

Poll of South Dakota Likely Voters 9/9/10 thru 9/11/10 MOE +/- 4.5 percentage points

Registered

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	501	100.0	100.0	100.0

Likelihood

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	V lkly	428	85.5	85.5	85.5
	Smw lkly	73	14.5	14.5	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

Party

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Democratic	170	34.0	34.0	34.0
	Republican	220	44.0	44.0	78.0
	Independent	110	22.0	22.0	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

304. Which major party do you usually lean toward?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Democrat	27	5.4	25.3	25.3
	Republican	46	9.1	43.0	68.3
	Neither	24	4.7	22.4	90.7
	NS	10	2.0	9.3	100.0
	Total	106	21.2	100.0	
Missing	0	395	78.8		
Total		501	100.0		

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1. When it comes to how state government spends your tax dollars, which one or two of the following areas do you think should be the highest priority?

		f	Col Response %
\$q1	K-12 public school education	347	69.3%
	Agriculture	93	18.5%
	State universities	24	4.8%
	Economic development and tourism	86	17.2%
	Health care and social services	147	29.4%
	Law enforcement	30	5.9%
	Post-high school technical education	33	6.6%
	Roads and transportation	96	19.2%
	Military and veteran affairs	53	10.6%
	Other/NS	11	2.3%
Total		501	100.0%

2. How confident are you that children enrolled in South Dakota K-12 public schools are receiving a quality education?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	V confident	163	32.5	32.5	32.5
	Smw confident	260	51.8	51.8	84.3
	NV confident	42	8.4	8.4	92.7
	Not at all confident	25	4.9	4.9	97.6
	NS	12	2.4	2.4	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

3. If you had to give a letter grade to the K-12 public schools in your community based on the quality of education children enrolled are receiving, would you give them an A, B, C, D, or F?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A	122	24.3	24.3	24.3
	B	264	52.7	52.7	77.0
	C	77	15.4	15.4	92.5
	D	19	3.8	3.8	96.3
	F	2	.4	.4	96.7
	NS	17	3.3	3.3	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

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4. Which two of the following factors have the greatest influence on your perception of the quality of K-12 public schools?

		f	Col Response %
\$q4	Student testing results	145	28.9%
	Student graduation rates	130	26.0%
	Students are prepared for college	163	32.5%
	Quality of teachers	289	57.7%
	Quality of administrators	42	8.4%
	School board leadership	54	10.7%
	None of these/Other	29	5.7%
	NS	11	2.2%
Total	501	100.0%	

5. Which two of the following do you think are the biggest challenges facing K-12 public schools in your community?

		f	Col Response %
\$q5	Funding/financial support	236	47.1%
	Hiring and quality teachers	205	40.9%
	Student discipline	120	23.9%
	Education quality	60	11.9%
	Parental involvement	188	37.6%
	Student safety and health	26	5.2%
	None of these/Other	21	4.1%
	NS	9	1.8%
Total	501	100.0%	

6. Which of the following do you think should be responsible for deciding when school districts need to merge or consolidate?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Local school boards	361	72.0	72.0	72.0
	State Legislature	58	11.5	11.5	83.6
	State executive branch	21	4.2	4.2	87.7
	Other	52	10.5	10.5	98.2
	NS	9	1.8	1.8	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

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7. Which of the following do you most trust to make decisions that impact the education of students in K-12 public schools in your community?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Local school boards	373	74.5	74.5	74.5
	State Legislature	28	5.5	5.5	80.0
	State executive branch	20	4.0	4.0	84.0
	Other	73	14.5	14.5	98.5
	NS	8	1.5	1.5	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

8. Which of the following do you think should be the highest priority for your local school board?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	To ensure your school district provides a quality education	331	66.0	66.0	66.0
	To govern the school district in accordance with state law	22	4.3	4.3	70.3
	To represent the taxpayer	34	6.8	6.8	77.1
	To advocate for students in your school district	107	21.3	21.3	98.4
	Other/NS	8	1.6	1.6	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

9. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that school districts should invest in training school board members to become more effective in their positions?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Str agree	244	48.7	48.7	48.7
	Smw agree	179	35.7	35.7	84.4
	Smw disagree	33	6.6	6.6	91.0
	Str disagree	35	6.9	6.9	98.0
	NS	10	2.0	2.0	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

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10. Academic standards are intended to ensure students build and master concepts in a logical order. Currently, South Dakota does not have academic standards for pre-kindergarten programs. Do you believe South Dakota should develop standards for voluntary pre-kindergarten education?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	220	44.0	44.0	44.0
	No	260	51.9	51.9	95.9
	NS	20	4.1	4.1	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

11. Do you think the public school funding in South Dakota should be increased or decreased, or do you think it is just about right?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Should be increased	308	61.5	61.5	61.5
	Should be decreased	14	2.8	2.8	64.3
	It is just about right	150	29.9	29.9	94.3
	NS	29	5.7	5.7	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

12. If additional funding were to be allotted to K-12 public education, do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that it will result in better education for students in your community?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Str agree	197	39.3	39.3	39.3
	Smw agree	188	37.5	37.5	76.8
	Smw disagree	59	11.7	11.7	88.5
	Str disagree	53	10.6	10.6	99.2
	NS	4	.8	.8	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

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13. Since 1998, the percentage of South Dakota's state budget devoted to K-12 public education funding has decreased from 39 percent to 31 percent. Knowing this, are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned that the percentage of the state budget spent on K-12 public education has decreased?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	V concerned	222	44.4	44.4	44.4
	Smw concerned	183	36.5	36.5	80.9
	NV concerned	62	12.3	12.3	93.2
	Not at all concerned	29	5.7	5.7	98.9
	NS	6	1.1	1.1	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

14. If you had the opportunity to vote on a statewide initiated measure that would require the state to gradually restore the percentage of the state budget devoted to K-12 education back to 39 percent without raising taxes, would you most likely support or oppose the initiated measure?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Support the initiated measure	388	77.4	77.4	77.4
	Oppose the initiated measure	77	15.5	15.5	92.8
	NS	36	7.2	7.2	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

15. In your opinion, how closely should a teacher's salary be tied to his or her students' academic performance?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	V closely tied	95	18.9	18.9	18.9
	Smw closely tied	254	50.7	50.7	69.6
	NV closely tied	61	12.3	12.3	81.8
	Not at all tied	82	16.3	16.3	98.2
	NS	9	1.8	1.8	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

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16. The No Child Left Behind Act is a federal education bill passed by Congress in 2001 that has since been implemented in South Dakota. From what you know or have heard about the Act, do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion about it, or are you not familiar enough to form an opinion?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	V fav	33	6.7	6.7	6.7
	Smw fav	110	21.9	21.9	28.5
	Smw unfav	127	25.3	25.3	53.8
	V unfav	105	20.9	20.9	74.7
	Not familiar	126	25.1	25.1	99.8
	NS	1	.2	.2	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

17. According to the No Child Left Behind Act, 100 percent of K-12 public school students must be proficient in their corresponding reading and math levels by the end of the 2013-2014 school year. Do you think it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely that this could be achieved in the public schools in your community?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	V lkly	114	22.8	22.8	22.8
	Smw lkly	244	48.6	48.6	71.4
	NV lkly	84	16.7	16.7	88.1
	Not at all lkly	50	10.0	10.0	98.2
	NS	9	1.8	1.8	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

18. South Dakota education officials are discussing whether our state should join several other states in adopting common learning standards in math and English language arts. If common standards are adopted, it will mean that students in South Dakota are learning the same math and English language arts concepts in the same grades as students in some other parts of the country. Do you think it would be a good idea for South Dakota to adopt the common standards?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes, it's a good idea.	312	62.3	62.3	62.3
	No, it's not a good idea.	126	25.1	25.1	87.4
	NS	63	12.6	12.6	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

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19. One research study concluded that South Dakota needs to provide approximately \$133 million in additional funding to adequately fund the state's public schools. If you had the opportunity to vote on an initiated measure that would increase the state sales tax to help fund schools, would you support or oppose the measure?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Support the measure	276	55.1	55.1	55.1
	Oppose the measure	179	35.8	35.8	90.9
	NS	45	9.1	9.1	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

20. Recently, Congress approved and the President signed legislation delivering emergency aid to state governments and schools. With the passage of that bill, South Dakota will receive more than \$26 million in new federal education aid. In your opinion, should the state use the education aid to help balance the state's budget, or should local school districts receive the education aid directly?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The money should be used to balance the state's budget	82	16.3	16.3	16.3
	Schools should receive the money	391	78.0	78.0	94.3
	NS	29	5.7	5.7	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

AgeGroup

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-29	74	14.8	15.0	15.0
	30-49	198	39.5	40.0	55.0
	50-64	139	27.7	28.0	83.0
	65+	84	16.8	17.0	100.0
	Total	495	98.8	100.0	
Missing	0	6	1.2		
Total		501	100.0		

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AgeGroup-B

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-24	30	6.1	6.1	6.1
	25-34	101	20.1	20.4	26.5
	35-54	177	35.3	35.7	62.2
	55-69	126	25.1	25.4	87.6
	70+	62	12.3	12.4	100.0
	Total	495	98.8	100.0	
Missing	0	6	1.2		
Total		501	100.0		

Education

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No College Degree	242	48.2	48.2	48.2
	College Degree+	259	51.8	51.8	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

Race

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	White	479	95.6	97.7	97.7
	Hisp	1	.3	.3	97.9
	Native	10	2.0	2.1	100.0
	Total	491	97.9	100.0	
Missing	.00	10	2.1		
Total		501	100.0		

Live

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Large community (more than 25,000)	124	24.7	25.0	25.0
	Small community (up to 25,000)	158	31.4	31.8	56.9
	Rural area	213	42.6	43.1	100.0
	Total	495	98.7	100.0	
Missing	0	6	1.3		
Total		501	100.0		

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306. Do you live east or west of the Missouri River?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	East of the Missouri River	346	69.0	69.3	69.3
	West of the Missouri River	141	28.1	28.2	97.5
	Other/NS	12	2.5	2.5	100.0
	Total	499	99.5	100.0	
Missing	0	2	.5		
Total		501	100.0		

Ideology

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Prog	24	4.8	5.0	5.0
	Lib	66	13.2	13.8	18.8
	Mod	159	31.8	33.2	52.0
	Cons	166	33.2	34.6	86.6
	VCons	58	11.5	12.0	98.6
	Libert	7	1.3	1.4	100.0
	Total	480	95.8	100.0	
Missing	0	21	4.2		
Total		501	100.0		

307. Are you a parent or guardian of a child under 18 who is living at home?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	202	40.3	40.3	40.3
	No	299	59.7	59.7	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	

308. What type of school are your children enrolled in?

		f	Col Response %
\$q308	Public	153	76.6%
	Private	23	11.6%
	Home schooled	3	1.3%
	None/Not in school	25	12.6%
	NS		
Total		200	100.0%

Status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Married	351	70.0	70.1	70.1
	Single	83	16.6	16.6	86.7
	D/W/S	62	12.3	12.4	99.1
	Civil union	5	.9	.9	100.0
	Total	500	99.9	100.0	
Missing	.00	1	.1		
Total		501	100.0		

Income

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	< \$25K	62	12.4	14.0	14.0
	\$25-35K	46	9.2	10.3	24.4
	\$35-50K	88	17.6	19.8	44.2
	\$50-75K	119	23.8	26.9	71.1
	\$75-100K	66	13.2	14.9	86.0
	\$100+	62	12.4	14.0	100.0
	Total	444	88.5	100.0	
Missing	0	57	11.5		
Total		501	100.0		

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Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	246	49.0	49.0	49.0
	Female	255	51.0	51.0	100.0
	Total	501	100.0	100.0	