



Parent Attitudes about Education in Arizona: 2005

TECHNICAL APPENDICES

**David R. Garcia
Arizona State University**

**Alex Molnar
Arizona State University**

**Bruce Merrill
Arizona State University**

April 2005

Arizona Policy Education Initiative
A Collaborative Project of Arizona State University,
the University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University

AEPI is coordinated by the
Education Policy Studies Laboratory

EPSL-0504-101-AEPI

Education Policy Studies Laboratory
Division of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
College of Education, Arizona State University
P.O. Box 872411, Tempe, AZ 85287-2411
Telephone: (480) 965-1886
Fax: (480) 965-0303
E-mail: epsl@asu.edu
<http://edpolicylab.org>

TECHNICAL APPENDIX A SURVEY METHODS

The survey results in this report are based on telephone interviews with a statewide random sample of adult heads of household living in Arizona. The sample, based on 398 interviews, generalizes to all adult heads of household living in Arizona with children attending public schools, including charter schools. The samples were stratified by county to ensure they were representative of all adults living in Arizona. In addition, 93 adult heads of households with Hispanic surnames and children attending public schools in Arizona, including charter schools, were sampled.

If an interview was not successfully completed after eight callbacks, random substitution was allowed with telephones numbers in the same prefix. Sixty-seven percent of the statewide sample of adult heads of household and 62 percent of the additional Hispanic respondents were successfully interviewed. Respondents were given the option of giving the interview in Spanish or English.

The sampling error for the statewide sample when the proportion giving a response to a question is 50 percent (and assuming the 95 percent level of significance) is plus or minus 4.9 percent. The sampling error for the Hispanic sub-sample when the proportion answering a question is 50 percent is plus or minus 8.2 percent. Sampling error varies based on the percentage of the sample that answers a question in a particular way.

Sampling errors for various percentages when the sample size is 400 are shown below:

	Sampling Error
50%	4.9%
40% or 60%	4.8%
30% or 70%	4.5%
20% or 80%	3.9%
10% or 90%	2.9%

The questions were designed by Dr. David R. Garcia, Dr. Alex Molnar, and Dr. Bruce Merrill of Arizona State University with input from Arizona Education Policy Initiative steering committee members. The interview schedule was pre-tested and the interviews conducted by professional interviewers at the Summit Group in Phoenix, Arizona during the period March 18 – 26, 2005. A CATI system was used to conduct the interviews. The data were analyzed using SPSS.

TECHNICAL APPENDIX B

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Hello, my name is _____ and I am calling for the Education Policy Studies Laboratory at Arizona State University. We are doing a very important survey on how people feel about public education in Arizona. The survey will take about 10 minutes. You may choose to stop taking the survey at any time. Will you help us by answering a few questions?

Are you the (male/female) head of your household?

IF NO: Is either the male or female head of the household at home?

IF NO: Thank and end the interview

1. Do you have children living in your household attending a public or charter school in grades K-12? (Table 1)

Thank you for agreeing to help with the survey. Your answers will be completely confidential. Sometimes people really don't have opinions about some of the questions I will ask. If you don't have an opinion just tell me and I'll go onto the next question.

2. First, students are given the grades A+, A, B, C, D and Failing to indicate the quality of their school work. Using the same A+, B, C, D and Failing scale, what grade would you give the quality of the school your oldest child attends? A+, A, B, C, D, F, or No opinion (Table 2)

3. Next, what grade would you give to the job public schools in Arizona are doing?
A+, A, B, C, D, F or No opinion (Table 3)

4. From your experience, what grade would you give to the teachers in the school where your oldest child attends? A+, B, C, D, F? 6. n.o. (Table 4)

5. What grade would you give to charter schools? , A+, A, B, C, D, F, or No opinion (Table 5)

6. Do you believe there is one area where you think the public schools in Arizona are doing a particularly good job? (Table 6)

7. What is the one area in which you think Arizona public schools are doing a particularly good job? (ASK OPEN ENDED) (Table 7)

8. What do you think is the biggest single challenge facing the schools in your community?
ASK OPEN-ENDED (Table 8)

9. How involved would you say you are in your children's school? 1. Very involved, 2. Somewhat involved, 3. Not involved, 4. No opinion (Table 9)

10. As a parent, do you think you have sufficient choices available to choose the best school for your child? 1. Yes, 2. No, 3. No opinion (Table 10)
11. Do you know if charter schools are public or private schools? 1. Public, 2. Private, 3. No opinion (Table 11)
12. Do you think charter schools have a positive effect, a negative effect, or little or no effect on public schools? 1. Positive effect, 2. Negative effect, 3. Little or no effect, 4. No Opinion (Table 12)
13. Do you think providing public dollars to private schools will have a positive effect, a negative effect, or little or no effect on public schools? 1. Positive effect, 2. Negative effect, 3. Little or no effect, 4. No opinion (Table 13)
14. Do you favor or oppose using public money to provide tuition vouchers to students who want to attend private schools? 1. Favor, 2. Oppose, 3. No opinion (Table 14)
15. Do you favor or oppose using public money in the form of tax credits to support sending children to private schools? 1. Favor, 2. Oppose, 3. No opinion (Table 15)
16. Do you favor or oppose publicly-funded, full-day kindergarten programs? 1. Favor, 2. Oppose, 3. No opinion (Table 16)
17. Students in Arizona's schools are tested each year, using a standard, statewide test to determine how students are performing academically. Do you favor or oppose using statewide tests to determine how schools are performing? 1. Favor, 2. Oppose, 3. No opinion (Table 17)
18. In Arizona, students must demonstrate academic competence by passing a test called the AIMS Test before they can graduate from high school. Do you approve or disapprove of requiring students to pass the AIMS Test before they can graduate high school? 1. Approve, 2. Disapprove, 3. No opinion (Table 18)
19. Some people have proposed giving students who do not pass the AIMS Test a different type of diploma. Do you favor or oppose awarding students a different type of diploma based on whether they pass the AIMS test? 1. Favor, 2. Oppose, 3. No opinion (Table 19)
20. How familiar would you say you are with the No Child Left behind Act – the federal education bill passed by Congress in 2001? Would you say you are very familiar, somewhat familiar, not very familiar, or not at all familiar with the act? 1. Very familiar, 2. Somewhat familiar, 3. Not very familiar, 4. Not at all familiar (Table 20)
21. From what you have read or heard about the act, is your opinion of the No Child Left Behind Act very favorable, generally favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable? 1. Very favorable, 2. Generally favorable, 3. Somewhat unfavorable, 4. Very unfavorable, 5. No opinion (Table 21)

22. How familiar would you say you are with AZ LEARNS – Arizona’s School Accountability System? Would you say you are very familiar, somewhat familiar, not very familiar, or not at all familiar with the act? 1. Very familiar, 2. Somewhat familiar, 3. Not very familiar, 4. Not at all familiar, 5. No opinion (Table 22)

23. From what you have read or heard about the AZ LEARNS, is your opinion of Arizona’s School Accountability System very favorable, generally favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable? 1. Very favorable, 2. Generally favorable, 3. Somewhat unfavorable, 4. Very unfavorable, 5. No opinion (Table 23)

If a school one of your children is attending scored low on the statewide tests, would you favor or oppose each of the following –

24. Withhold funds from the school if they don’t improve. 1. Favor, 2. Oppose, 3. No opinion (Table 24)

25. Provide more state funds to the school. 1. Favor, 2. Oppose, 3. No opinion (Table 25)

26. Replace the principal. 1. Favor, 2. Oppose, 3. No opinion (Table 26)

27. Replace underperforming teachers (2004 question included all teachers, not limited to underperforming). 1. Favor, 2. Oppose, 3. No opinion (Table 27)

28. In general, do you think minority students in the school your oldest child attends are given the same academic opportunities as non-minorities, more opportunities, or fewer opportunities than non-minorities? 1. Same opportunities, 2. More opportunities, 3. Fewer opportunities, 4. No opinion, 5. Refuse to answer (Table 28)

29. As a group, minority students generally do not perform as well on academic achievement tests as non-minorities. What do you think is the main reason they don’t perform well? (Open-ended question) (Table 29)

30. Many high school students in Arizona drop out before graduating. What do you think is the single biggest reason high school students drop out of school before finishing their education? (Open-ended question) (Table 30)

31. Which do you think is most beneficial to students’ education, putting students in classrooms where both English and the student’s native language are spoken, or classrooms where only English is the language of instruction? 1. English and native language, 2. English only, 3. No opinion, 4. Refuse to answer (Table 31)

32. The Arizona Department of Education publishes School Report Cards for each school in Arizona. Have you ever reviewed a School Report Card? 1. Yes, 2. No, 3. Don’t know (Table 32)

33. Is your opinion of the School Report Cards very favorable, generally favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable? 1. Very favorable, 2. Generally favorable, 3. Somewhat unfavorable, 4. Very unfavorable, 5. No opinion (Table 33)
34. Does your child attend an elementary school, a middle school, or a high school? 1. Elementary school, 2. Middle school, 3. High school (Table 34)
35. If the school your oldest child attends is public, does your child attend a charter school? 1. Yes, 2. No., 3. Don't know. (Table 35)
36. Do you have a child or children under the age of 6? 1. Yes, 2. No (Table 36)
37. How many years have you lived in Arizona? 1. Less than 10 years, 2. 10 to 20 years, 3. 21 or more years, 4. No response (Table 37)
38. Which of the following best characterizes your household:
1. We only speak English in our household
 2. We speak mainly English but another language as well
 3. We speak little or no English in our household
- (Table 38)
39. In terms of race or ethnicity, which of the following do you most identify with? (Open ended question and coded)
1. White or Anglo
 2. Hispanic or Latino
 3. Native American
 4. African American
 4. Two or more races mentioned (Not an option in 2004)
 5. Something else
 6. Refused
- (Table 39)
40. How many years of formal education have you completed? (2004 survey asked for male and female education separately) 1. High school or less, 2. Some college or trade school, 3. Graduated college, 4. No answer (Table 40)
41. Do you have access to the internet? 1. Yes, 2. No (Table 41)
42. Were you born in the United States? 1. Yes, 2. No (Table 42)
43. Are you registered to vote and in Arizona? 1. Yes, 2. No (Table 43)
44. In what county do you reside? 1. Maricopa, 2. Pima, 3. Other (Table 44)
45. Was parent male or female? 1. Male, 2. Female (Table 45)
46. Language interview conducted. 1. English, 2. Spanish, 3. Both (Table 46)

TECHNICAL APPENDIX C
SURVEY REPORT TABLES

Table 1: Children who attend public or charter school in grades K-12

Do you have children living in your household attending a public or charter school in grades K-12?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Yes	100	100
No	0	0

Table 2: Parents Grade the Public School Their Oldest Child Attends

What grade would you give the quality of the school your <u>oldest child</u> attends?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
A+	N/A	6.5
A	27.1	28.9
B	44.4	42.5
C	20.8	16.8
D	4.8	2.8
F	1.7	1.8
No opinion	1.1	0.8

Note: Question modified from 2004 version.

Table 3: Grading Arizona Public Schools

What grade would you give to the job public schools in Arizona are doing?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
A+		1.0
A	4.8	6.3
B	25.6	31.7
C	44.2	37.2
D	12.0	10.3
F	4.2	4.8
No opinion	8.8	8.8

Note: Question modified from 2004 version.

Table 4: Grading Arizona's Teachers

From your experience, what grade would you give to the teachers in the school where your oldest child attends?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
A+		6.0
A	39.9	33.9
B	39.9	37.4
C	15.1	15.1
D	2.0	4.8
F	1.1	0.8
No opinion	2.0	2.0

Note: Question modified from 2004 version.

Table 5: Grading Arizona's Charter Schools

What grade would you give to charter schools in Arizona?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
A+		1.0
A	6.3	5.8
B	17.9	9.6
C	13.4	7.5
D	4.0	7.0
F	2.8	2.5
No opinion	55.6	66.3
Refused		0.3

Note: Question modified from 2004 version.

Table 6: Is There One Area Where Public Schools are Doing a Good Job

Do you believe there is one area where you think the public schools in Arizona are doing a particularly good job?	
	Percent in 2005
Yes	41.7
No	58.3

Table 7: Where Arizona Public Schools Do Particularly Well

Is there one area where you think the public schools in Arizona are doing a particularly good job?	
	Percent in 2005
Teaching the basics (reading, writing, education in general)	41
Addressing the needs of all students, including Special Education and Gifted	18
Providing high-quality teachers	7
Quality arts and extra-curricular programs	5
Testing	4

Notes: (1) Percentages calculated excluding no opinion, missing, or don't know responses. (2) Individuals could provide more than one response and all responses were coded. (3) Percentages calculated based on the number of responses. (4) Fifty-eight percent of parents did not believe that public schools are doing a particularly good job in a specific area. (5) Percentages do not equal 100 because only the five most often cited responses are listed.

Table 8: Challenges Facing Arizona Schools

What do you think is the biggest single challenge that the schools in your community face?	
	Percent in 2005
Lack of funding, resources	43
Lack of parental involvement	8
Quality of education, standards	8
Lack of discipline	7
Keeping good teachers	5

Notes: (1) Percentages calculated excluding no opinion, missing, or don't know responses. (2) Individuals could provide more than one response and all responses were coded. (3) Percentages calculated based on the number of responses. (4) Percentages do not equal 100 because only the five most often cited responses are listed.

Table 9: Parent Involvement in Schools

How involved would you say you are in your children's school?	
	Percent in 2005
Very involved	55.3
Somewhat involved	40.3
Not involved	4.3

Table 10: School Choice Options

Do you think you have sufficient choices available to choose the best school for your child?	
	Percent in 2005
Yes	68.1
No	29.2
No opinion	2.8

Table 11: Knowledge of Charters

Do you know if charter schools are public or private schools?	
	Percent in 2005
Public	57.5
Private	18.8
No opinion	23.6

Table 12: Effect of Charter Schools on Public Schools

Do you think charter schools have a positive effect, a negative effect, or little or no effect on public schools?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Positive effect	34.2	30.7
Negative effect	14.5	19.1
Little or no effect	27.6	27.1
No opinion	23.6	23.1

Table 13: Effect of Public Funding for Private Schools on Public Schools

Do you think providing public dollars to private schools will have a positive effect, a negative effect, or little or no effect on public schools?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Positive effect	21.7	30.7
Negative effect	46.7	19.1
Little or no effect	19.4	27.1
No opinion	12.3	23.1

Table 14: Tuition Vouchers

Do you favor or oppose using public money to provide tuition vouchers to students who want to attend private schools?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Favor	34.5	38.4
Oppose	51.9	53.0
No opinion	13.7	8.5

Table 15: Tax Credits for Private School Students

Do you favor or oppose using public money in the form of tax credits to support sending children to private schools?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Favor	33.6	45.2
Oppose	51.9	47.0
No opinion	14.5	7.8

Table 16: Publicly-Funded, Full-Day Kindergarten

Do you favor or oppose publicly-funded, full-day kindergarten programs?	
	Percent in 2005
Favor	76.4
Oppose	19.6
No opinion	4.0

Table 17: Use of Statewide Tests to Determine School Performance

Do you favor or oppose using statewide tests to determine how schools are performing?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Favor	69.2	68.8
Oppose	20.2	23.6
No opinion	10.5	7.5

Table 18: Using AIMS as a Graduation Requirement

Do you approve or disapprove of requiring students to pass the AIMS Test before they can graduate high school?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Approve	55.8	51.3
Disapprove	34.2	42.2
No opinion	10.0	6.5

Table 19: Different Diploma Based on AIMS Results

Do you favor or oppose awarding students a different type of diploma based on whether they pass the AIMS test?	
	Percent in 2005
Favor	21.6
Oppose	66.8
No opinion	11.6

Table 20: Familiarity with No Child Left Behind

How familiar would you say you are with the No Child Left behind Act?	
	Percent in 2005
Very familiar	17.1
Somewhat familiar	48.5
Not very familiar	26.6
Not at all familiar	7.8

Table 21: Opinion of No Child Left Behind Act

From what you have read or heard about the act, what is your opinion of the No Child Left Behind Act?	
	Percent in 2005
Very favorable	12.3
Generally favorable	42.5
Somewhat favorable	30.3
Very unfavorable	13.4

Table 22: Familiarity with Arizona LEARNS

How familiar would you say you are with Arizona LEARNS – Arizona’s School Accountability System?	
	Percent in 2005
Very familiar	4.5
Somewhat familiar	14.6
Not very familiar	33.9
Not at all familiar	45.7
No opinion	1.3

Table 23: Opinion of Arizona LEARNS

What is your opinion of Arizona’s School Accountability System?	
	Percent in 2005
Very favorable	4.0
Generally favorable	57.9
Somewhat favorable	22.4
Very unfavorable	9.2
No opinion	6.6

Table 24: Withholding Funds From Low-Scoring Schools

If a school one of your children is attending scored low on the statewide tests, would you favor or oppose withholding funds from the school if they don't improve?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Favor	21.4	17.8
Oppose	67.2	75.6
No opinion	11.4	6.5

Table 25: Provide More Funds for Low-Scoring Schools

If a school one of your children is attending scored low on the statewide tests, would you favor or oppose provide more state funds to the school?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Favor	67.0	66.3
Oppose	15.7	23.6
No opinion	17.4	10.1

Table 26: Replace the Principal at Low-Scoring Schools

If a school one of your children is attending scored low on the statewide tests, would you favor or oppose replace the principal?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Favor	29.3	32.7
Oppose	49.6	44.5
No opinion	21.9	22.9.

Table 27: Replace Underperforming Teachers at Low-Scoring Schools

If a school one of your children is attending scored low on the statewide tests, would you favor or oppose replace underperforming teachers?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Favor	28.5	74.6
Oppose	49.6	15.8
No opinion	21.9	9.6

Note: Question modified from 2004 version.

Table 28: Opportunities for Minority Students

Do you think minority students in the school your <u>oldest child</u> attends are given the same academic opportunities as non-minorities, more opportunities, or fewer opportunities than non-minorities?	
	Percent in 2005
Same opportunities	74.6
More opportunities	14.6
Fewer opportunities	6.5
No opinion	3.8
Refused to answer	0.5

Table 29: Non-Academic Reasons for Minority and Non-Minority Test Score Differences

What is the main reason for the difference between minority and non-minority student academic achievement?	
	Percent in 2005
Home background, lack of parental involvement	31
Language barriers	25
Socio-economic disadvantages	8
Students not working hard enough	4

Note: Percentages do not equal 100 because only the four most often cited reasons are listed.

Table 30: Reasons Why Students Drop Out of School

What do you think is the single biggest reason high school students drop out of school before finishing their education?	
	Percent in 2005
Home background, lack of parental involvement	30
Don't see how school benefits them, lack of interest	11
Not motivated, lazy, no goals	9
Leave to make money, support families	6
Not prepared academically, get behind and never catch up	6

Note: Percentages do not equal 100 because only the five most often cited reasons are listed.

Table 31: Most Beneficial Language of Instruction

Which do you think is most beneficial to students' education, putting students in classrooms where both English and the student's native language are spoken, or classrooms where only English is the language of instruction?	
	Percent in 2005
English and Spanish	35.7
English only	56.0
No opinion	7.8
Refused to answer	0.5

Table 32: Knowledge of State School Report Cards

The Arizona Department of Education publishes School Report Cards for each school in Arizona. Have you ever reviewed a School Report Card?	
	Percent in 2005
Yes	64.1
No	34.2
No opinion	1.8

Table 33: Opinion of School Report Cards

Is your opinion of the School Report Cards very favorable, generally favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable?	
	Percent in 2005
Very favorable	25.0
Generally favorable	54.3
Somewhat favorable	13.3
Very unfavorable	2.7
No opinion	4.7

Table 34: Child's School Level

Does your child attend an elementary school, a middle school, or a high school?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Elementary	38.7	37.4
Middle school	20.2	18.6
High school	41.0	43.7
Refused	0	0.3

Table 35: Child Attend a Charter School

If the school your oldest child attends is public, does your child attend a charter school?	
	Percent in 2005
Yes	22.9
No	76.9
No opinion	0.3

Table 36: Children Under Age 6

Do you have a child or children under the age of 6?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Yes	28.2	30.7
No	71.8	69.4

Table 37: Years Lived in Arizona

How many years have you lived in Arizona?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Less than 10 years	23.1	18.3
10 to 20 years	23.9	31.6
21 or more years	52.4	48.5
No response	0.2	1.51

Table 38: Language Spoken in Household

Which of the following best characterizes your household?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
We speak only English in our household	84.3	82.9
We speak mainly English, but another language as well	15.7	17.1
We speak little or no English in our household	N/A	0
Refused to answer	N/A	0

Table 39: Race/Ethnicity of Surveyed Parents

In terms of race or ethnicity, which of the following do you most identify with?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
White or Anglo	77.5	73.9
Hispanic or Latino	11.7	14.1
Native American	3.4	3.3
African American	4.0	1.8
Two or more races	N/A	4.0
Something else	3.4	2.3
Refused to answer	0	0.8

Table 40: Parents' Education

How many years of formal education have you completed?	
	Percent in 2005
High school or less	15.6
Some college or trade school	42.0
Graduated college	42.2
Refused to answer	0.3

Table 41: Access to the Internet

Do you have access to the internet?	
	Percent in 2005
Yes	91.2
No	8.8

Table 42: Born in United States

Were you born in the United States?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Yes	92.9	92.7
No	7.1	7.3

Table 43: Registered to Vote in Arizona

Are you registered to vote and in Arizona?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Yes	92.6	93.7
No	7.4	6.3

Table 44: County of Residence

In what county do you reside?		
	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Maricopa	61.5	63.6
Pima	16.5	14.3
Other	21.9	21.9
Refused	0	0.3

Table 45: Gender of Parent Surveyed

	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
Male	45	44.2
Female	55	55.8

Table 46: Language Used for Survey

	Percent in 2004	Percent in 2005
English	98.6	100
Spanish	0.9	0
Both	0.6	0