

June 12-14, 2008
500 Respondents

LESTER & ASSOCIATES
Education Reform Now
A Study of Selected Issues In the District of Columbia Public Schools

Master Questionnaire

Q.1 Are you 18 years or older and registered to vote in the District of Columbia?

	Total
Yes	100
No	-
Don't know.....	-

Q.2 On November 5th of this year, there will be an election to elect a President. What is the chance that you will vote in that election? Are you almost certain, will you probably vote or would you say the chances are 5050?

	Total
Almost certain.....	95
Probably.....	5
Not sure/other response	-

Q.3 Respondent's gender

	Total
Male	45
Female	55

Q.4 Overall, do you think things in your neighborhood are going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	Total
Right direction	69
Wrong track	17
(Don't know/refused)	13
Right - Wrong	52

Q.5 Now I am going to read you a list of issues. Please tell me which issue concerns you the most?

	Total
Jobs and the economy	29
Improving public education	23
Affordable health Care	16
Affordable housing	9
Crime and public safety	9
Drugs in the neighborhood	4
Transportation issues	2
Taxes.....	2
Gentrification.....	1
Don't know/not sure.....	5

Here is a list of people. Please tell me whether you have a very favorable, favorable, unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of each one. If you have no opinion or have never heard of someone, please say so.

	Very Fav	Fav	Unfav	Very Unfav	DK	Famil	Un-famil	Never Heard	Total Fav	Total Unfav
6 Adrian Fenty	20	59	9	3	4	3	1	1	79	12
7 Tommy Wells.....	6	16	3	2	22	9	19	23	22	5
9 Michelle Rhee	13	35	10	3	12	6	8	12	48	13

Now let's change the subject.

9 Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the job Adrian Fenty is doing as Mayor of the District of Columbia?

	Total
Approve	77
Dissapprove	16
Don't know/Not sure	7
Approve - Dissapprove	60

10 Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the job Adrian Fenty is doing as Mayor on the issue of improving public education?

	Total
Approve	65
Dissapprove	22
Don't know/Not sure	13
Approve - Dissapprove	43

11 Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the job Michelle Rhee is doing as Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools?

	Total
Approve	55
Dissapprove	20
Don't know/Not sure	25
Approve - Dissapprove	35

Now let me ask you something different.

12 Do you think the District of Columbia Public School System is an excellent, good, fair, or poor one?

	Total
Excellent	2
Good	10
Just fair	28
Poor.....	56
(Don't know/refused)	4
Excellent/Good	12
Just Fair/Poor.....	84
 Excellent/Good - Fair/Poor	 -72

13 How would you rate the schools in your neighborhood? Would that be excellent, good, just fair, or poor?

	Total
Excellent	6
Good	25
Just fair	34
Poor.....	18
(Don't know/refused)	18
Excellent/Good	31
Just Fair/Poor.....	51
 Excellent/Good - Fair/Poor	 -20

14 Who would you say is most responsible for the schools in your neighborhood being as they are: School administrators, teachers, parents, teachers unions, the Mayor or the D.C Council?

	Total
Parents	26
School administrators	22
D.C Council	11
Teachers.....	10
Mayor.....	9
District of Columbia Public Schools	3
Teachers unions	2
DK/Not sure.....	16

15 Do you know what public charter schools are?

	Total
Yes	87
No	9
DK/Not sure.....	4

16 Do you think that public charter schools are a good idea?

Total	
Yes	57
No	27
DK/Not sure.....	16
Yes - No.....	30

17 Do you think parents should be able to choose where their children attend schools or rely on the Board of Education to make the choice?

	Total
Parents	77
Board	15
DK/Not sure.....	8
Parents - Board	62

18 Do you believe, in some instances, that working and poor parents should be given financial assistance in the form of a voucher to send their children to a school of their choice?

	Total
Yes	63
No	30
DK/Not sure.....	7
Yes - No.....	33

19 In the last five years, would you say public education has improved in your neighborhood a lot, a little, not much or not at all?

	Total
A lot	8
A little.....	33
Not much	21
Not at all	19
DK/Not sure.....	18
A lot/little	41
Not much/at all.....	41
A lot/little - Not much/at all	0

20 Generally speaking, do you think that public education in your neighborhood schools is improving a lot, a little, not much or not at all?

	Total
A lot	8
A little	38
Not much	18
Not at all	15
DK/Not sure.....	20
A lot/little	46
Not much/at all.....	33
A lot/little - Not much/at all	13

21 Do you know if parents in your neighborhood are able to send their children to a public school other than their assigned zone school?

	Total
Yes	43
No	21
DK/Not sure.....	36

22 Is it a good idea for parents to be able to send their kids to a public or charter school other than their assigned school?

	Total
Yes	80
No	11
DK/Not sure.....	9
Yes - No.....	69

23 Is there a public charter school in your school district?

	Total
Yes	60
No	10
DK/Not sure.....	30

24. Mayor Fenty has made improving public education a top priority and brought in Michelle Rhee, an expert in teacher training who was working in New York City, as the new Chancellor of DCPS. On March 6th, Rhee fired 98 DCPS employees. The move came about two months after the Mayor and D.C. Council gave her unprecedented authority to reclassify about 390 of the more than 700 nonunion central office workers under "at-will" status, which allowed her to fire them without cause. Rhee said the actions were part of her effort to establish a "culture of accountability" in DCPS by sweeping out unproductive workers at the central office. The terminations were the first mass firings in about a decade and Rhee indicated they might not be the last. Would you say you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat do not support or strongly do not support Rhee's firing of the DCPS employees?

	Total
Strongly support.....	38
Somewhat support	27
Somewhat do not support	10
Strongly do not support	18
Don't know/ Not sure	7
Total Support	66
Total Do not support	28
Support - Do not support	38

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes.

25. Which of the following categories best describes your age?

	Total
18-24.....	6
25-29.....	6
30-34.....	10
35-39.....	9
40-44.....	8
45-49.....	10
50-59.....	21
60 or older.....	32
(Don't know/Not sure)	1

26. What is the last grade in school you completed?

	Total
Grade school	2
Some high school.....	4
High school graduate	15
Some college.....	16
College graduate	27
Graduate school	34
Technical school	2
(Don't know/refused)	-

27. For statistical purposes only, we need to know your total family income for 2007. Which of the following categories best represents your total family income?

	Total
Less than \$20,000	7
\$20,000-\$30,000	10
\$30,000-\$40,000	7
\$40,000-\$50,000	8
\$50,000-\$75,000	15
\$75,000-\$100,000	13
Over \$100,000	28
(Don't know/refused)	13

28. What is your current marital status - are you married, single, widowed, or divorced?

	Total
Married	39
Single	34
Widowed.....	13
Divorced	14
DK/RF	1

29. Do you currently have children in public schools, public charter schools, or private schools?

	Total
Public	9
Public Charter	2
Private.....	4
Don't have children in school	83
Not sure.....	1

30. What is your race?

	Total
African-American/ Black.....	52
Caucasian/ White	43
Hispanic/Latino.....	1
Asian-American.....	1
Other/Not sure	3

Ward

	Total
1	12
2	12
3	13
4	17
5	14
6	12
7	12
8	8