

EPIC-MRA – Your Child – The Skillman Foundation – The Detroit News
Survey of Michigan Parents on The Culture of Education
[FREQUENCY REPORT OF SURVEY RESPONSES]
April 2 – 12, 2007 – 600 SAMPLE – ERROR ±4.0%
March 2005 – 794 SAMPLE – ERROR ±3.5%
Sept/Oct '04 — SSA & B – 639 SAMPLE – ERROR ±4.0%
April 2004 – SSA&B – 1,000 SAMPLE – ERROR ±3.1%

__03. What is your relationship to the child/children? Are you their...[**READ LIST 1–5**]

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
92%	90%	Parent
6%	7%	Grandparent
2%	1%	Aunt/uncle
—%	2%	Other caregiver

__04. What are the grade levels and genders of each child in the household, or if they're no longer in the household, in the family? [**RECORD IN TABLE BELOW, USING TALLY MARKS.**]

GRADE LEVEL	<u>Apr '07</u>		<u>Mar '05</u>	
	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Pre-school or Kindergarten *	2%		—%	—%
Elementary school	20% a	20% b	20% a	20% b
Middle school or junior high	12% c	10% d	15% c	10% d
High school	22% e	14% f	19% e	16% f
Post high school*	—%	—%	—%	—%

__05. What kind of school does your child attend? [**READ LIST 1 - 4**]

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
79%	87%	A public school
9%	10%	A private or parochial school
6%	2%	A charter school
6%	1%	Home-schooled

[INTRO TO Q. 6]

Parents have different views about the role of schools and education in people's lives. I'm going to read you several statements about schools and education, and I'd like you to tell me whether you agree or disagree with each one. There is no right or wrong answer. It's just a matter of what you personally think. The first/next one is ...

[GET A CODE 1 OR 2 ANSWER FOR Q. 6 through Q. 12. IF RESPONDENT WANTS TO BE NEUTRAL, ASK "But do you *tend* to agree or disagree?" CODE 9 IF YOU CANNOT GET A CODE OF 1 OR 2]

___06. Education is mainly about preparing young people for the world of work.

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
68%	74%	Agree
30%	23%	Disagree
2%	3%	Don't know/refused

___07. Education is useful up to a point, but it's possible to have too much.

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
16%	18%	Agree
83%	80%	Disagree
1%	2%	Don't know/refused

___08. You can make a decent living with just a high school education.

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
25%	28%	Agree
72%	71%	Disagree
3%	1%	Don't know/refused

___09. Everybody should get a college education.

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
59%	54%	Agree
39%	42%	Disagree
2%	4%	Don't know/refused

___10. People who have a college education are usually better off than people who don't.

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
70%	66%	Agree
28%	30%	Disagree
2%	4%	Don't know/refused

___11. All in all, it's better for a child to have a good grade point average than to take hard courses and maybe get lower grades.

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
28%	26%	Agree
67%	64%	Disagree
5%	10%	Don't know/refused

___12. High-school dropouts are often as productive as any other members of society.

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
21%	19%	Agree
75%	70%	Disagree
4%	11%	Don't know/refused

___13. How important do you think having well educated parents is for getting ahead in life? Would you say it's... [READ LIST 1- 5]

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
10%	12%	Essential
48%	41%	very important
36%	38%	fairly important
84%	79%	Total IMPORTANT
4%	6%	not very important
2%	2%	not important at all
6%	8%	Total UNIMPORTANT
—%	1%	Don't know/refused

___14. How important do you think having a good education yourself is for getting ahead in life? Would you say it's... [READ LIST 1- 5]

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
25%	27%	Essential
54%	51%	very important
18%	20%	fairly important
72%	71%	Total IMPORTANT
3%	1%	not very important
—%	1%	not important at all
3%	2%	Total UNIMPORTANT
—%	—%	Don't know/refused

___15. How much confidence do you have in schools and the educational system? Would you say ... [READ LIST 1- 5]

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
7%	11%	complete confidence
30%	37%	a great deal of confidence
47%	42%	some confidence
84%	90%	Total CONFIDENCE
13%	6%	very little confidence
2%	3%	no confidence at all
15%	9%	Total LITTLE/NO CONFIDENCE
1%	1%	Don't know/refused

___16. How much did the quality of the schools in your neighborhood influence your decision to live where you do? Would you say it's ... [READ LIST 1- 5]

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	
33%	a major influence
27%	a significant, but not major influence
60%	Total INFLUENCE
11%	only a minor influence
29%	no real influence at all
40%	Total MINOR/NO INFLUENCE
—%	Don't know/refused

___17. Are you aware or not aware of the new, more stringent high school curriculum standards that will increase requirements in the future for students to graduate?

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	
74%	Aware
26%	Not aware
—%	Don't know/refused

___18. How involved would you say you are in your (child's/children's) education? Would you say you are... [READ LIST 1-4]

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	
76%	very involved
20%	somewhat involved
96%	Total INVOLVED
4%	only a little involved
—%	no involved at all
4%	Total LITTLE/NOT INVOLVED
—%	Don't know/refused

___19. Do you set aside time for homework every night, or not?

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Apr '04</u> <u>[B]</u>	
79%	76%	Yes, sets aside time for homework every night
19%	22%	No, does not set time aside
2%	2%	Don't know/refused

___20. How often do you get a chance to verify that your (child/children) have completed their homework? **[READ LIST 1-5]**

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	
61%	Every night
20%	Almost every night
11%	Once or twice a week
4%	Seldom
3%	Or never
1%	Don't know/refused

___21. How often do you read to your children, or, if they are older now, how much did you read to them when they were younger? **[READ LIST 1-6]**

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	
48%	Every day
30%	Most days
15%	A few times a week
3%	A few times a month
3%	Seldom
—%	Never
1%	Don't know/refused

___45. How often do you read to your child/children, or did you read to them when they were younger? Would you say **[READ LIST 1 – 5]** ...

<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>		
53%	Very frequently, meaning every day	85% Total
32%	Frequently, meaning most days in the week	
8%	From time to time, meaning a few times a month	7% Total
3%	Infrequently, meaning a few times a year	
4%	Not at all	
—%	Don't know/refused	

FREQUENTLY

INFREQUENTLY/NOT AT ALL

[ROTATE Qs 22 TO 24]

___22. On most days, how many hours would you say your (child/youngest child) spends watching television? **[WRITE IN NUMBER OF HOURS]**

_____ Hours

Apr
'07

MEAN:	2.05	MEDIAN:	2.00
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___80A. How many hours of television would you say your (child/youngest child) watches on most days?

_____ hours of TV

Apr
'04

MEAN:	2.17	MEDIAN:	2.00
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___23. On most days, how many hours would you say your (child/youngest child) spends playing video games? **[WRITE IN NUMBER OF HOURS]**

_____ Hours

Apr
'07

MEAN:	.68	MEDIAN:	.00
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___82A. How many hours on most days does your (child/youngest child) spend time playing video games?

_____ hours of video games

Apr
'04

MEAN:	.80	MEDIAN:	.50
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___24. On most days, how many hours would you say your (child/youngest child) spends surfing or playing on the Internet? **[WRITE IN NUMBER OF HOURS]**

_____ Hours

Apr
'07

MEAN:	.76	MEDIAN:	1.00
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___25. Thinking about your involvement with your child's school, would you say you feel like an insider or an outsider?

Apr
'07

72%	Insider
24%	Outsider
4%	Don't know/refused

___26. How often do you communicate with your (child's/children's) teacher? [**READ LIST 1-5**]

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Apr</u> <u>'04</u>	
39%	34%	One or more times a week
31%	33%	Once or twice a month
15%	17%	Once or twice every couple of months
11%	8%	Seldom
3%	5%	Never
1%	3%	Don't know/refused

___27. How often do you communicate in person, face-to-face, with your (child's/children's) teacher? [**READ LIST 1-5**]

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	
20%	One or more times a week
25%	Once or twice a month
30%	Once or twice every couple of months
18%	Seldom
6%	Never
1%	Don't know/refused

___28. Have you done anything to help your child's teacher or teachers get to know your child and his or her strengths, weaknesses, likes and dislikes?

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Sep/Oct</u> <u>'04</u>	
80%	72%	Yes
18%	25%	No
2%	3%	Don't know/refused

___29. How many times do you usually visit your (child's/youngest child's) school over the course of a month? [**READ LIST 1-4**]

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Apr</u> <u>'04</u>	
38%	45%	Several times
37%	32%	Once or twice
17%	14%	Seldom
7%	6%	Never
1%	3%	Don't know/refused

___30. You're probably aware that many schools are doing much more testing than they used to. This is an attempt to determine how many children are mastering the material they are taught. Thinking about your own (child/youngest child), would you say that he/she ... **[READ 1-4]**

Masters all of the material he/she should master
 Masters most of the material he/she should master
 Masters some of the material he/she should master
 Struggles to master the material he/she should master

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
28%	31%	Masters all
50%	50%	Masters most
16%	12%	Masters some
5%	5%	Struggles to master
1%	2%	Don't know/refused

___31. Has your (child's/youngest child's) teacher ever contacted you or spoken to you about a difficulty your child might have had in mastering some material, or not?

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
48%	41%	Yes
50%	57%	No
2%	2%	Don't know/refused

___32. If your child was not learning in school, what would you do? **[READ 1 TO 3]**

Meet with the teachers or principal, repeatedly if necessary
 Get them extra help
 Move them to a different school

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	
61%	Meet w/teachers - principal, repeatedly if necessary
32%	Get them extra help
5%	Move them to a different school
2%	Don't know/refused

___33. Have you ever moved your child to a different school because you thought it might provide a better education than he or she was previously receiving?

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	
27%	Yes
73%	No
—%	Don't know/refused

___34. Do you have hopes or dreams about what your child — the one that I've asked you to think about specifically — will someday be doing, or not?

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>		
78%	64%	Yes	
19%	34%	No	GO TO Q. 38
3%	2%	Don't know/refused -	GO TO Q. 38

___35. Have you talked to your child about your hopes and dreams for him or her?

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
94%	90%	Yes
6%	10%	No
—%	—%	Don't know/refused

___36. Is your child receptive to your ideas, or does he/she have different ideas?

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
70%	79%	Yes, child is receptive
21%	12%	No, child is not receptive
9%	9%	Don't know/refused

___37. What, specifically, would you like your child to be doing someday? [**WRITE COMMENT AS STATED BELOW**]

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>		<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>	
31%	27%	Whatever makes happy	1%	1%	Police officer
13%	—%	Health care	1%	—%	Politics
11%	4%	College grad	1%	—%	Writer
4%	—%	Any steady job	—%	8%	Successful
4%	3%	Engineer	—%	6%	Doctor
4%	6%	Teacher	—%	4%	Good citizen
3%	3%	Lawyer	—%	3%	Athlete
2%	—%	Business person	—%	3%	Medical field
2%	3%	Computers	—%	2%	Business owner
2%	—%	Contributing to society	—%	2%	Nurse
2%	—%	Good paying job	—%	1%	Beautician
2%	2%	Sciences	—%	1%	Designer
2%	2%	Veterinarian	—%	1%	Fireman
1%	1%	Architect	—%	1%	Marine biologist
1%	—%	Artist	—%	1%	Minister
1%	—%	Entertainer/musician	—%	1%	Musician/singer
1%	—%	Firefighter	—%	1%	Research
1%	—%	Mechanic	—%	1%	Trade/skills
1%	—%	Pilot	2%	3%	Other
			7%	9%	Don't know/refused

___38. When it comes to thinking about sending your child to college, which one of the following statements comes closest to your view? **[READ LIST 1 – 4]**

- It's not IF they go, it's WHERE they go
- We encourage it, but let our kids make up their own minds
- Whatever makes them happy is what I want
- We discourage it because it's too expensive; we didn't go; they don't need to go; we might lose our child to another state; or college might corrupt our child

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	
52%	Encourage/let kids make up own minds
37%	Not IF/WHERE
10%	Whatever makes them happy
—%	Discourage
1%	Don't know/refused

___39. Which of the following levels of education achievement best describes what your (child/youngest child) will definitely earn in the future? **[READ 1-6 –CODE ALL RESPONSES MENTIONED]**

- A post high school technical education
- A two-year associates degree
- A four-year college degree
- A masters degree
- A PHD
- Or, will he or she not earn an education beyond high school

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	
7%	Post high school technical education
12%	Two-year associates degree
73%	Four-year college degree
24%	Masters degree
8%	PHD
2%	Not earn an education beyond high school
7%	Don't know/refused

___40. Whether or not your child actually goes to college, how affordable do you believe college will be, or would be, for a person like your child, when he/she is of an age to go? Would you say ... **[READ LIST 1 – 3]**

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>		
53%	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u> 50%	It will be, or would be, affordable one way or another
18%	18%	It won't be affordable
28%	31%	I don't know whether it would be or not
1%	1%	Refused

41. Realistically, what job or career do you believe your child will have? [CODE
RESPONSE IF LISTED OR WRITE IN UNDER OTHER]

<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>'05</u>		<u>Apr</u> <u>'07</u>	<u>Mar '05</u>	
9%	—%	Medical field (non-Doctor)	—%	3%	Whatever makes happy
8%	4%	Engineer	—%	2%	College grad
8%	9%	Teacher/Professor	—%	1%	Actor
6%	5%	Computers	—%	1%	Athlete
6%	5%	Doctor	—%	1%	Author
5%	4%	Veterinarian	—%	1%	Beautician
4%	2%	Laborer	—%	1%	Chef
3%	2%	Business owner	—%	1%	Designer
3%	—%	Writer	—%	1%	MBA
2%	1%	Architect	—%	1%	Mechanic
2%	2%	Scientist	—%	1%	Musician/singer
1%	1%	Accountant	—%	1%	Nurse
1%	1%	Artist	—%	1%	Police
1%	—%	Electrician	—%	1%	Politician
1%	3%	Lawyer	—%	1%	Social worker
1%	—%	Military	—%	1%	Successful
1%	1%	Psychology	—%	1%	Trade/skills
1%	1%	Sales person	5%	5%	Other
—%	3%	Medical field	32%	31%	Don't know/refused