

## **EDUCATION IN THE GTA:** **A REPORT CARD**

- **A Majority (54%) of GTA Residents are Satisfied with Public Education System Overall – but just 6% are Very Satisfied**
  - Across tested system components, Teachers (68%) receive top grades, followed by Student Safety (58%) and Curriculum (57%). School Condition/Maintenance (48%) and Availability of Teaching/Learning Resources (47%) receive satisfaction ratings from less than a majority.
- **A Majority (54%) say Public Education is Better Than (33%), or About The Same As (21%) Twenty-Five Years Ago**
  - A Third (32%) say it is Worse.
  - Only 24% Think Public Education is Better than Private Schooling
- **For 54%, Quality of Local Schools is a Factor in their Home Purchase Decisions**

*From June 21 to 27, 2005, Leger Marketing – the Canadian representative of the Gallup International Association – conducted telephone interviews among a randomly selected, representative sample of 500 residents of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The margin of error for the total sample is +4.4%, 19 times out of 20. The City of Toronto (n=250) and Suburban (n=250) sub-segments of the total GTA sample each have an associated margin of error of +6.2%, 19 times out of 20. The Suburban sub-segment is comprised of the Regions of Durham, Halton, Peel, and York. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current regional, gender, and age Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of the GTA. Discrepancies in totals are due to rounding.*

*Founded in 1986, Leger Marketing is the largest independent full-service research firm in Canada, with more than 500 employees spread over its offices in Toronto, Montreal, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Quebec City, New York City, and Shanghai. Leger conducts quantitative and qualitative research on behalf of an extensive array of public and private sector clients on a local, national, and global scale. Leger is the Canadian representative of the Gallup International Association, and is the polling Agency of Record for Sun Media, Toronto Life Magazine, Marketing Magazine, and the Canadian Press news service.*

**Report Card: Majority (54%) Satisfied with Public Education Overall**

- A majority (54%) of GTA residents are satisfied with the current state of the public education system overall.
  - However, just 6% are very satisfied. Both satisfaction and dissatisfaction is lukewarm across all education system components.
  - Additionally, Parents with Children aged 18 or younger provide somewhat higher satisfaction ratings across all components.
- Among the 5 specific education system components tested, the Quality of Teachers clearly receives top marks and solely occupies the top tier of the ratings – with 68% satisfied. A quarter (24%) are very satisfied.
- The middle tier of ratings is witness to solid majority satisfaction with the Safety of Students at School (58%; 21% Very), and the Quality of the Curriculum (57%; 12% Very).
- In the bottom tier of ratings, Condition and Maintenance of Schools (48%; 13% Very) and Availability of Teaching and Learning Resources (47%; 14% Very) receive satisfaction ratings from less than a majority.

Report Card: Satisfaction Ratings on Public Education System in the GTA						
1A. How satisfied are you with the current state of the public education system overall? Base: N=500						
B. How satisfied are you with the quality of the teachers? C. How satisfied are you with the quality of the curriculum?						
D. How satisfied are you with the condition and maintenance of the schools? E. How satisfied are you with the teaching and learning resources available, like books and supplies? F. How satisfied are you with the safety of students at school?						
Region	GTA		City of Toronto		Suburbs	
Education System Components	Very or somewhat SATISFIED with...	Very or Somewhat DISSATISFIED with...	Very or somewhat SATISFIED with...	Very or Somewhat DISSATISFIED with...	Very or somewhat SATISFIED with...	Very or Somewhat DISSATISFIED with...
Public Education System Overall	54%	36%	55%	35%	53%	37%
Quality of Teachers	68%	19%	72%	16%	65%	21%
Student Safety at School	58%	31%	57%	32%	60%	30%
Quality of Curriculum	57%	27%	60%	24%	54%	30%
School Condition/Maintenance	48%	39%	39%	49%	56%	29%
Availability of Teaching/Learning Resources	47%	37%	45%	40%	49%	35%

**A Majority think that Public Education is Better or the Same as 25 Years Ago**

- A majority (54%) think that the public education system is providing a better education (33%) or about the same education (21%) as 25 years ago.
- A third (32%) say it is Worse, and 14% are Unsure.
- Notably, a majority (53%) of 18-34 year-olds believe they are receiving a better education now.

<b>Comparing Education to 25 Years Ago</b>			
<b>2.</b> Overall, do you think that students in public schools, that is, kindergarten to grade 12, are getting a....education today as compared to about 25 years ago ? <b>Base: N=500.</b>			
	<b>GTA</b>	<b>City of Toronto</b>	<b>Suburbs</b>
<b>Better</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Worse</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>About the same</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Don't know/ Refused</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>15%</b>

**Only 24% Think Public Education is Better than Private Schooling**

- Six-in-ten (60%) GTA residents disagree with the statement “Public schools provide a better education than private schools” – 29% *strongly disagree*.
- Only 24% think that public education is better than private schooling – just 8% *strongly*.
- Torontonians (27%) are more likely than Suburbanites (20%) to think that public schools are better.
- Disagreement with the statement “Public schools provide a better education than private schools” is much more likely among the \$80,000+ Household Income Bracket (72%) than among the \$40,000–\$80,000 Bracket (62%) and Under \$40,000 Bracket (43%).

<b>Is Public Education Better Than Private Schooling?</b>			
3A. Please tell me if you... with the following statement: Base: N=500. <i>Public schools provide a better education to students than private schools.</i>			
	<b>GTA</b>	<b>City of Toronto</b>	<b>Suburbs</b>
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	24%	27%	20%
<b>Strongly agree</b>	8%	11%	6%
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	15%	17%	14%
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	31%	33%	28%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	29%	27%	32%
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	60%	60%	60%
<b>Don't know/ Refused</b>	17%	13%	20%

**For a Majority, Local School Quality is a Factor in Home Purchase Choice**

- A majority of GTA residents have chosen their current home, or will choose their future home, based on the quality of schools in the area (54%).
  - Notably, 68% of those with children under the age of 18 agree.
  - Two-thirds (65%) of those who feel public schools are better than private schools agree.
  - Agreement with the statement is more likely among the Under \$40,000 Bracket Household Income Bracket (62%) than among the \$40,000–\$80,000 Bracket (54%) and \$80,000+ Household Income Bracket (52%).

<b>Local School Quality as Driver of Home Purchase Decisions</b>			
<b>3B.</b> Please tell me if you... with the following statement: N=500. <i>I chose my current home, or will choose a future home, based on the quality of schools in the area.</i>			
	<b>GTA</b>	<b>City of Toronto</b>	<b>Suburbs</b>
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Don't know/ Refused</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>17%</b>

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For more information, please see the September Issue of Toronto Life Magazine, or contact the Leger Marketing spokesperson:

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