

ID: _____ Name: _____ Your initials _____

If it appears a child answers the phone, ask to speak with an adult at home.

Hello, I'm calling from the Maxell School at Syracuse University on behalf of the city school district. They have asked us to conduct a survey of families – asking for assessments of the city’s schools. May I please speak to an adult with responsibility for raising the children in the home.

If such a person is on the phone: May I have 4-5 minutes of your time for some questions? The district would like to hear your opinions. All responses are confidential.

If another person is put on the phone: Hello, I'm calling from the Maxell School at Syracuse University on behalf of the city school district. They have asked us to conduct a survey of families – asking for assessments of the city’s schools. May I have 4-5 minutes of your time for some questions? The district would like to hear your opinions. All responses are confidential.

1. First, I’d like to ask how many children you currently have in the city schools?

Number of children: _____

(If none, “We are asking only those with children in the schools. Thanks, that is all)

Could you tell the age of each and the school he or she attends

- 1. Age: _____ School: _____
- 2. Age: _____ School: _____
- 3. Age: _____ School: _____
- 4. Age: _____ School: _____
- 5. Age: _____ School: _____

3. Could you tell us how your children get to school each day: *(Ask for each student)*

- 1. 1__ bus 2__ walk alone / with others 3__ parents drive or walk 4__ drive on own
- 2. 1__ bus 2__ walk alone / with others 3__ parents drive or walk 4__ drive on own
- 3. 1__ bus 2__ walk alone / with others 3__ parents drive or walk 4__ drive on own
- 4. 1__ bus 2__ walk alone / with others 3__ parents drive or walk 4__ drive on own
- 5. 1__ bus 2__ walk alone / with others 3__ parents drive or walk 4__ drive on own

4. How long have you lived in the City of Syracuse? Years: _____

Now I'd like to ask you questions about evaluating the schools overall and in specific areas. For each of the following could you tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, or have no opinion? If multiple children are in the household, please respond with your general impressions.

5. In general, I am satisfied with the education my child is receiving.

1___ strg agree 2___ agree 3___ disagree 4___ strg disagree 5___ no opinion

6. I am satisfied with the programs and services my child has received from the district.

1___ strg agree 2___ agree 3___ disagree 4___ strg disagree 5___ no opinion

7. Most teachers in the schools are competent and doing a very good job.

1___ strg agree 2___ agree 3___ disagree 4___ strg disagree 5___ no opinion

8. The learning environment in the schools is excellent.

1___ strg agree 2___ agree 3___ disagree 4___ strg disagree 5___ no opinion

9. The academic assessment of children is fair.

1___ strg agree 2___ agree 3___ disagree 4___ strg disagree 5___ no opinion

10. School staff – principals and the building staff – treat children fairly and with respect.

1___ strg agree 2___ agree 3___ disagree 4___ strg disagree 5___ no opinion

11. My child is safe going to and from the school on a bus.

1___ strg agree 2___ agree 3___ disagree 4___ strg disagree 5___ no op / not app

12. My child is safe walking to and from school.

1___ strg agree 2___ agree 3___ disagree 4___ strg disagree 5___ no op / not app

13. My child is safe while at school.

1___ strg agree 2___ agree 3___ disagree 4___ strg disagree 5___ no op / not app

14. Discipline problems are under control where my child attends school

1___ strg agree 2___ agree 3___ disagree 4___ strg disagree 5___ no opinion

15. School rules are enforced consistently and fairly at my child's school.

1___ strg agree 2___ agree 3___ disagree 4___ strg disagree 5___ no op / not app

16. The teachers do a good job keeping me informed about homework and issues involving my child.

1___ strg agree 2___ agree 3___ disagree 4___ strg disagree 5___ no op / not app

17. The schools provide good opportunities for parents to be involved.

1___ strg agree 2___ agree 3___ disagree 4___ strg disagree 5___ no op / not app

18. I feel welcome at my child's school.

1___ strg agree 2___ agree 3___ disagree 4___ strg disagree 5___ no opinion

19. The quality of the building my child attends is very good.

1___ strg agree 2___ agree 3___ disagree 4___ strg disagree 5___ no opinion

20. When it comes to how much the teachers are pushing and challenging your children to achieve, do you think that they need to push students more, they are pushing about the right amount, or they should push less?

1___ more 2___ about right 3___ less 4___ no opinion

21. The state administers standardized tests to students in each school and compiles averages per school. Could you tell me for *each* of the following if you agree or disagree with it?

A / DA I don't know much about them or what the scores are for the schools my children attend

A / DA I don't know much about them and I think they are given too much importance

A / DA I have some idea of scores at my children's schools and think the tests are given too much importance.

A / DA I have some idea of scores at my children's schools and think they are acceptable.

A / DA I have some idea of scores at my children's schools and think they are too low.

22. There is often discussion of the need to improve education in the city public schools. Which of the following would be your first priority? (**Read list**)

- 1 ___ spend more money to hire more teachers
- 2 ___ spend more money to rebuild city schools
- 3 ___ improve student discipline
- 4 ___ set higher academic standards for students
- 5 ___ set higher standards for teachers
- 6 ___ other (*do not read, but record*) _____

23. In your view, what's the biggest problem facing the school district? (*Do not read; code into one of these categories or record in "other"*)

- 1 ___ student discipline / lack of student interest in learning
- 2 ___ lack of adequate money for the schools
- 3 ___ lack of parent interest / family support
- 4 ___ poor curriculum / low standards for students
- 5 ___ quality of staff / teachers
- 6 ___ school district wasting money
- 7 ___ Other: _____

24. Now, on the positive side, is there anything about the district that you think is particularly good? (*Do not read; code into one of these categories or record in "other"*)

- 1 ___ quality of curriculum / programs
- 2 ___ quality of teachers / staff
- 3 ___ opportunities for / parent interest / involvement
- 4 ___ variety of programs and services
- 5 ___ accessibility of teachers / staff
- 6 ___ adult / continuing education
- 7 ___ Other: _____

25. Some people suggest raising city property taxes and spending the extra money on education. Would you favor increasing property taxes if it was only for education or oppose that?

- 1 ___ Favor 2 ___ oppose 3 ___ no opinion

26. If the city schools had more money, which of the following should have the highest priority? Please mention another if you wish. (*read list*)

- 1__ reduce class size with more teachers
- 2__ improving the quality of buildings
- 3__ pay teachers more
- 4__ provide more after school programs
- 5__ provide more textbooks and reading materials
- 6__ improve access to technology such as computers
- 7__ other: _____

27. Overall, do you feel that the city school system makes good use of its financial resources, or do you feel that the city schools waste a lot of money?

- 1__ make good use 2__ waste a lot 3__ uncertain 4__ refused

28. Let's assume that city taxes were raised and used for education. Would you agree or disagree with this: The increased money is unlikely to result in change or improvement in the schools.

- 1__ Agree 2__ Disagree 3__ no opinion

29. Would you agree or disagree with this? If the funding improved schools, it could keep people in the city and maintain property values.

- 1__ Agree 2__ Disagree 3__ no opinion

30. Given your views about the quality of the city schools, do you think taxes are too high for what you get, about right, or too low?

- 1__ Too high 2__ About right 3__ Too low 4__ no opinion

Now some questions about policy issues.

31. Currently students in elementary school who live within 1.5 miles of their school must walk. Those in junior high and high school within 2 miles of school must walk. Would you like to reduce the distances necessary for bussing to school – so that those closer would get a bus ride – or leave it like it is?

- 1__ reduce 2__ leave like it is 3__ no opinion

32. Currently students in grades k-5 are allowed one choice to transfer to another school within their quadrant. Do you think the policy for grades k-5 should be no transfers allowed, keep the current policy of one transfer, or should more transfers within a quadrant be allowed?

1___ none 2___ one, as is 3___ more 4___ No opinion

33. Currently students in middle school or high school are allowed no transfers. Do you think the policy for middle and high school students should be: no transfers allowed, one transfer allowed, or should 2 or more transfers within a quadrant be allowed?

1___ two 2___ one 3___ stay in quadrant 4___ No opinion

34. Over the next several years are you considering or planning to move outside the city to the towns within the county or somewhere else

1___ No 2___ Yes, towns 3___ Yes, elsewhere 4___ maybe 5___ no opinion

35. (*If yes or maybe*): Is the quality of the city schools a reason you are considering moving?

1___ No 2___ somewhat 3___ Yes 4___ No response

36. If your child's school were to communicate with you, which of the following would you prefer as to how they do so? (*read alternatives; allow only one*)

- 1___ phone call
- 2___ email
- 3___ mailing to your home address
- 4___ message sent home with child
- 5___ message sent to the home of a neighbor or relative
- 6___ school newsletter mailed to your home
- 7___ home visit
- 8___ no preference or response

37. If the district office were to communicate with you, which of the following would you prefer as to how they do so? (*read alternatives; allow only one*)

- 1___ phone call
- 2___ email
- 3___ mailing to your home address
- 4___ message sent home with child
- 5___ message sent to the home of a neighbor or relative
- 6___ school newsletter mailed to your home
- 7___ home visit
- 8___ no preference or response

