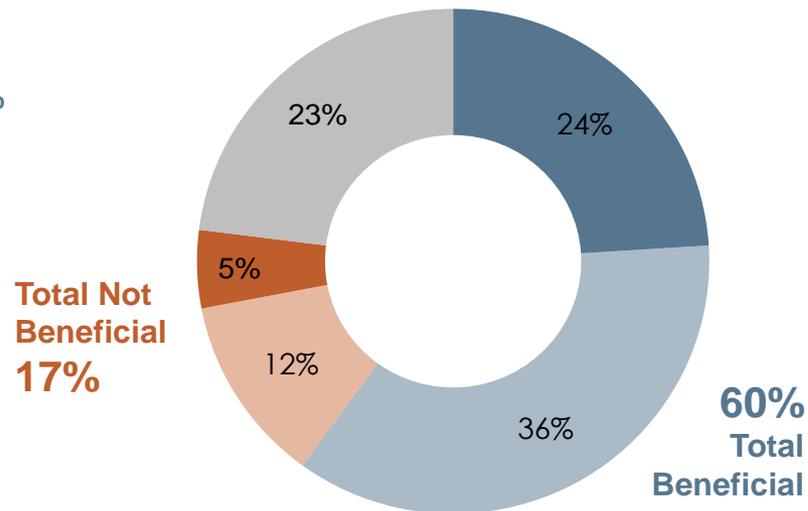
# Importance and benefit of charter education system

## Importance of K-12 Charter Education System



## Benefit the K-12 Charter Education System is to the State of NC

Top 2 Box (extremely/somewhat beneficial)



Conservatives rated the importance of charter education significantly higher (**53%**) compared to Moderates (43%) and Liberals (39%)

Conservatives are also more likely to rate it as beneficial (**67%**) compared to Moderates (58%) and Liberals (57%)

- Extremely beneficial
- Somewhat beneficial
- Not very beneficial
- Not at all beneficial
- Don't know

Base: Total Respondents (N=1235)

Q7c. How important is K-12 charter education to the state of North Carolina overall? (7pt. scale: 1= Not at all important, 7= Extremely important; DK)

Q7d. How beneficial would you say K-12 charter education is to the state of North Carolina? (4pt. scale: 1= Not at all beneficial, 4 = Extremely beneficial; DK)

# Primary concerns

# 2015 Critical areas for improvement in the K-12 public education system

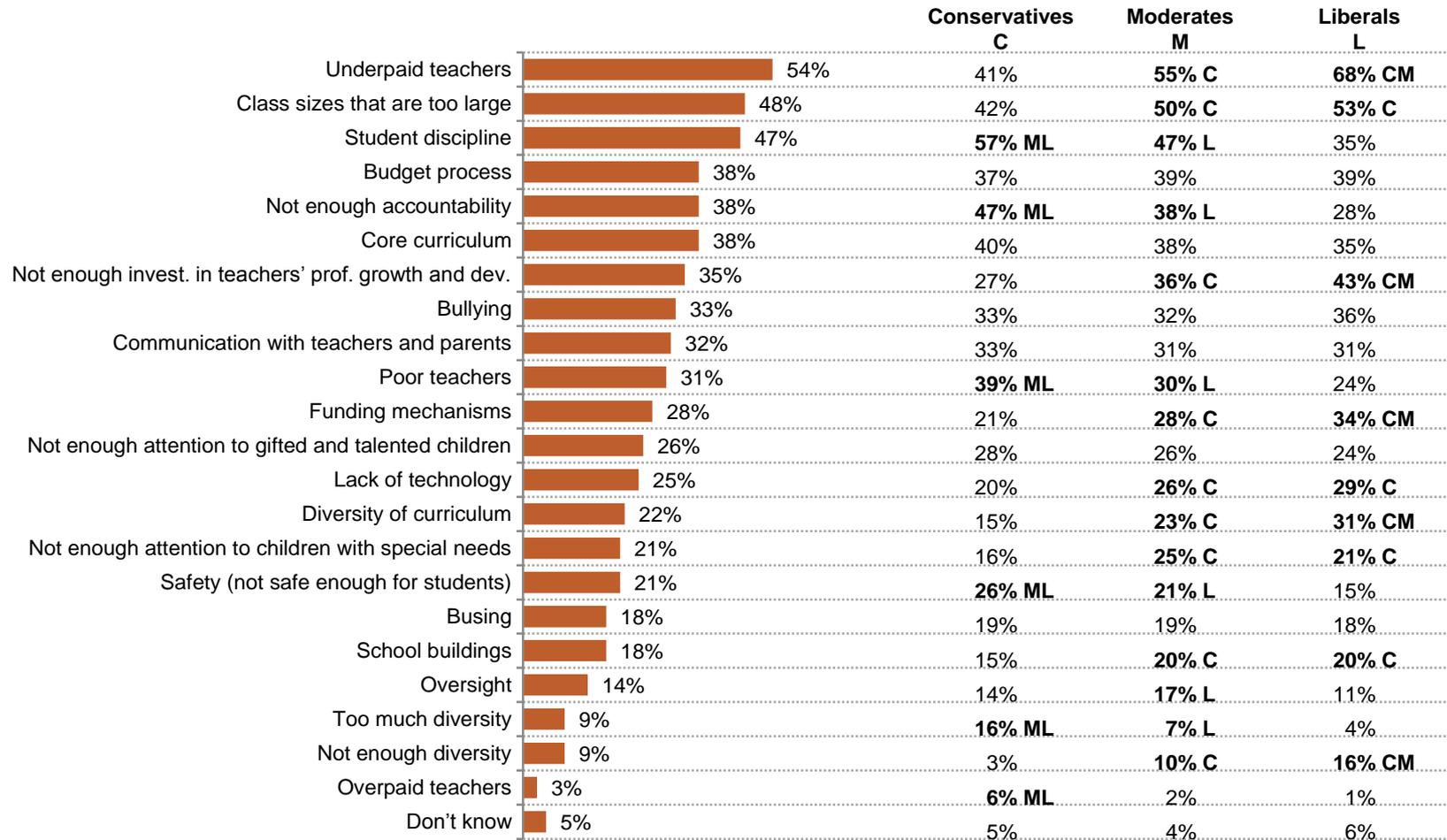
		Conservatives C	Moderates M	Liberals L
Underpaid teachers	62% (+8)	50%	<b>62% C</b>	<b>77% CM</b>
Inadequate funding	50%	35%	<b>50% C</b>	<b>66% CM</b>
Class sizes that are too large	44% (-4)	37%	44%	<b>52% C</b>
Curriculum quality	40%	39%	41%	42%
Ensuring students are college ready	38%	35%	39%	40%
Student discipline	36% (-11)	<b>51% ML</b>	32%	28%
Not enough support staff in classrooms	35%	25%	<b>38% C</b>	<b>42% C</b>
Not enough invest. in teachers' prof. growth and dev.	35% (=)	26%	<b>34% C</b>	<b>46% CM</b>
Ensuring students are career ready	34%	32%	35%	36%
Lack of learning materials	34%	24%	<b>34% C</b>	<b>46% CM</b>
Budget process	34% (-4)	32%	33%	39%
Not enough attention to the average child	30%	27%	31%	30%
Poor performing teachers	27% (-4)	<b>32% L</b>	<b>29% L</b>	19%
Not enough school support staff (counselors, nurses, etc.)	25% (-13)	17%	<b>25% C</b>	<b>35% CM</b>
Not enough school accountability for student performance	25%	<b>31% L</b>	24%	20%
Communication with teachers and parents	23% (-9)	22%	25%	22%
Low graduation rates	22%	19%	22%	25%
Not enough attention to gifted and talented children	20% (-6)	20%	19%	23%
Not enough attention to children with special needs	20% (-1)	17%	20%	22%
Lack of access to high-quality pre-K and early childhood educ.	17%	12%	16%	<b>24% CM</b>
Safety (not safe enough for students)	13% (-8)	12%	14%	14%
Overpaid teachers	1% (-2)	2%	1%	1%
Other	7%	8%	7%	5%
Don't know	4%	<b>6% L</b>	5%	2%

Base: Total Respondents (N=1235)

Q8. What are the most critical areas for improvement in the K-12 public education system? Select all that apply.

**Bold font** indicates statistically significant difference

# 2013 Critical areas for improvement in the K-12 public education system

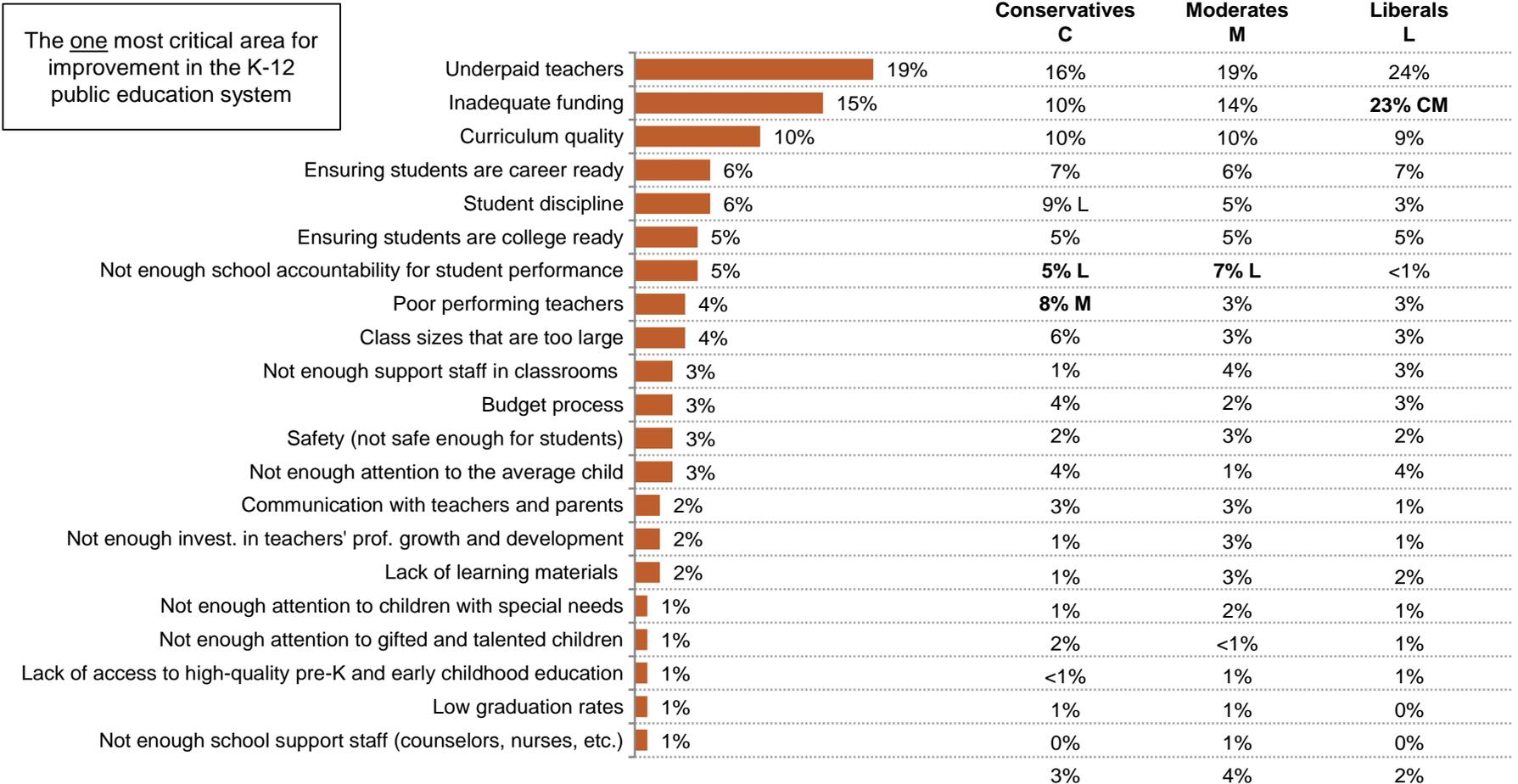


Base: Total Respondents (N=1519)

Q8. What are the most critical areas for improvement in the K-12 public education system? Select all that apply.

**Bold font** indicates statistically significant difference

# 54% of voters identified multiple concerns and were asked to select the very most important one to them personally



Base: Selected more than one item in Q8 (N=669)  
Q8A. You selected the following as the most critical areas for improvement in the K-12 public education system in the state of North Carolina. Which one area is most critical to improve?

**Bold font** indicates statistically significant difference

# Voters with multiple critical improvements who selected the one most important to them were asked to explain



## **Underpaid Teachers:**

“We are losing the best and the brightest teachers to other states. Teachers shape our children and their futures. NC public school teachers are woefully underpaid. We need to be competitive to attract the best and the brightest into the teaching profession.”

## **Inadequate Funding:**

“The state can find money for many other "special projects" but when it comes to budgeting & coming up for schools infrastructure, teacher's salaries, and quality curriculum, it is lacking. They'd rather close & combine schools, creating a larger burden on teachers, staff, and buildings by overcrowding than invest in current schools.”

## **Student Discipline:**

“Parents need to be held accountable for their child's actions. Kids that cannot uphold a minimal standard of personal conduct should be moved to a different environment/school.”

## **Ensuring students are career ready:**

“Not enough classes available to students that assures a good job if they don't attend college. Not every student wants or has the means to attend college, but they certainly need an education so they can support themselves and eventually their family.”

## **Curriculum Quality:**

“One size does not fit all schools. More local control over the curriculum is needed. State and federally defined curriculum requirements have made education worse.”

Base: Total Respondents (N=639)

Q8b. Based upon your personal experiences, your neighbor's or friend's experiences, or what you've heard about in your community, what is the specific aspect of the problem with [ANSWER FROM Q8a] that most needs to be improved? Please be as specific and detailed in describing the problem as possible.

# Voter perceptions of who should take the lead for improvements

Critical Areas	Parents	Teachers	Principals	Super-intendents	Local School Board	NC State Board of Education	NC Dept of Public Instruction	Governor of NC	NC State Legislature	County Commissioners	Someone Else/Other	Don't Know
<b>62%</b> Underpaid teachers	1%	3%	1%	2%	3%	15%	6%	24%	38%	3%	1%	4%
<b>50%</b> Inadequate funding	1%	2%	0%	1%	2%	11%	4%	23%	49%	4%	1%	3%
<b>44%</b> Class sizes that are too large	2%	3%	3%	8%	18%	24%	8%	7%	18%	4%	1%	3%
<b>40%</b> Curriculum quality	5%	13%	2%	6%	10%	32%	18%	5%	4%	1%	0%	3%
<b>38%</b> Ensuring students are college ready	6%	31%	3%	6%	7%	26%	12%	4%	2%	1%	1%	2%
<b>36%</b> Student discipline	43%	10%	16%	3%	7%	8%	3%	1%	4%	1%	2%	3%
<b>35%</b> Not enough support staff in classrooms	2%	3%	4%	11%	16%	23%	7%	6%	23%	3%	0%	3%
<b>35%</b> Not enough investment in teachers' professional growth and development	1%	2%	4%	10%	7%	28%	12%	9%	21%	4%	0%	2%
<b>34%</b> Ensuring students are career ready	8%	24%	4%	6%	10%	26%	12%	2%	4%	0%	2%	2%
<b>34%</b> Lack of learning materials	0%	3%	2%	6%	10%	26%	10%	9%	26%	4%	1%	3%
<b>34%</b> Budget process	3%	2%	2%	3%	11%	18%	6%	15%	25%	8%	1%	6%
<b>30%</b> Not enough attention to the average child	4%	23%	8%	6%	12%	19%	11%	5%	7%	1%	1%	3%
<b>27%</b> Poor performing teachers	1%	2%	16%	9%	16%	30%	9%	4%	5%	3%	0%	4%
<b>25%</b> Not enough school support staff	4%	2%	2%	8%	12%	24%	8%	8%	24%	3%	0%	3%
<b>25%</b> Not enough school accountability for student performance	11%	11%	12%	10%	8%	24%	9%	3%	4%	2%	1%	5%
<b>23%</b> Communication with teachers and parents	14%	32%	21%	3%	8%	10%	3%	2%	3%	2%	0%	0%
<b>22%</b> Low graduation rates	10%	10%	8%	8%	9%	28%	7%	6%	9%	2%	1%	2%
<b>20%</b> Not enough attention to gifted and talented children	3%	14%	10%	9%	12%	23%	15%	4%	5%	2%	1%	2%
<b>20%</b> Not enough attention to children with special needs	2%	6%	6%	4%	13%	32%	10%	7%	16%	3%	-	2%
<b>17%</b> Lack of access to high-quality pre-K and early childhood education	5%	5%	0%	5%	7%	30%	11%	6%	26%	3%	1%	2%
<b>13%</b> Safety	3%	0%	9%	17%	9%	19%	4%	15%	10%	5%	3%	3%

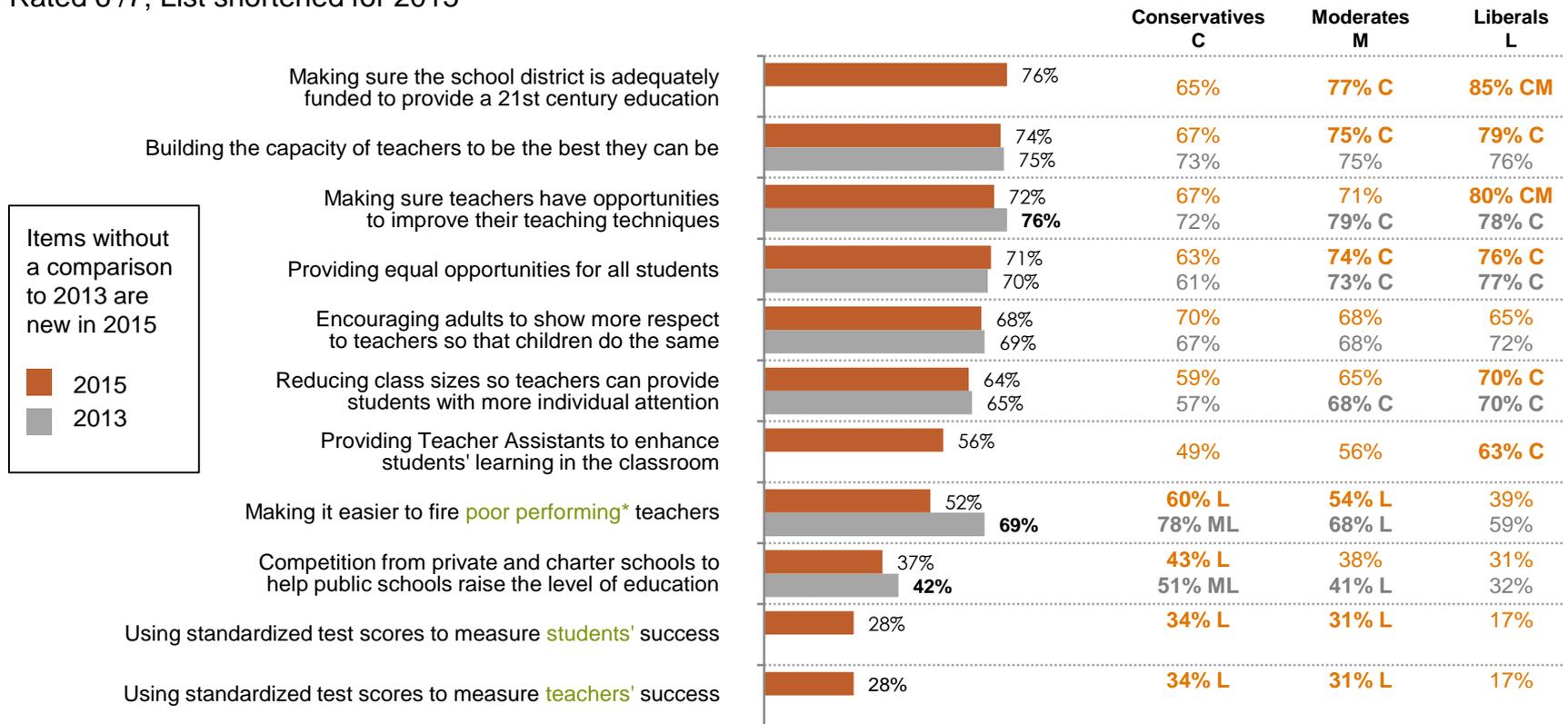
Base: Total Respondents (bases vary)

Q9. Who should play the lead role in addressing this critical area for improvement in the K-12 public education system? Select one response.

# Voter ratings of importance

## Top 2 Box Importance

Rated 6 /7; List shortened for 2015



Items without a comparison to 2013 are new in 2015

■ 2015  
■ 2013

\*Statement **modified** in 2015 so not strictly comparable

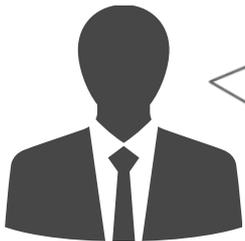
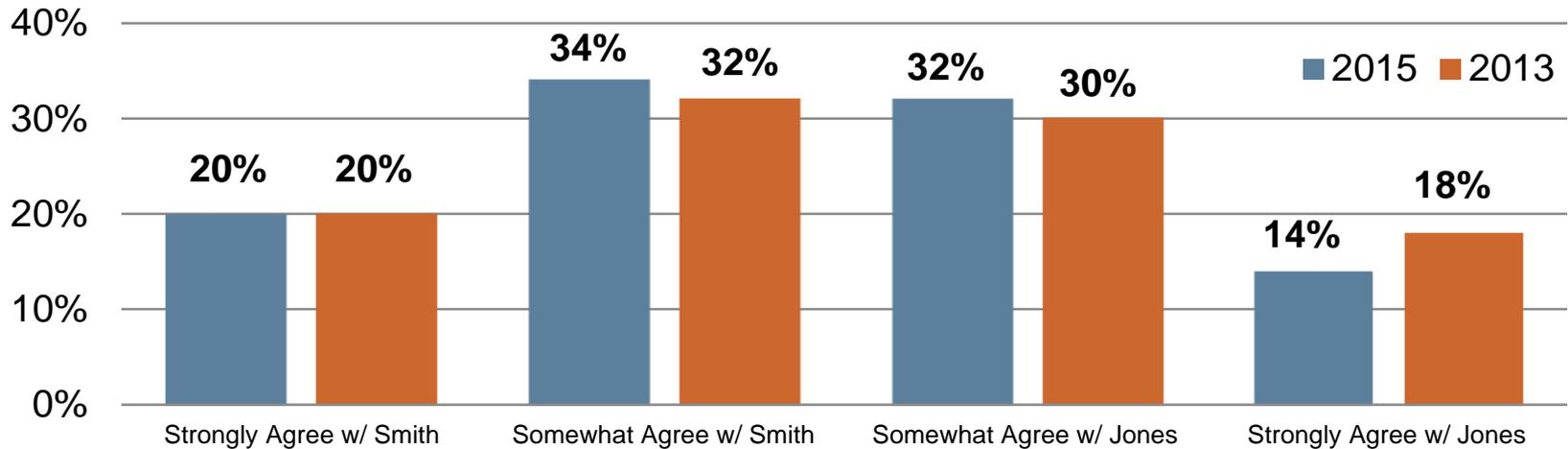
Base: Total Respondents (N=1235)

Q10. In North Carolina's K-12 public schools, how important are each of the following. (7pt. scale: 1= Not at all important, 7= Extremely important)

**Bold font** indicates statistically significant difference

# Topical issues

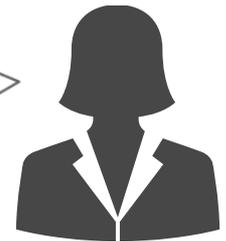
# Voter confidence in Charter vs K-12 Public schools



Smith

I'm confident that K-12 public education and public schools provide the best option to prepare our children for success in life. This is the best place for all of us to focus our energy and attention when it comes to education.

I lack confidence that K-12 public schools are the best option to prepare our children for success in life. I believe (charter/private) schools and (private/charter) education are a much more effective approach to education.

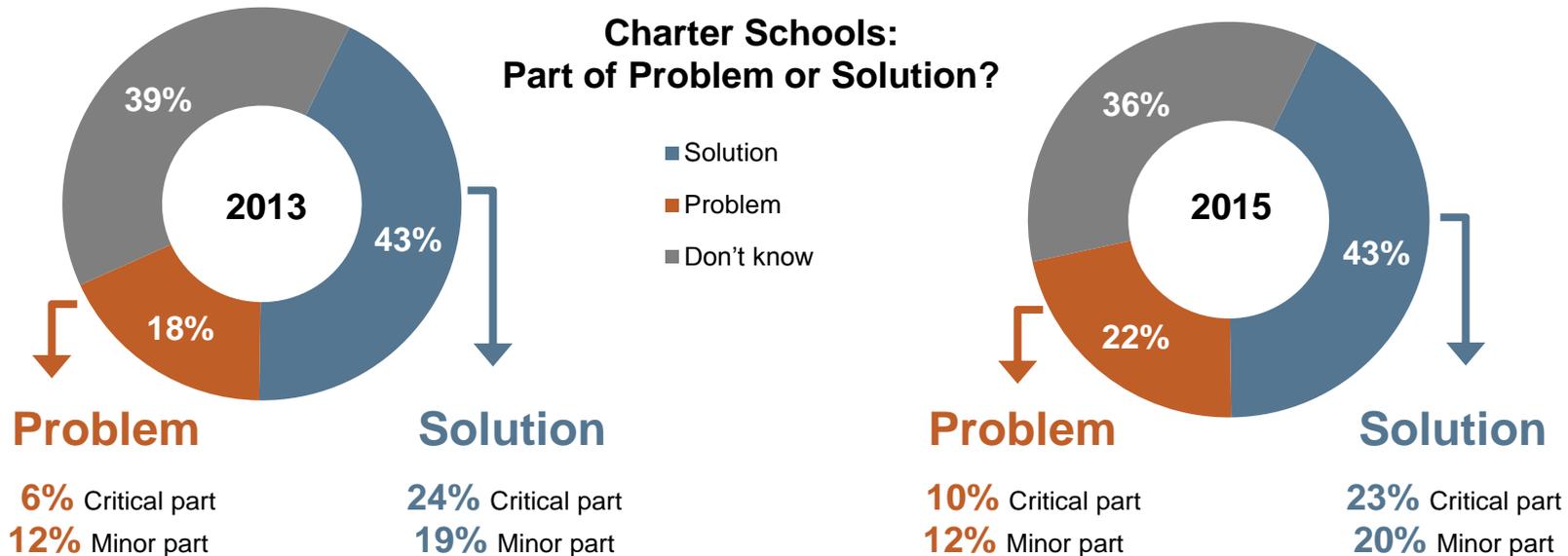


Jones

Base: Total Respondents (N=1519)

Q15. In this question there are two opinions listed. Please fully read the opinions before answering the question.

# Are charter schools part of the solution or the problem?



Charter Schools:			
Problem:	Conservatives=15%	Moderates=22%	Liberals=27%
Solution:	Conservatives=49%	Moderates=41%	Liberals=39%
Don't know:	Conservatives=35%	Moderates=37%	Liberals=34%

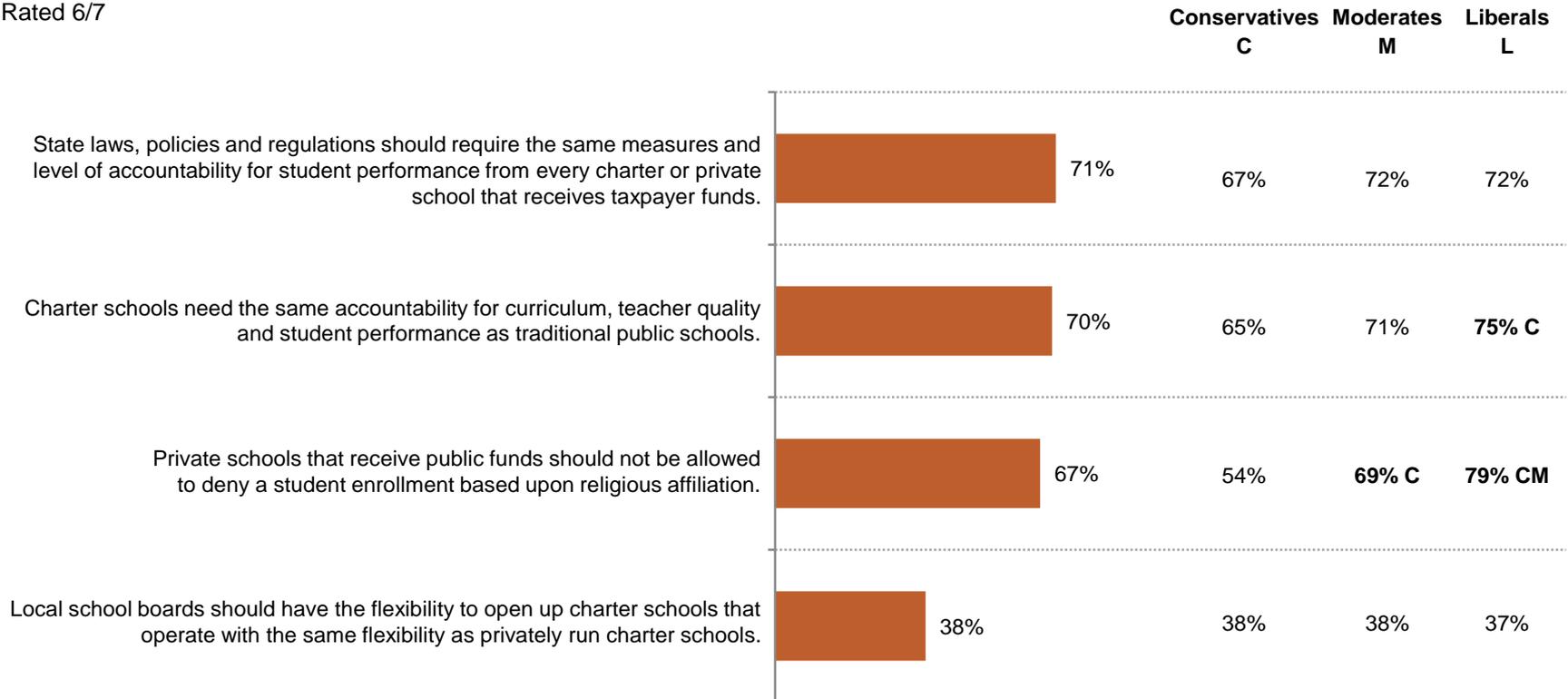
Base: Total Respondents, 2013 (N=1519), 2015 (N=1235)  
 Q16. When you think about improving the level or the quality of K-12 education in the state of North Carolina would you say that charter schools are more a part of the solution or more a part of the problem?  
 Q17. [ASK IF PART OF SOLUTION] Are charter schools a critical part of the solution or a minor part?  
 Q18. [ASK IF PART OF PROBLEM] Are charter schools a critical part of the problem or a minor part?

**Bold font** indicates statistically significant difference

# Voter perspectives on charters and vouchers, and school outcomes

## % Important (Net)

Rated 6/7



Base: Total Respondents (N=1235)

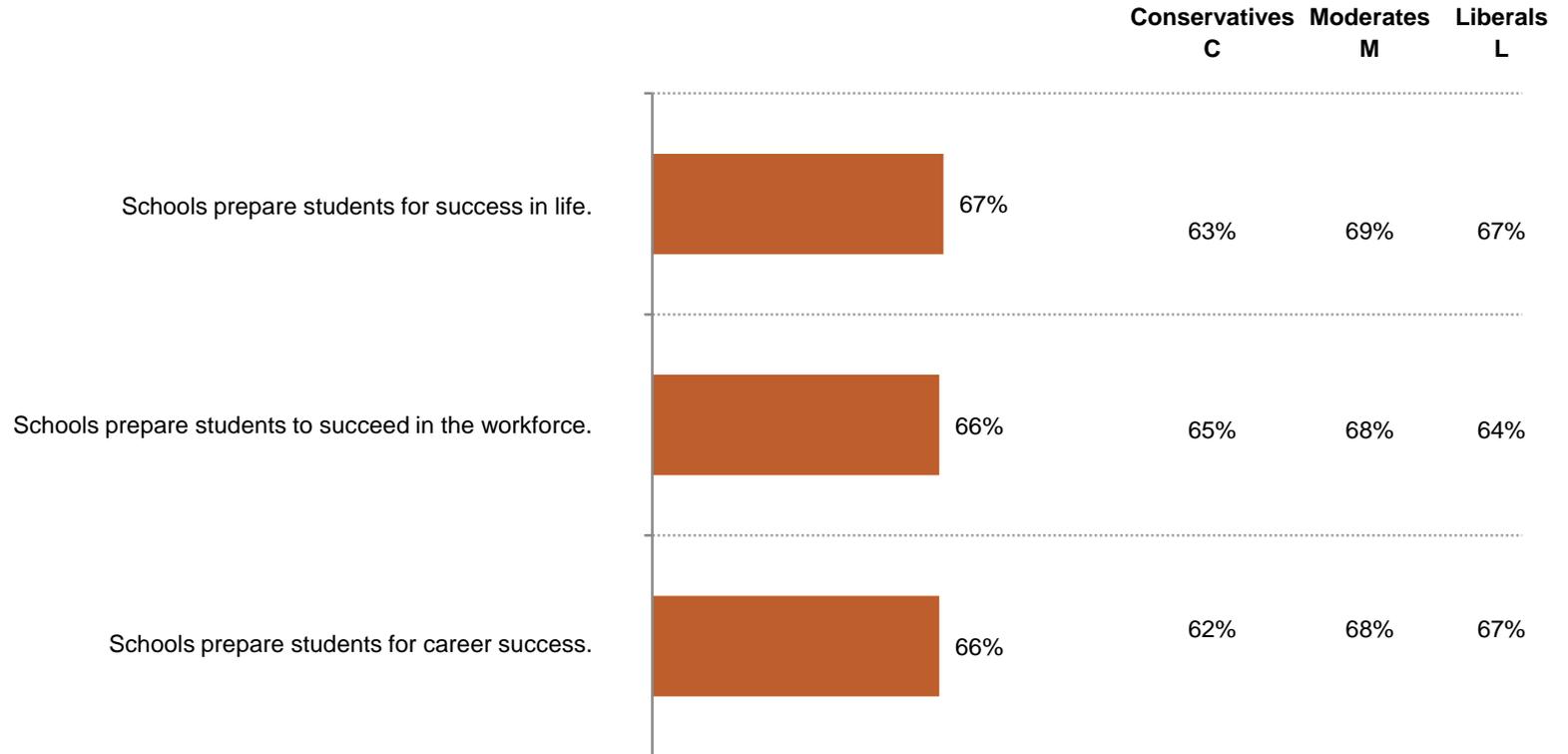
Q25. Please use the 7-point scale to indicate how important each of the following statements is to you. (7pt. scale:

1= Not at all important, 7= Extremely important)

**Bold font** indicates statistically significant difference

# Voter perspectives on schools' preparation goals

**% Important (Net)**  
Rated 6/7



Base: Total Respondents (N=1235)

Q25. Please use the 7-point scale to indicate how important each of the following statements is to you. (7pt. scale: 1= Not at all important, 7= Extremely important)

**Bold font** indicates statistically significant difference

# Decision motivations

# Primary drivers of parent ratings

## Values

Accomplished Parents

Better Society

Successful Individuals

## Emotional Benefits

Empowered & Excited

Confident

Hopeful & Optimistic

## Physical Benefits

Involved Parents

Opportunity to Excel

Prepared for Productive Life

## Attributes

Excellence & Interaction

Educational Quality

Support Programs

### Prepared

- Students are prepared for higher education
- Promotes a safe and healthy community
- Schools adapt to the community's needs

### Quality

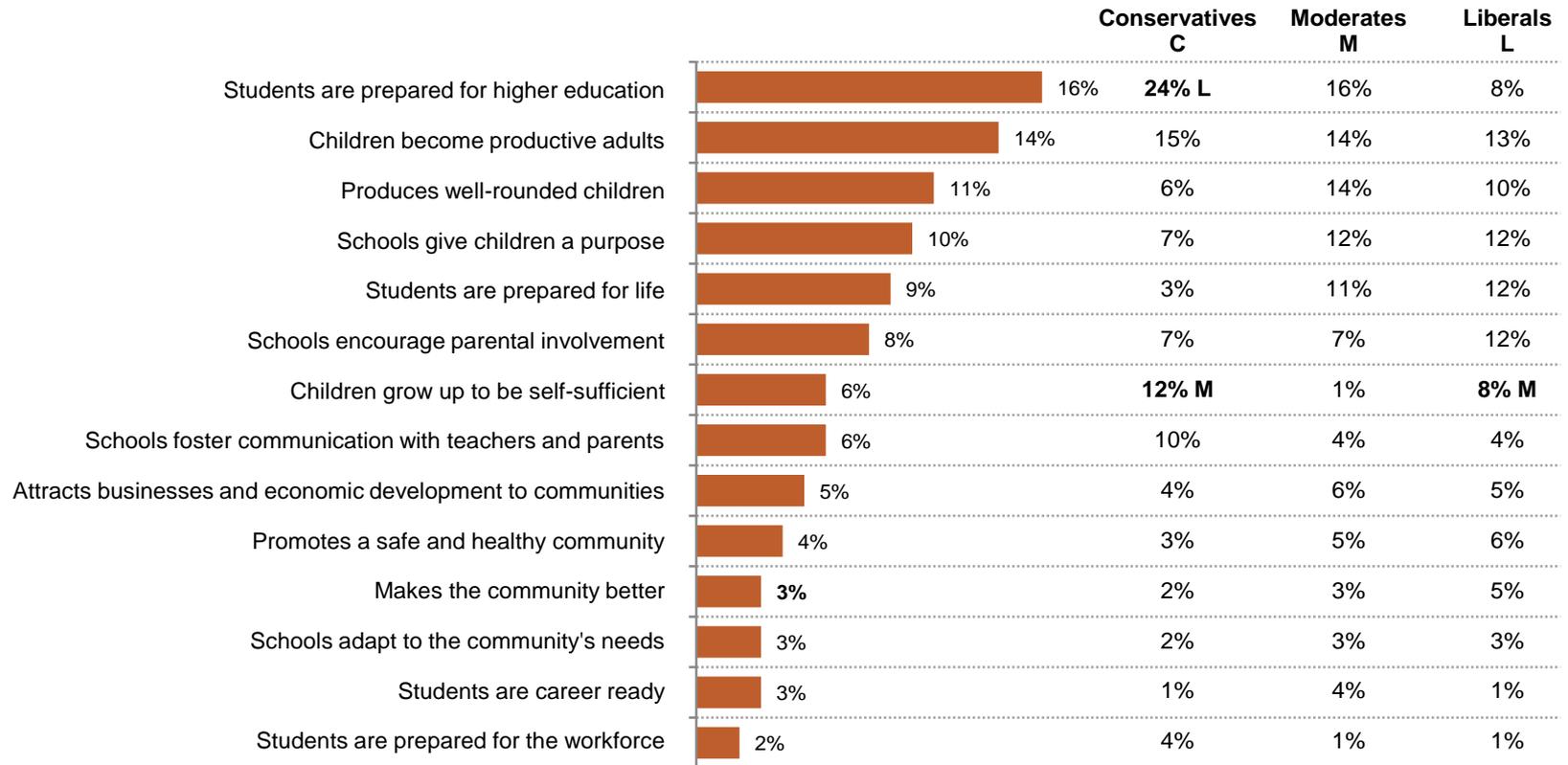
- Provide a complete education to students
- Teaches children core academic skills like reading, writing and arithmetic
- Every child is challenged to learn and progress to the next level

### Excellence

- Excellent teachers

The 24% of Voters who identified more than one area in which local schools are doing very well in, chose the one area that is most important to them personally.

### One area that best describes your local K-12 public schools (Among the 24% of voters who selected more than one strength)



Base: Rated more than one item in Q12 "Describes very well"(N=297)  
Q12C. You rated the following as describing your local K-12 public schools very well.  
Which one is the most important to you for your local K-12 public schools?

**Bold font** indicates statistically significant difference

## The 24% of Voters explained why the school's strengths were important to them personally



### Students are prepared for higher education:

"Students should get the best education and training in K-12 to better equip them for higher learning and preparation for life events."

"Teach children what they need to succeed in college. And teach them early the importance of going to college."

### Children become productive adults:

"Children learn to study but also problem solve and take responsibility for their actions. They understand what it takes to succeed as an adult and it's not all about testing."

### Produces well-rounded children:

"A well rounded child will become a productive adult in the real world."

"Children can be critical thinkers of material & data while appreciating the arts."

### Schools give children a purpose:

"I think this gives them something to look forward to, like a routine and they will also learn."

"The fundamental purpose of education is to give children the knowledge to have a purpose in life."

### Students are prepared for life:

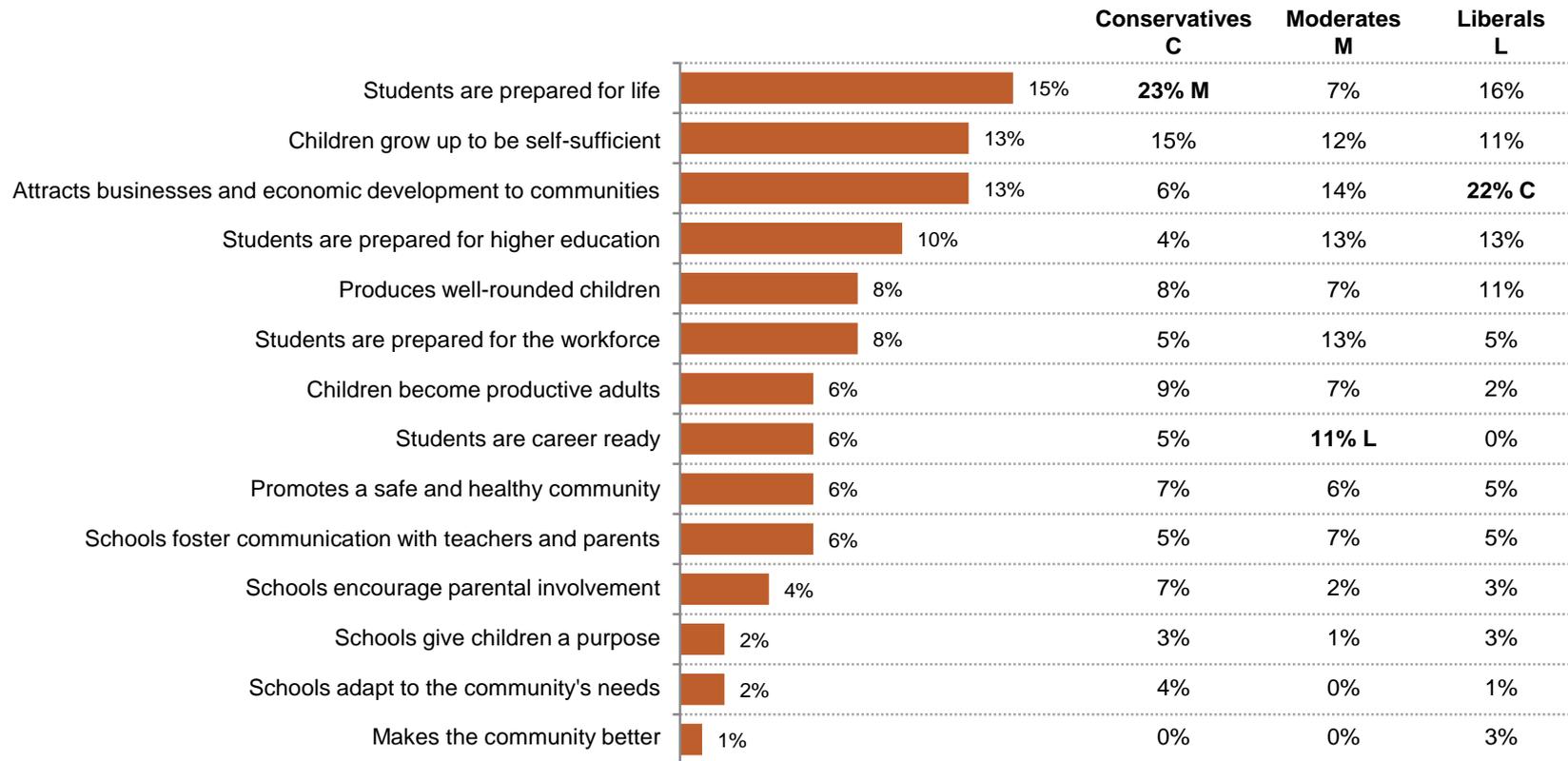
"They not only focus on education but also on social interaction and how to be good citizens/good people. They get the students excited to expand their knowledge."

Base: Rated more than one item in Q12 "Describes very well"(N=297)

Q12D. Based upon your personal experiences, your neighbor's or friend's experiences, or what you've heard about in your community, please explain why the statement below describes your local K-12 public schools very well and why this is important to you.

13% of Voters identified more than one area they feel local schools are not performing well in and were asked to select the one area most important to them

**One area most important to you, or biggest problem you see for your local K-12 public schools**  
 (Among the 13% who select more than one)



Base: Rated more than one item in Q12 "Does not describe"(N=159)  
 Q12A. You rated the following as not describing your local K-12 public schools. Which one is the most important to you or the biggest problem area for your local K-12 public schools?

**Bold font** indicates statistically significant difference

## 13% of Voters who identified multiple concerns and chose the one most important to them explained why

### Students are prepared for life:

“Students attend schools for years in hopes that they will learn many things to prepare them for the future and the real world, things such as college and jobs, but many students leave high school completely unprepared for anything at all! Little to no attention is paid to teaching students life skills like how to handle finances and real life.”

### Students grow up to be self sufficient:

“Today's children are taught that someone else will always fix their mess, and support them. They are not prepared in any way, as a general rule, to be self-sufficient.”



### Attracts business and economic development to communities:

“The schools that attract businesses and economic development are institutes of higher learning, not K-12 schools.”

“Schools don't attract business. They are an outcome of thriving and growing communities.”

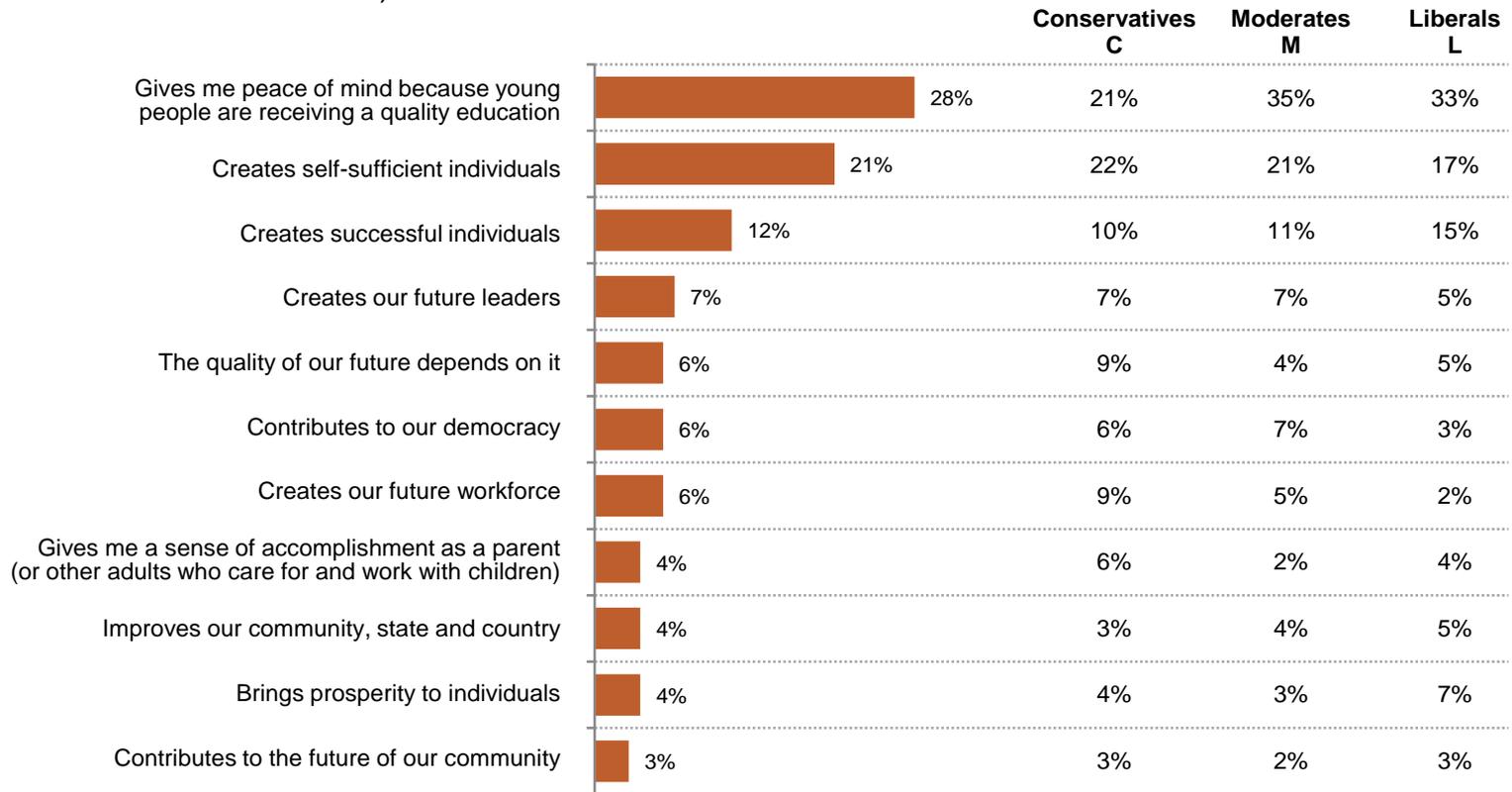
### Students are prepared for higher education:

“The schools should be clear on what kids need to graduate and enter higher education. They should provide this information to parents as well. Kids should not be automatically placed in tracks that would result in their inability to apply for colleges.”

19% of Voters who gave more than one low performance score to public schools on attaining personal values identified the most important concern

## The lowest scoring area for positive contribution by local K-12 public schools

(Among those who select more than one)



Base: Rated more than one item in Q14 (N=230)

Q14A. You gave low scores to the following as ways your local K-12 public schools contributes positively to your life ultimately. Which one is the most important to you?

**Bold font** indicates statistically significant difference

# 19% of Voters explained why the area of low performance was most important to them personally

## **Gives me peace of mind because young people are receiving a quality education:**

“A quality education requires adequate funding, staffing, well qualified teachers, a stimulating curriculum, including the arts, reasonable class size and parental and community support. All of these areas could be improved.”

“Money keeps being cut from education, how can they provide a quality education with no funds.”

“Common core is terrible and many quality teachers are leaving the profession. There needs to be a way of rewarding the good and weeding out the bad teachers.”

## **Creates self-sufficient individuals:**

“Most cannot express a coherent thought in writing when they graduate. They are ready for NOTHING in the real world. Many need to be prepared for other vocations rather than steered towards Liberal Arts college futures. They need to understand basic economics for home and business. Many should be steered toward vocational training in industry. They don't need algebra or foreign languages or literature; they need BASIC communication skills - written and oral, and arithmetic, grammar, and skills that can translate into meaningful employment.”

## **Creates successful individuals:**

“I know many children who graduated from public schools who are not prepared for the next step. They either are not successful at college and move home or are not prepared to go into the workforce.”

## **Creates our future leaders:**

“Not enough focus on leadership in the curriculum or daily environment. Insufficient opportunities for students to distinguish themselves from their peers.”

“If the children in school now are unable to function and participate in the workforce fully, how can they be leaders?”



Thank you