

THE CHARLESTON FORUM



APRIL – MAY 2021

Prepared for:
The Charleston Forum

Prepared by:
The Center for Research & Public Policy, Inc.

THE CHARLESTON FORUM TRI-COUNTY SURVEY 2021



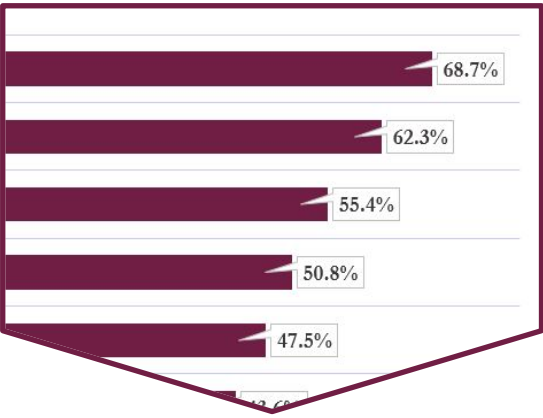
Using a quantitative research design, an online survey was completed among **700 residents** living within Charleston, Dorchester and Berkeley counties in South Carolina April 16 – May 16, 2021.

Survey design input was provided during a project initiation meeting and subsequent sessions with CRPP which included The Charleston Forum leadership.

Statistically, a sample of **700** completed surveys has an associated margin for error of **+/- 3.7%** at a 95% confidence level.

Results throughout this report are presented for composite data – all **700 cases**.

Methodology



Summary of Findings



ON EDUCATION / SCHOOLS

Respondents were asked whether they supported or opposed conceptual strategies related to education and schools that, if implemented, may help children, regardless of color, have the opportunity to earn a quality education and receive extra support if needed. The following tables hold the cumulative totals, in declining order, for those strongly or somewhat supporting each statement.

Administrative Proposals:

Administrative Conceptual Strategies	Composite [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Whites [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Blacks [Strongly or Somewhat Support]
In addition to a pay increase for all teachers and principals in line with regional and national pay benchmarks, merit pay based in part on student academic growth	79.0	79.5	84.4
While holding principals accountable for academic results, giving each more support/autonomy over personnel hiring/firing	76.4	79.7	70.2
With accountability to the school board, establishing “innovative public schools” in high poverty neighborhoods that serve all children in the respective neighborhood which have experienced principals who have autonomy over personnel hiring and firing	76.4	78.5	74.5
Assigning only experienced teachers and principals to underperforming schools	72.7	72.0	78.7
Establishing similar “innovative public schools” as private-public partnerships (i.e. Brentwood / Burns Elementary) or as Charter Schools, accountable to the County School Board	72.7	72.9	75.9
Allowing parents to send their children (transportation provided for those in need) to other county schools of choice	71.9	72.7	72.3

Parental Support:

Parental Support Conceptual Strategies	Composite [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Whites [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Blacks [Strongly or Somewhat Support]
A proposal to connect students and their parents/caregivers more closely to their schools with support services to help meet goals and needs	89.0	90.8	86.5
A proposal to add “Parent Advocates” at the most challenged schools to help connect parents and teachers	87.4	90.4	80.9

Instruction and Support:

Instruction and Support Conceptual Strategies	Composite [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Whites [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Blacks [Strongly or Somewhat Support]
A program for schools, at their option, to align/partner with charitable funding / volunteer groups/businesses to help support educators, children and families achieve educational goals	86.3	87.7	85.8
Ensure the availability of universal instructional pre-school for three-year-old and four-year-old children in our community with financial support based on need	80.9	80.6	81.6
Providing two teachers in every early grade classroom (K-3 rd) where significant differences in readiness occur	80.3	82.0	74.5

Education / Schools

Funding:

Funding Conceptual Strategies	Composite [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Whites [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Blacks [Strongly or Somewhat Support]
Establish within each school district a team of experts representing all major differing points of view to make recommendations on the resources needed to improve the performance of students at challenging and distressed schools	80.6	83.5	74.5
Establish within each school district a team of experts representing all major differing points of view to determine and publish actual per pupil expenditure, by school, categorized by academic, administration, support, and any other purposes	78.9	78.9	83.0
Establish within each school district a team of experts representing all major differing points of view to identify any disparities in per pupil funding	73.6	73.7	76.6

Almost two-thirds of respondents, 63.1%, expressed they would be very (27.4%) or somewhat willing (35.7%) to pay more in local or regional taxes to accomplish education and school programs / strategies.

