



Key Research Findings

(From a statewide poll commissioned by E3 conducted in May 2004 by Moore Information)

1. Oregonians care about education. Preparing kids for college and work is one of the leading concerns of Oregonians today.
2. There is support for standards and academic measurements. Respondents supported assessing student performance through testing in 3rd, 5th, 8th and 10th grades.
3. For many Oregonians expectations/standards are too low. Almost half (46%) think expectations in local schools are set too low, 40% think they are set about right.
4. Teachers/administrators and parents are perceived as the most influential people in setting goals and expectations for schools.
5. Most Oregonians believe their local schools are average or above (29% gave schools a 'B' grade and 39% a 'C').
6. For the majority of respondents, getting a high school diploma does not mean students are ready for either work or college.
7. The best arguments for community involvement in boosting student achievement recognize that schools can't do it alone and the benefits to the community include:
 - a. Studies prove that students do better when parents and other adults are involved in their schools.
 - b. Well-educated students are essential to the economic and civic health of the community and teachers and schools can't do this job on their own.
 - c. Students learn best when they have the chance to apply their lessons to real-life problems through internships and other experiences in the community.
 - d. Kids who are active in school are less likely to engage in crime or get into trouble.
8. Communication makes a difference.
 - a. Non-parents who had recently heard from their local schools graded their schools above average for preparing kids for college and the workforce.
 - b. Almost one-half of respondents are unable to identify anything positive about their local school (46%). And, among those who did identify something positive about their local schools there was no consensus. Further, just over one-third (36%) of the residents surveyed said that they have never received any communication from their local school district or that it has been over a year since they have heard from their district.

E3: Bringing Schools and Communities Together
to Prepare Oregon's Children for Success in School, Work and Life.

