

**U.S. Department of Education**  
National Center for Education Statistics



# National Household Education Survey



The National Center for Education Statistics is authorized to conduct this survey under Section 9543, 20 US Code. Your participation is voluntary. Your answers may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (Section 9573, 20 US Code). The information you provide will be combined with information from other participants to produce statistical summaries and reports.



# National Household Education Survey

## Start Here

- ▶ *This survey should be filled out by an adult household member living at this address.*
- ▶ *Please use blue or black pen if available.*
- ▶ **These first questions are about your opinions on the role of the federal government.**

**1. What do you feel should be the main focus of federal government over the next 12 months?**

Mark  ONE only.

- Economy
- Health Care
- Education
- Defense/Security
- Energy
- Something else

Specify:

**2. Do you think that the federal government is spending too much money on education, about the right amount of money, or too little money on education?**

- Too much
- About the right amount
- Too little

**3. Do you think the federal government should play a major role, a minor role, or no role at all in making policy decisions for schools?**

- Major role
- Minor role
- No role at all

▶ **Next we're interested in courses or training that any adult in this household may have taken in the past 12 months.**

**4. In the past 12 months, has any adult in this household taken any courses or training to find a new job?**

- Yes
- No

**5. In the past 12 months, has any adult in this household taken any courses or training for a current job?**

- Yes
- No

**6. In the past 12 months, has any adult in this household taken courses or training on the following topics?**

	Yes ▼	No ▼
a. Computer skills.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Stress management.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Health or fitness.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Foreign language.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. English as a second language.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Hobbies.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Some other topic.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



► These next questions are about your opinions on schools nationally and in your community.

7. How would you rate the quality of public schools nationally?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very poor

8. How would you rate the quality of your community's public schools?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very poor

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about schools in your community?

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
	▼	▼	▼
a. They are safe places during the school day.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. They are safe places during the evening.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. They maintain good discipline among students.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. They maintain good relationships with the community.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Overall, do you think the nation's public schools are teaching students the skills they will need to be competitive in the workplace?

- Yes
- No

► Next we would like to know about where you get reading materials, such as books or magazines.

11. Where do people in this household look for information about current events?

Mark  all that apply.

- Television
- Radio
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Internet
- Some other source

12. Are there 10 or more books in your home right now?

- Yes
- No

13. Are there a variety of magazines and other reading materials in your home?

- Yes
- No

14. In a typical week, how many hours do you spend reading a book, magazine, or newspaper?

hours per week

15. How often does anyone in this household visit a bookstore or library?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Once or twice a year
- Never

16. How many computers are in this household that can access the internet?

number of computers



► These next questions are about your home or residence.

17. How many years have you lived at this address?  
*Write "0" if less than 1 year.*

years at this address

18. Is this house...

Mark  ONE only.

- Owned or being bought by someone in this household,
- Rented by someone in this household, or
- Occupied by some other arrangement?

► Please answer the following questions about the adults who live in this household.

19. Are there any adults in this household who do not speak English at home?

No → GO TO question 21.

Yes  
↓

20. What language do they speak at home?

- Spanish
- Another language

Specify:

21. What is the highest grade or level of school completed among the adults in this household?

Mark  ONE only.

- 8th grade or less
- Some high school, but did not graduate
- High school graduate or GED
- Some college or associate's degree
- Four year college degree (BA or BS)
- Some graduate or professional education but no degree
- Graduate or professional degree beyond a bachelor's degree

22. What is the best phone number to reach you if we have more education questions about someone in your household?

(    )    -

► Think about everyone who lives in this household. Then answer the following questions for all the female and male household members.

23. How many females live in this household?

number of females

24. How many males live in this household?

number of males

25. Of everyone in this household, how many are age 20 or younger?

*Do not include those living in college housing.*

number age 20 or younger

► If anyone age 20 or younger usually lives in this household, then fill in the rest of this survey. If no one in this household is age 20 or younger return this survey in the postage paid envelope that came with the survey.



## YOUTH / CHILD 1

► Start with the youngest youth or child who is age 20 or younger.

1. What is his or her first name, initials, or nickname?

First name/initials/nickname

2. How old is this child in years?

Mark for babies less than 1 year old

age in years

3. What is this child's sex?

Male

Female

4. Is this child currently in...

Mark  ONE only.

Public or private school, or preschool,

Homeschool instead of school for some or all classes, or

Not in school? ➡ GO TO A AT BOTTOM.

5. What is this child's current grade or equivalent?

Preschool

Kindergarten

write grade 1 through 12

College or vocational school

None of these

**A.** Continue with youth or child 2. If no one else age 20 or younger lives here return this form in the postage paid envelope provided.

## YOUTH / CHILD 2

► Continue with the next youngest youth or child who is age 20 or younger.

1. What is his or her first name, initials, or nickname?

First name/initials/nickname

2. How old is this child in years?

Mark for babies less than 1 year old

age in years

3. What is this child's sex?

Male

Female

4. Is this child currently in...

Mark  ONE only.

Public or private school, or preschool,

Homeschool instead of school for some or all classes, or

Not in school? ➡ GO TO A AT BOTTOM.

5. What is this child's current grade or equivalent?

Preschool

Kindergarten

write grade 1 through 12

College or vocational school

None of these

**A.** Continue with youth or child 3. If no one else age 20 or younger lives here return this form in the postage paid envelope provided.

► Youth/child 3 through 6 continue on the next pages.



### YOUTH / CHILD 3

1. What is his or her first name, initials, or nickname?

First name/initials/nickname

2. How old is this child in years?

Mark for babies less than 1 year old

age in years

3. What is this child's sex?

Male

Female

4. Is this child currently in...

Mark  ONE only.

Public or private school, or preschool,

Homeschool instead of school for some or all classes, or

Not in school? ➡ GO TO A AT BOTTOM.

5. What is this child's current grade or equivalent?

Preschool

Kindergarten

write grade 1 through 12

College or vocational school

None of these

**A.** Continue with youth or child 4. If no one else age 20 or younger lives here return this form in the postage paid envelope provided.

### YOUTH / CHILD 4

1. What is his or her first name, initials, or nickname?

First name/initials/nickname

2. How old is this child in years?

Mark for babies less than 1 year old

age in years

3. What is this child's sex?

Male

Female

4. Is this child currently in...

Mark  ONE only.

Public or private school, or preschool,

Homeschool instead of school for some or all classes, or

Not in school? ➡ GO TO A AT BOTTOM.

5. What is this child's current grade or equivalent?

Preschool

Kindergarten

write grade 1 through 12

College or vocational school

None of these

**A.** Continue with youth or child 5. If no one else age 20 or younger lives here return this form in the postage paid envelope provided.



## YOUTH / CHILD 5

1. What is his or her first name, initials, or nickname?

First name/initials/nickname

2. How old is this child in years?

Mark for babies less than 1 year old

age in years

3. What is this child's sex?

Male

Female

4. Is this child currently in...

Mark  ONE only.

Public or private school, or preschool,

Homeschool instead of school for some or all classes, or

Not in school? ➡ GO TO A AT BOTTOM.

5. What is this child's current grade or equivalent?

Preschool

Kindergarten

write grade 1 through 12

College or vocational school

None of these

**A.** Continue with youth or child 6. If no one else age 20 or younger lives here return this form in the postage paid envelope provided.

## YOUTH / CHILD 6

1. What is his or her first name, initials, or nickname?

First name/initials/nickname

2. How old is this child in years?

Mark for babies less than 1 year old

age in years

3. What is this child's sex?

Male

Female

4. Is this child currently in...

Mark  ONE only.

Public or private school, or preschool,

Homeschool instead of school for some or all classes, or

Not in school? ➡ GO TO A AT BOTTOM.

5. What is this child's current grade or equivalent?

Preschool

Kindergarten

write grade 1 through 12

College or vocational school

None of these

**A.** Thank you. Please return this form in the postage paid envelope provided or mail it to:

National Household Education Survey  
Westat  
1600 Research Blvd. Room TB146F  
Rockville, MD 20850-9973

Toll-free number for questions: 1-888-880-3033



## Commonly Asked Questions

**Q: How did you get my address?**

A: Your address was randomly selected from among all of the home addresses in the nation. It was selected using scientific sampling methods to represent other households in the U.S.

**Q: If there are no children or anyone currently in school in my household, should I respond?**

A: Yes, you should respond to the short survey that was sent to your address. Once you return the questionnaire, the study will be able to see if anyone in your household is eligible for the next and final survey. If no one is eligible you will not receive another survey.

**Q: Why don't you ask more questions about education in this questionnaire?**

A: The purpose of this questionnaire is to find out if anyone in your household is eligible for the next stage of the survey. If so we will send a second questionnaire that will ask about educational experiences of a member of your household.

**Q: Why should I take part in this study? Do I have to do this?**

A: You represent thousands of other households like yours, and you cannot be replaced. Your answers and opinions are very important to the success of this study. Your participation is voluntary. You may choose not to answer any or all questions in this survey. There are no penalties should you choose not to participate in this study. In order for the survey to be representative it is important that you complete and return this questionnaire.

**Q: How will the information I provide be used?**

A: Your responses will be combined with those of others to produce statistical summaries and reports. Your individual data will not be reported. Your answers may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (Section 9573, 20 US Code).

**Q: How much time will it take?**

A: On average, it should take 8 minutes for you to respond, including the time for reviewing instructions, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Andrew Zukerberg National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street NW, Room 9036, Washington, DC 20006-5650. Do not return the completed form to this address.

**Q: Who is sponsoring the study? Is this study conducted by the Federal Government?**

A: The National Center for Education Statistics, within the Department of Education is authorized to conduct this study (Section 9543, 20 US Code). Westat has been contracted to conduct this study. This study has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget, the office that reviews all federally sponsored surveys. The approval number assigned to this study is 1850-0768. You may send any comments about this survey, including its length, to the Federal Government. Write to Andrew Zukerberg, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street NW, Room 9036, Washington, DC 20006-5650. You may send e-mail to [info@nhessurvey.org](mailto:info@nhessurvey.org).

**Q: Who is Westat?**

A: Westat is a research company located in Rockville, Maryland. Westat is conducting this survey under contract to the U.S. Department of Education. If you have any questions about the study contact Westat toll-free at 1-888-880-3033.

