

## FocusBC Education Poll Findings

*How would you rate the overall state of the education system in British Columbia?*

Very good	3%
Good	52%
Bad	30%
Very bad	6%
Not sure	9%

*Thinking about education, how concerned are you about each of the following problems? – “Very concerned” and “Moderately concerned” listed*

Bureaucracy, poor management	77%
Labour disputes between teachers and the government	76%
Inadequate resources and facilities for children	70%
Lack of safety in schools / Bullying	70%
Large class sizes	65%
<b>Children not being able to finish school</b>	<b>64%</b>
Outdated curriculum	62%
Shortage of teachers	56%

- Concern with children not being able to finish school is nearly as prominent amount the public as bullying an issue that has received much more media attention.

*From what you have seen, read or heard, how many kids do you think fail to graduate from high school in British Columbia each year? Please type your response in the form of a percentage in the box below.*

Average of All Responses – 21.4%      Actual rate: 18.2%

*And, from what you have seen, read or heard, what is the completion rate for high school in British Columbia among these groups? Please type your responses in the form of a percentage in the boxes below.*

First Nations	39.4%	Actual Rate	56.4%
Children in Government Care	42.6%	Actual Rate	40.0%
Students with behavioural challenges	40.8%	Actual Rate	41.0%

*In our current culture, how important do you think each of the following factors is to a young person eventually leading a successful life? – “Very important” and “Moderately important” listed*

Being able to graduate from high school	96%
Having one caring adult in their life	96%
Staying clear of drugs and alcohol	92%

- Belief in the fact that graduation from high school is essential is practically universal.

*Do you know a child under the age of 19 who is not currently in school and who has not already graduated?*

Yes, I do	27%
No, I do not	73%

- More than a quarter of BC residents know someone in this situation.

***Do you know a child under the age of 19 who has significant life or learning challenges that put them at risk of not completing high school?***

Yes, I do	28%
No, I do not	72%

- More than a quarter of BC residents know someone in this situation.

***Do you think the Government of British Columbia has a responsibility to fund specialized programs for youth who have needs for specific learning conditions beyond the resources in the regular school system?***

Definitely does	46%
Probably does	38%
Probably does not	8%
Definitely does not	3%
Not sure	6%

- 84% of the respondents think the BC Government “definitely” or “probably does” has a responsibility to fund these programs.

*Methodology: From January 17 to January 18, 2013, a polling firm conducted an online survey among 802 randomly selected British Columbia adults who are the firm’s panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.5%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of British Columbia. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*