

EDUCATION NEWS AND NOTES

FROM WALKOUTS TO BALLOT MEASURES, TEACHERS AND K–TWELVE EDUCATION MADE HEADLINES THIS YEAR. EDUCATION EVEN RANKED AS THE SECOND-HOTTEST ISSUE THIS YEAR IN GUBERNATORIAL RACES. YET IT REMAINS CHALLENGING TO KNOW HOW TEACHERS ACTUALLY FEEL ABOUT EDUCATION ISSUES AND REFORM. FORTUNATELY, THE RECENTLY RELEASED ANNUAL “SCHOOLING IN AMERICA” SURVEY CONDUCTED BY EDCHOICE, A NONPROFIT, NONPARTISAN ORGANIZATION, CAN TELL US A LOT. THIS YEAR’S SURVEY RESULTS SHOW THAT TEACHERS TRUST THEIR STUDENTS AND PRINCIPALS MORE THAN PARENTS, THE FEDERAL OR STATE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION, OR SCHOOL BOARDS. AND THEY WOULD LIKE TO KEEP MATTERS OF RATINGS AND ACCOUNTABILITY AS LOCAL AS POSSIBLE. THE SURVEY ALSO REVEALED THAT A MAJORITY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WERE SUPPORTIVE OF THE SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION KNOWN AS E-S-As (EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS) AND THAT THEIR SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL VOUCHERS JUMPS BY AT LEAST TWENTY PERCENTAGE POINTS WHEN THEY ARE GIVEN A CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM. IN FACT, ONLY SIX PERCENT OF TEACHERS OPPOSED ANY SCHOOL CHOICE. SINCE PARENTAL SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL CHOICE REMAINS STRONG, WITH EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS RANKING HIGHEST IN POPULARITY, IT IS A WELCOME DISCOVERY THAT A DECIDED MAJORITY OF TEACHERS AGREE.