

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Global Strategy Group
DATE: March 20, 2018
RE: **POLL RESULTS: NJ VOTERS SUPPORT STATEWIDE TESTING AND MINIMUM STANDARDS**

Recent polling data indicates that registered voters in New Jersey believe that standardized assessments are a reliable and efficient way to measure student progress. Further, voters support requiring students to meet a minimum set of standards, and believe there are a host of negative consequences if students do not meet these standards – including students not being prepared for college or not being prepared to enter the workforce.

Key findings from Global Strategy Group’s recent poll of 612 registered voters in New Jersey are as follows:

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS:

- **While voters overall give high ratings to their local public schools (68% positive rating), African-American and Hispanic voters are concerned about schools in their community.**
 - Less than half of African-American voters (44% positive rating) and just over half of Hispanic voters (55% positive rating) rate schools in their communities positively, compared to three-quarters of white voters (75% positive rating).
 - African-American and Hispanic voters are also less likely to believe schools in their community are preparing students for college (42% positive rating among African-Americans; 52% positive rating among Hispanics).
- **A strong majority of New Jersey voters believe tests in schools are helpful.** A full 69% believe tests can be a good measure of what students learn. And while 40% think students have “too many” tests, another 44% believe students have “too few” or “just the right amount” of tests in the classroom.
 - Democrats (70%), independents (67%), and Republicans (72%) are all in agreement that tests can be a good measure of student learning. As do white (70%), African-American (68%), and Hispanic (58%) voters.
- **Further, most (70%) believe students should meet statewide minimum standard requirements before advancing to the next grade.**
- **And when forced to choose, half (49%) prefer students meet minimum statewide standards as opposed to allowing grade advancement based solely on teachers’ grades (40%).**
 - If students don’t meet minimum standards, voters expect dire consequences. A strong majority (70%) believe New Jersey students will not be prepared for college and will have to repeat high school-level classes in college, 63% believe New Jersey’s workforce will not be prepared for jobs in the new economy, and 57% expect fewer New Jersey students to be able to compete for jobs generally.
- **Voters strongly support a statewide test to make sure New Jersey students are meeting these minimum academic standards.** A strong 63% majority want a statewide test to ensure standards are

met; only 30% are opposed. These numbers barely change when clarifying that students would not be able to advance to the next grade unless they passed the test (62% support/33% oppose).

- Support for statewide tests holds strong across partisan breaks (65% support/26% oppose among Democrats, 59% support/34% oppose among independents, 66% support/30% oppose among Republicans) as well as race breaks (61% support/32% oppose among white voters, 69% support/23% oppose among African-American voters, 59% support/33% oppose among Hispanic voters).

ABOUT THIS POLL: Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of 612 registered voters in New Jersey from December 11 to 14, 2017. The results of this survey have a margin of error of +/-4.0%. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic and demographic divisions of the expected electorate are properly represented based on historical turnout.