

# Michigan Education Poll 2006: *New Standards for a Global Economy*

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## Methodology

- Survey conducted every 2–3 years since 1982 by MDE or PSC
- Random telephone survey
- 2006 survey
  - 600 respondents
  - Margin of error +/- 4.0 percent with 95 percent confidence

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## Overall Appraisal

- All respondents (100 percent) believe that a good education is important
- A plurality of the public sees no change in the quality of education
- 40 percent say that quality has “stayed the same” in the past few years
- More say their schools have gotten “better” (32 percent) than say they have gotten “worse” (23 percent)

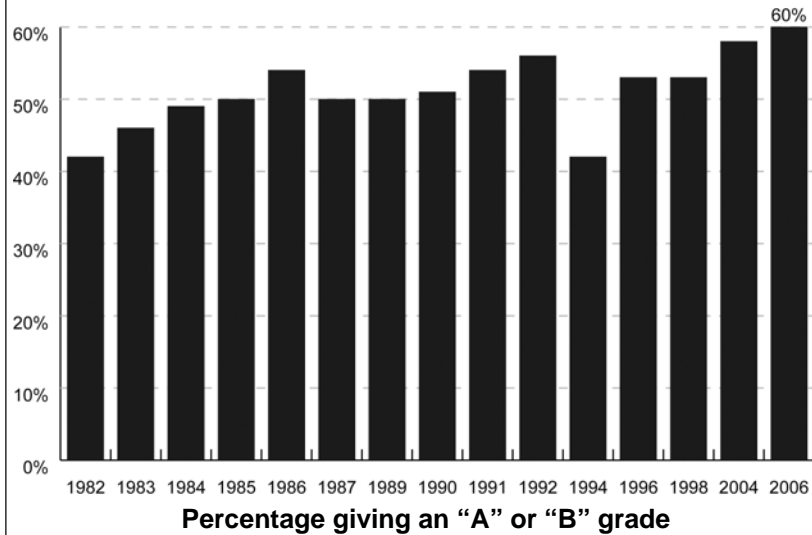
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## The Role of Schools

- 70 percent of respondents feel that schools play a major role in the quality of life in their communities
- 96 percent feel it is important that schools prepare students to compete in a global economy
- 85 percent believe students are prepared to go on to educational opportunities beyond high school
- 68 percent believe that students are prepared to compete in the global economy

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## Grading Your Local Public School



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## Proposed Curriculum Changes

- Most respondents (77 percent) support the changes
- Hearing the positive argument—that such changes would make Michigan students more competitive—convinces 82 percent
- Hearing the negative argument—that the changes could make it harder for students to graduate high school—dissuades 21 percent

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## Proposed Curriculum Changes

- Subjects that are “very necessary”:
  - Technology and computer classes (91 percent)
  - English (90 percent)
  - Algebra (75 percent)
  - Civic education (72 percent)
  - Advanced math (63 percent)
  - Advanced science (61 percent)
  - Social studies (60 percent)
  - Biology (58 percent)
  - Foreign language (52 percent)
  - Physical education (40 percent)
  - Arts (35 percent)

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## Conclusions

- The public values education and holds a generally positive view
- The public believes the state needs a single, statewide curriculum for high school students
- Most people are not concerned that this might make it more difficult for some students to do well in school, or even to graduate
- Most people are concerned that Michigan’s high school seniors become more competitive with students from other states and countries

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