



Summer 2018 Wilder School Public Policy Poll
A survey of Virginians conducted by the Center for Public Policy

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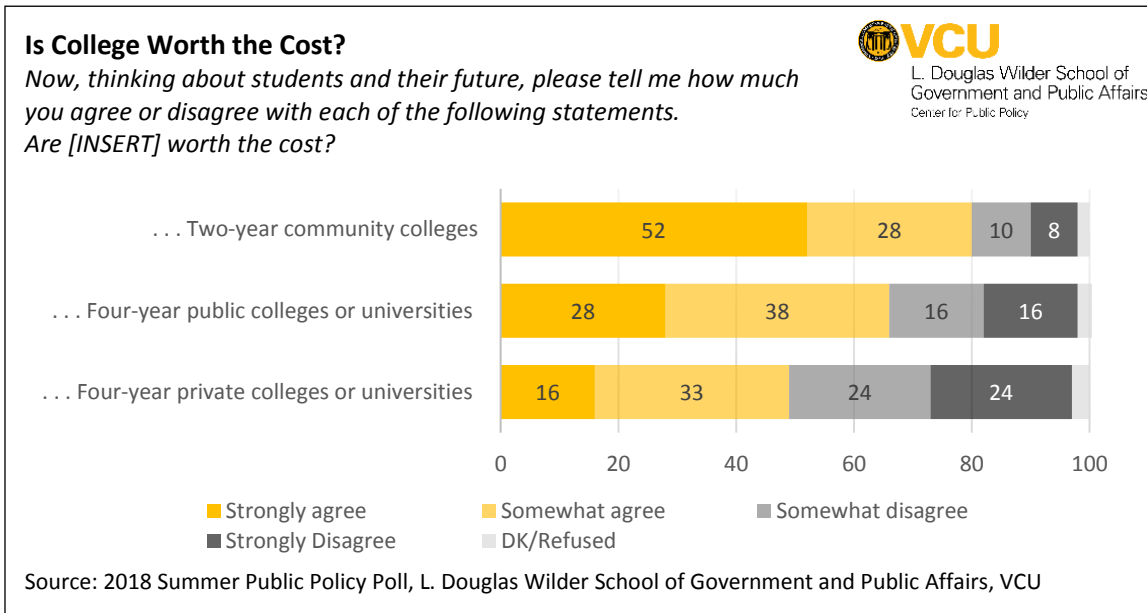
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Majority of Virginians see community colleges, public universities as worth the cost

RICHMOND, Va. (Aug. 16, 2018) — A majority of Virginians see two-year community colleges and four-year public universities as worth the cost, according to a new statewide poll by the [L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs](#) at Virginia Commonwealth University.

The poll found 80 percent agreed strongly or somewhat that community colleges are worth the cost, while 66 percent said the same about public four-year schools. By contrast, only 49 percent of respondents agreed strongly or somewhat that private four-year schools are worth the cost, while 48 percent disagreed strongly or somewhat.



The poll, a random sample of 802 adults in Virginia conducted by landline and cell telephone from July 10-30, has a margin of error of 3.49 percentage points.

The same poll asked respondents to assess whether colleges overall and public high schools in the state are doing a good job on four workforce-related outcomes:

- Producing graduates in scientific fields.
- Preparing students for the workforce needs of the future.
- Developing students’ writing and communication skills.
- Providing the skills useful in obtaining a job.

Comparing whether the public sees colleges and public high schools as doing a good job in all four areas of workforce development, the results show that a higher proportion see colleges as doing a good job than say the same about public high schools. The gap between the two ranged from 12 to 21 percentage points. The greatest gap concerned the outcome of “providing the skills useful in obtaining a job” where 66 percent said colleges and universities do a good job but only 45 percent said the same about public high schools.

“We often hear that a college education is a key factor in individual success,” said Robyn McDougle, Ph.D., director of the Center for Public Policy at the Wilder School, “but the Virginia public appears to see colleges as a definite step up in preparing the commonwealth’s collective workforce as well.”

Both high schools and colleges received positive ratings from the largest portion of the population in the area of producing graduates in scientific fields. Seventy-five percent of Virginians said colleges were doing a good job in this area; 57 percent said the same about high schools.

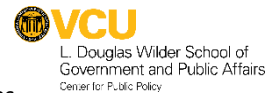
In all other categories, roughly the same portion of respondents said high schools were doing a good job as said they were doing a bad job. There were strong regional differences.

With the exception of the category of producing graduates in scientific fields, the residents of the south-central region show the most negative evaluation of high schools, while Northern Virginia and the west region consistently show the most positive.

For a PDF of the 33-page report including complete question wording and detailed tables of results, go to oppo.vcu.edu.

	Public High Schools	Colleges/Universities
Producing graduates in scientific fields	57	75
Preparing students for the workforce needs of the future	49	61
Developing students’ writing and communication skills	47	63
Providing the skills useful in obtaining a job	45	66
Preparing students to be engaged citizens	45	61

Source: 2018 Summer Public Policy Poll, L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, VCU



Comparing High School and College on Workforce Development

Overall, do you think [the public high schools/the colleges and universities] in Virginia are doing a good job or a bad job in following areas? (Percent saying Good Job)

On Thursday, Aug. 23, the Wilder School's [Center for Public Policy](#) will release the final poll results measuring Virginians' views on several policies related to mental health.

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About the Wilder School and the Center for Public Policy

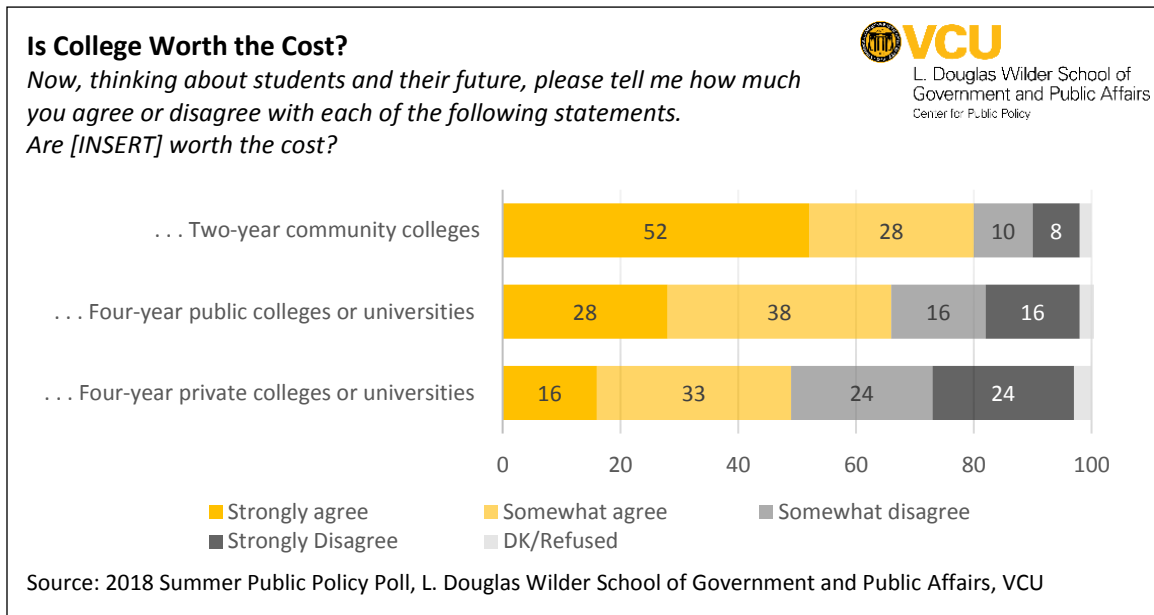
The L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, named for the nation's first African-American elected governor, is a top 50 nationally ranked public affairs school. Located blocks from the state Capitol in Richmond, Virginia, the school enrolls about 1,000 undergraduates and 400 graduate students in eight programs. More than 10,000 alumni of the Wilder School work in Fortune 500 companies, local governments, advocacy groups and public interest firms. Drawing on the wide-ranging expertise of Wilder School faculty, the Center for Public Policy's programs provide diverse public-facing services including leadership development and training, economic and policy impact analysis, survey insights and program evaluation to clients in state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses and the general public, across Virginia and beyond. For more, please visit <https://wilder.vcu.edu/center-for-public-policy/>.

About VCU and VCU Health

Virginia Commonwealth University is a major, urban public research university with national and international rankings in sponsored research. Located in downtown Richmond, VCU enrolls more than 31,000 students in 217 degree and certificate programs in the arts, sciences and humanities. Thirty-eight of the programs are unique in Virginia, many of them crossing the disciplines of VCU's 11 schools and three colleges. The VCU Health brand represents the VCU health sciences academic programs, the VCU Massey Cancer Center and the VCU Health System, which comprises VCU Medical Center (the only academic medical center and Level I trauma center in the region), Community Memorial Hospital, Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU, MCV Physicians and Virginia Premier Health Plan. For more, please visit www.vcu.edu and vcuhealth.org.

Is College Worth the Cost?

Whether college is worth the cost depends very much on what type of college is being considered. The findings of the survey show that a large majority (80 percent) strongly or somewhat agree that two-year community colleges are worth the cost, while 66 percent say the same about four-year public colleges and universities and only 49 percent say that about four-year private colleges and universities.



Demographic factors played a significant role with respect to each type of college institution and we examine each in turn. In all three cases, employment status and region proved significant, making two methodological notes relevant. First, survey respondents are tracked by location and aggregated into one of five regions. The map at right shows the breakdown of these geographic regions. Secondly, employment status is broken into three groups – full-time, part-time and not employed. The final category is not synonymous with unemployed because retirees and others not seeking work are also included in this category.



Figure 1: Geographic regions referenced: Northern Virginia (light blue); Northwest (purple); West (green); South Central (yellow); Tidewater (pink)

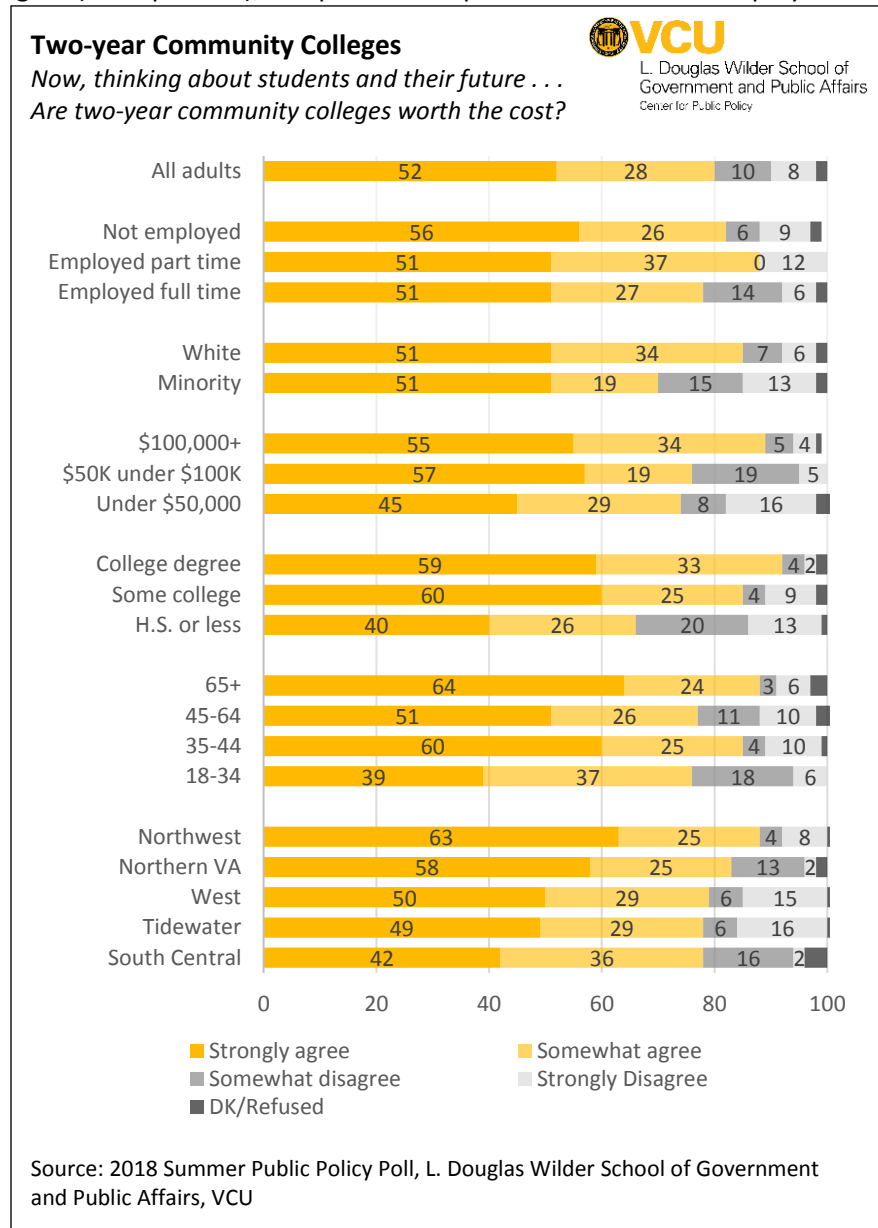
Two-year community colleges

For two-year community colleges, respondents differed in their perspectives based on employment status, race, income, education, age and region. Those employed part-time were more likely to strongly or somewhat agree (at 88 percent), compared to 82 percent of those not employed

and 78 percent of those employed full-time. While the same proportion of white respondents and minority respondents strongly agreed (51 percent), white respondents were more likely to somewhat agree (34 percent vs. 19 percent.)

Higher income respondents were more likely to see a two-year community college degree as worth the cost — those with household income between \$50,000 and \$100,000 (at 57 percent), and those with an income greater than \$100,000 (at 55 percent) were more likely to strongly agree than were those with an income

under \$50,000, where only 45 percent strongly agreed. Similarly, those with some college (at 60 percent) or a degree (at 59 percent) were more likely to strongly agree, while only 40 percent of those with a high school diploma or less said the same.



Intriguingly, those most likely to be currently or recently in college (those ages 18 to 34) were least likely, at 39 percent, to strongly agree that a two-year community college degree is worth the cost. This compared to 64 percent of those 65 years or older and 60 percent of those ages 35 to 44, who were more likely to strongly agree. Those ages 45 to 64 fell in the middle, with 51 percent strongly agreeing.

When it comes to regions, those in the Northwest and Northern Virginia were more likely to strongly agree (63 percent and 58 percent), while those in the West and Tidewater were in the middle at 50 percent and 49 percent, respectively, and South Central were least likely to strongly agree (at 42 percent.)

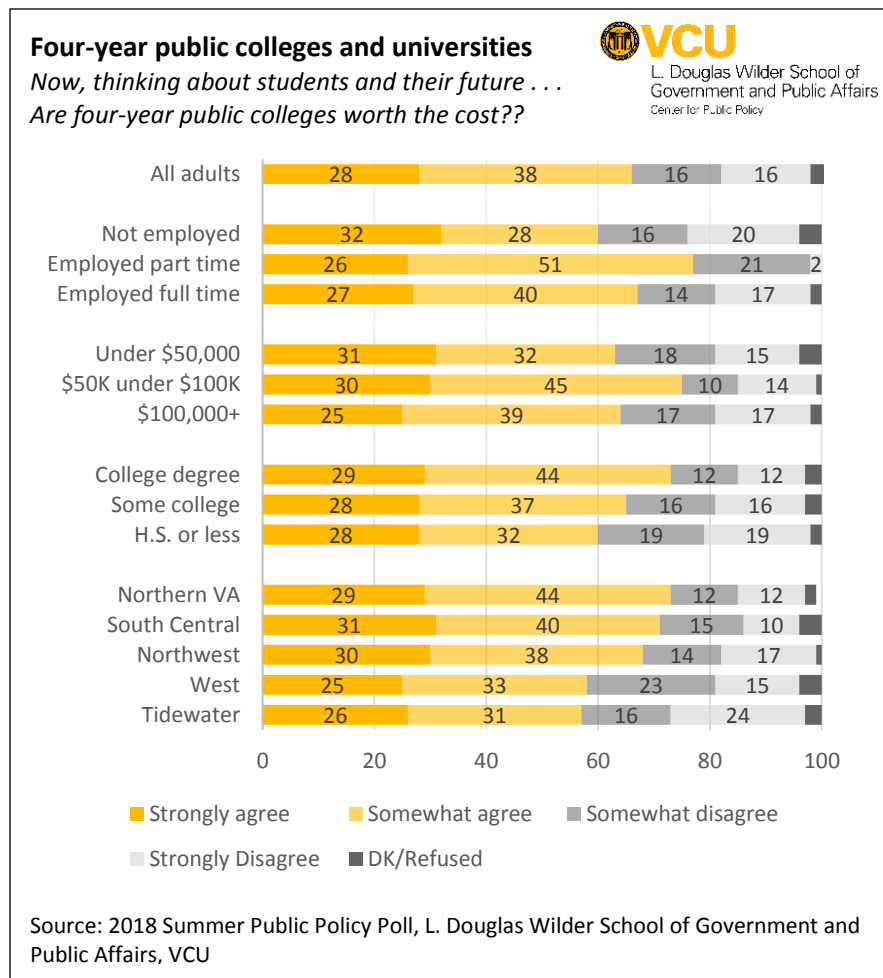
Four-year public colleges and universities

As noted above, a smaller majority (66 percent) agreed that a four-year public college was worth the cost, with 28 percent agreeing strongly and 38 percent agreeing somewhat. Respondents differed in their perspectives based on employment status, income, education and region.

As was the case with two-year schools, those employed part-time were more likely to strongly or somewhat agree (at 77 percent) compared to 67 percent of those employed full-time and only 60 percent who were not employed.

When it comes to income, those earning \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually (at 75 percent) were the most likely to

agree strongly or somewhat, compared to 64 percent for those earning more than \$100,000 and 63



percent of those earning less than \$50,000. In terms of educational attainment, college graduates were more likely to strongly or somewhat agree (at 73 percent), while 65 percent of those with some college and 60 percent of those with a high school diploma or less said the same.

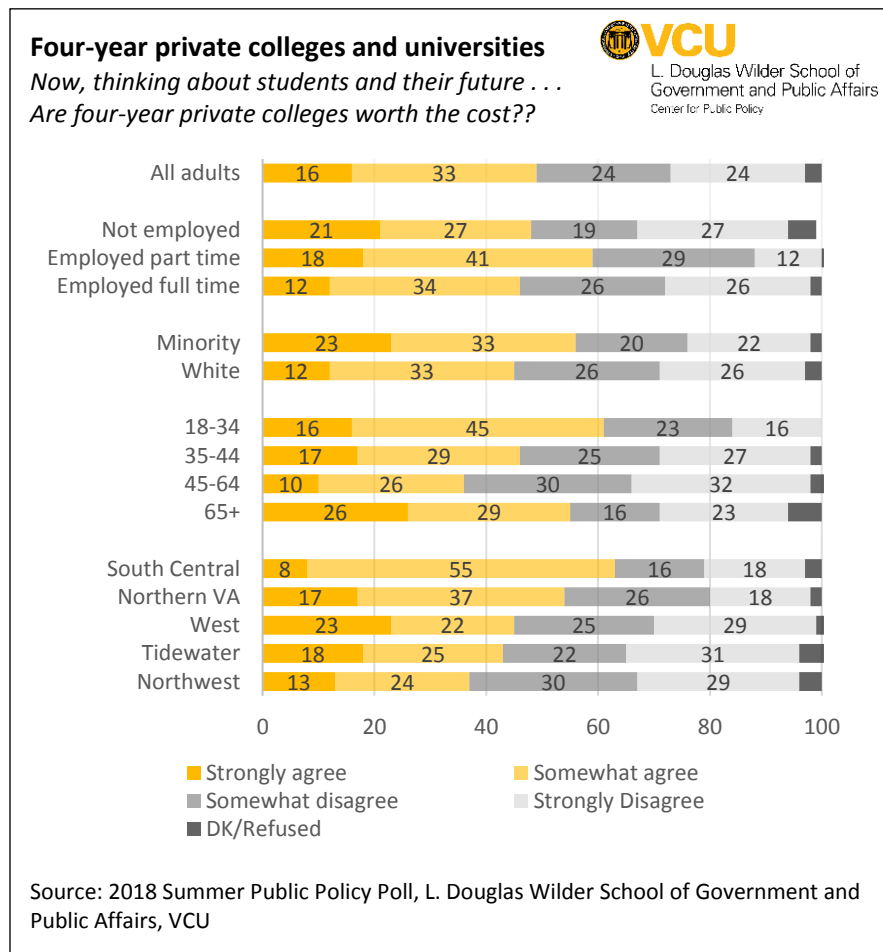
Finally, regional location made a significant difference in respondent’s perspectives. Those from Northern Virginia and South Central were more likely to strongly or somewhat agree (73 percent and 71 percent, respectively) while those in the West and Tidewater regions were the least likely (at 58 percent and 57 percent, respectively.) Northwest respondents fell in the middle with 68 percent strongly or somewhat agreeing that a four-year public school is worth the cost.

Four-year private colleges and universities

As noted above, the public is evenly split when assessing whether four-year private colleges and universities are worth the cost, with 49 percent strongly or somewhat agreeing and 48 percent strongly or somewhat disagreeing.

Respondents differed in their perspectives based on employment status, race, age and region.

Those employed part-time were again more likely to strongly or somewhat agree (at 59 percent), compared to 48 percent of those who are not employed and 46 percent of those employed full-time. Similarly, minority respondents were more likely to strongly or somewhat agree (at 56 percent), compared to 45 percent of white



respondents who said the same. Those ages 18 to 34 were more likely to strongly or somewhat agree (at 61 percent), while those ages 45 to 64 were least likely (at 36 percent.)

Regionally, South Central and Northern Virginia respondents were more likely to strongly or somewhat agree, with 63 percent and 54 percent, respectively. Those in the West and Tidewater regions were less likely with 45 percent and 43 percent. The Northwest region responses were the least likely, with only 37 percent agreeing strongly or somewhat.


Comparing High School and College on Workforce Development Performance

Increasingly policymakers have focused on both secondary and tertiary education as key engines of workforce development. Since 2012, the Wilder School Public Policy Poll, and its predecessor, the Commonwealth Education Poll, have asked the public whether they think colleges and universities are doing a good or bad job at meeting four workforce-related goals: producing graduates in scientific fields; preparing students for the workforce needs of the future; developing students’ writing and communication skills; and providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job. In 2017, a fifth category was added —

whether these institutions were doing a good or bad job in preparing students to be engaged citizens. This year, for the first time, the survey asked the same questions about public high schools, providing an interesting comparison.

As can be seen in the table at right, in general, respondents

think higher education is doing a better job preparing students in these areas than are high schools, with the portion saying they do a good job 12 to 21 points higher in every category for colleges and

Comparing High School and College on Workforce Development  <small>L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs Center for Public Policy</small>		
<i>Overall, do you think [the public high schools/the colleges and universities] in Virginia are doing a good job or a bad job in following areas? (Percent saying Good Job)</i>		
	Public High Schools	Colleges/Universities
Producing graduates in scientific fields	57	75
Preparing students for the workforce needs of the future	49	61
Developing students’ writing and communication skills	47	63
Providing the skills useful in obtaining a job	45	66
Preparing students to be engaged citizens	45	61

Source: 2018 Summer Public Policy Poll, L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, VCU

universities. Also intriguing is the fact that the largest portion of respondents judge both levels of education as doing a good job when it comes to producing graduates in scientific fields. Conversely, the goal in last place for both colleges/universities and public high schools (based on the portion saying good job) is that of preparing students to be engaged citizens. In the following sections we examine each goal in more detail.

Higher Education Performance on Workforce Development

As noted above, significant trend data is available for colleges and universities. Public opinion is largely steady over time on these outcomes, including the category consistently receiving the largest percentage of respondents saying colleges and universities are doing a good job producing graduates in scientific fields.

Almost all of those ages 18 to 34 (at 91 percent) said that colleges are doing a good job in turning out STEM graduates, making them more likely than were those 65 and older (75 percent). Those ages 35 to 64 were less likely (65 percent of those 35- to 44-years-old and 67 percent of those 45- to 64-years-old) to say colleges and universities were doing a good job in this area.

Regionally, respondents from the West region (at 91 percent) were most likely to say good job and those in Tidewater were least likely at 63 percent. South Central, Northwest and Northern Virginia residents

How are Virginia's Colleges and Universities Doing?

Overall, do you think the colleges and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or a bad job in following areas?

Percent saying Good Job	S2018	S2017	2017	2016	2015
Producing graduates in scientific fields	75	78	75	72	72
Preparing students for the workforce needs of the future	61	60	64	70	65
Providing the skills useful in obtaining a job	66	63	67	68	69
Developing students' writing and communication skills	63	65	63	65	62
Preparing students to be engaged citizens [new in 2017]	61	60	61	---	---

Source: 2018 Summer Public Policy Poll, L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, VCU



Figure 2: Geographic regions referenced: Northern Virginia (light blue); Northwest (purple); West (green); South Central (yellow); Tidewater (pink)

were clustered together with 78 percent, 75 percent and 72 percent, respectively, saying colleges and universities do a good job at turning out STEM graduates.

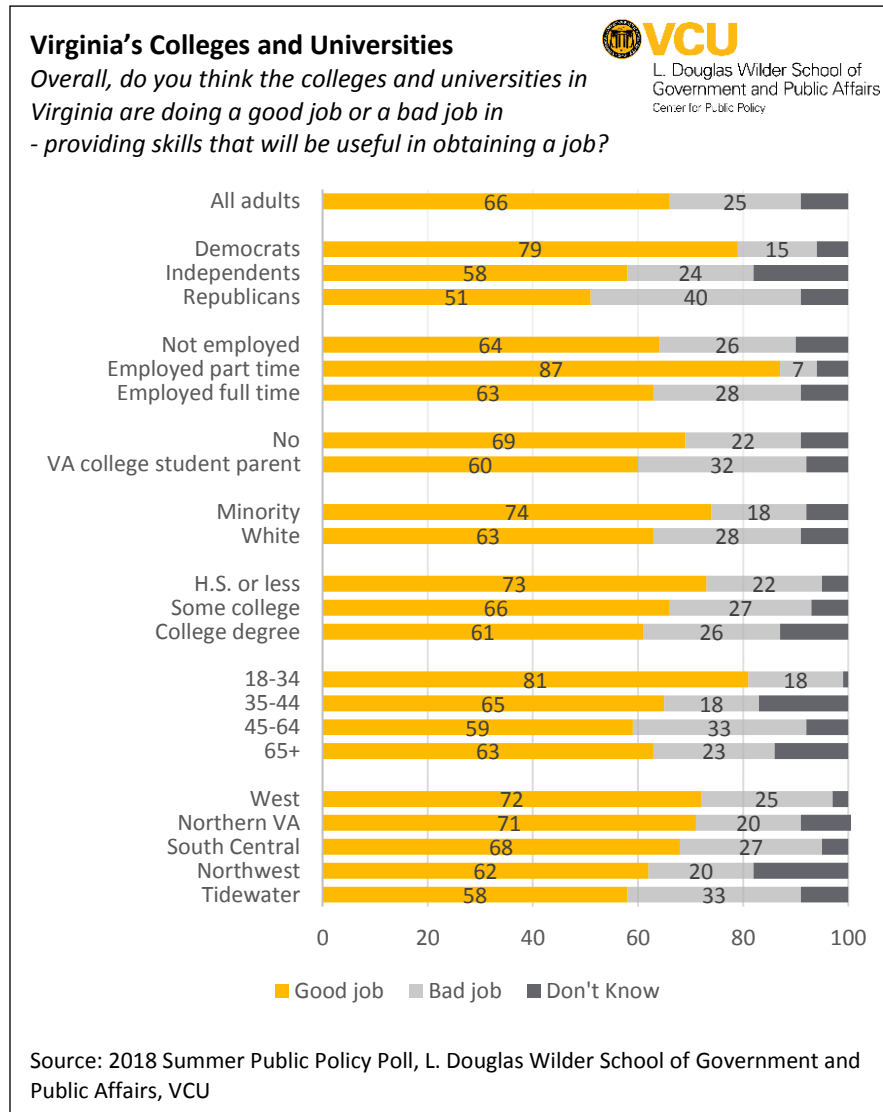
Several other demographic delineations showed significant differences when asked about producing STEM graduates. Women were more likely to say good job with 79 percent compared to 70 percent of men. Those employed part-time were more likely to say good job with 88 percent, compared to 73 percent of those employed full-time and those not employed (which also includes retirees). Party identification also mattered, with Democrats and Republicans are more likely to say good job (81 percent and 73 percent, respectively) compared to 56 percent of independents.

Providing skills that will be useful in obtaining a job

As noted above, 66 percent say Virginia’s colleges and universities do a good job at providing skills that will be useful in obtaining a job while 25 percent say the opposite.

The demographic categories of partisan identity, employment status, being the parent of a former or current Virginia college student, race, educational attainment, age and region all demonstrated significant differences.

In terms of partisan identity, Democrats were more likely to say colleges and universities are doing a good job (79 percent), than were independents (58 percent) or



Republicans (51 percent). Those who have had a child attend a Virginia institution were less likely (at 60 percent) to say the commonwealth's colleges and universities do a good job, compared to those who were not parents of Virginia college students. Those employed part-time were more likely to say good job (at 87 percent) compared to the 64 percent of those who are not employed and 63 percent of those employed full-time who said the same.

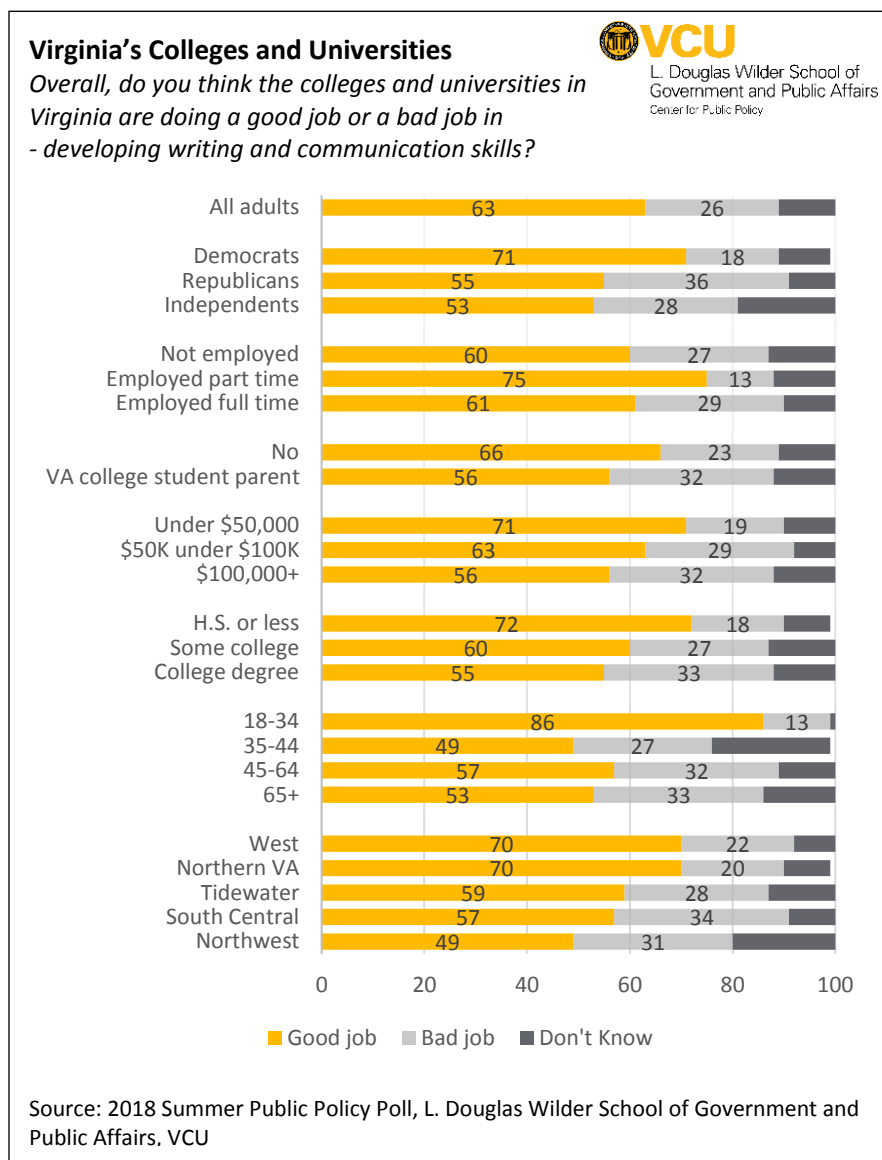
Minority respondents were more likely to say good job (at 74 percent) than were white respondents (63 percent of whom said the same.) Those with a high school degree or less were more likely (at 73 percent) to say good job, compared to the 66 percent of those with some college experience and 61 percent of college graduates who said the same. In terms of age, 18- to 34-year-olds (at 81 percent) were the most likely age group to say good job, compared to 59 percent of those ages 45 to 64, who were least likely to say the same.

Regionally, residents of the West and Northern Virginia regions are more likely to say good job (72 percent and 71 percent, respectively) compared to only 62 percent of those in the Northwest and 58 percent of those in the Tidewater region who said the same.

Developing writing and communication skills

A number of demographic categories are significant in shaping which groups say colleges and universities in Virginia are doing a good job at developing writing and communication skills among their students, while overall, 63 percent say good job and 26 percent say bad job.

Partisan identity again emerges as a significant factor with Democrats again more likely (71 percent) to say good job, compared to 55 percent of Republicans and 53 percent of independents. Those who have had a child attend a Virginia institution were less likely (at 56 percent) to say the commonwealth's colleges and universities do a good job, compared to those who were not. Those employed part-time were more likely to say good job (at 75 percent) compared to the 61 percent of those employed full-time and 60 percent of those who are not employed who said the same.



Both income and education showed higher income or attainment leading to respondents being less likely to say good job. Fifty-five percent of college graduates and 60 percent of those with some college experience said good job, while 72 percent of those with a high school diploma or less said the same. Similarly, more income meant respondents were less likely to say good job. Fifty-six percent of

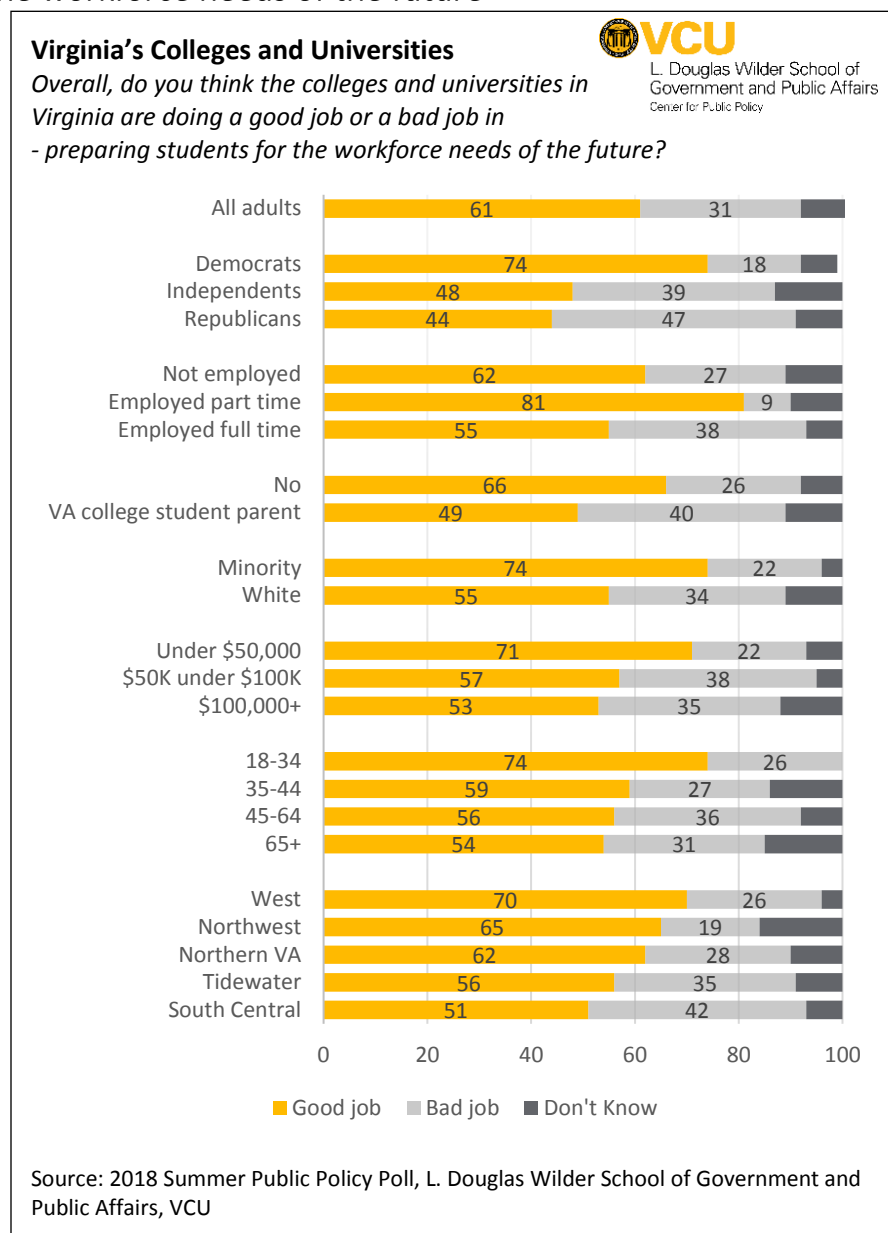
those making more than \$100,000 said good job while 71 percent of those making less than \$50,000 said the same.

Those ages 18 to 34 were most likely (at 86 percent) to say good job, while those ages 35 to 44 were least likely at 49 percent. Those in age groups 45 to 64 (at 57 percent) and 65 and older (at 53 percent) fell in between. Regionally, Northern Virginia and West region residents were more likely to say good job, with 70 percent in each case. Tidewater (at 59 percent) and South Central residents (at 57 percent) said the same, while Northwest residents were the least likely to say good job at 49 percent.

Preparing students for the workforce needs of the future

When it comes to preparing students for the workforce needs of the future, 61 percent overall said good job and 31 percent said bad job. Democrats were again more likely to say good job (at 74 percent) compared to only 44 percent of Republicans and 48 percent of independents. Persons employed part-time were more likely (with 81 percent) to say good job, compared with 55 percent of those employed full time and 62 percent of those not employed.

Conversely, college parents (at 49 percent)



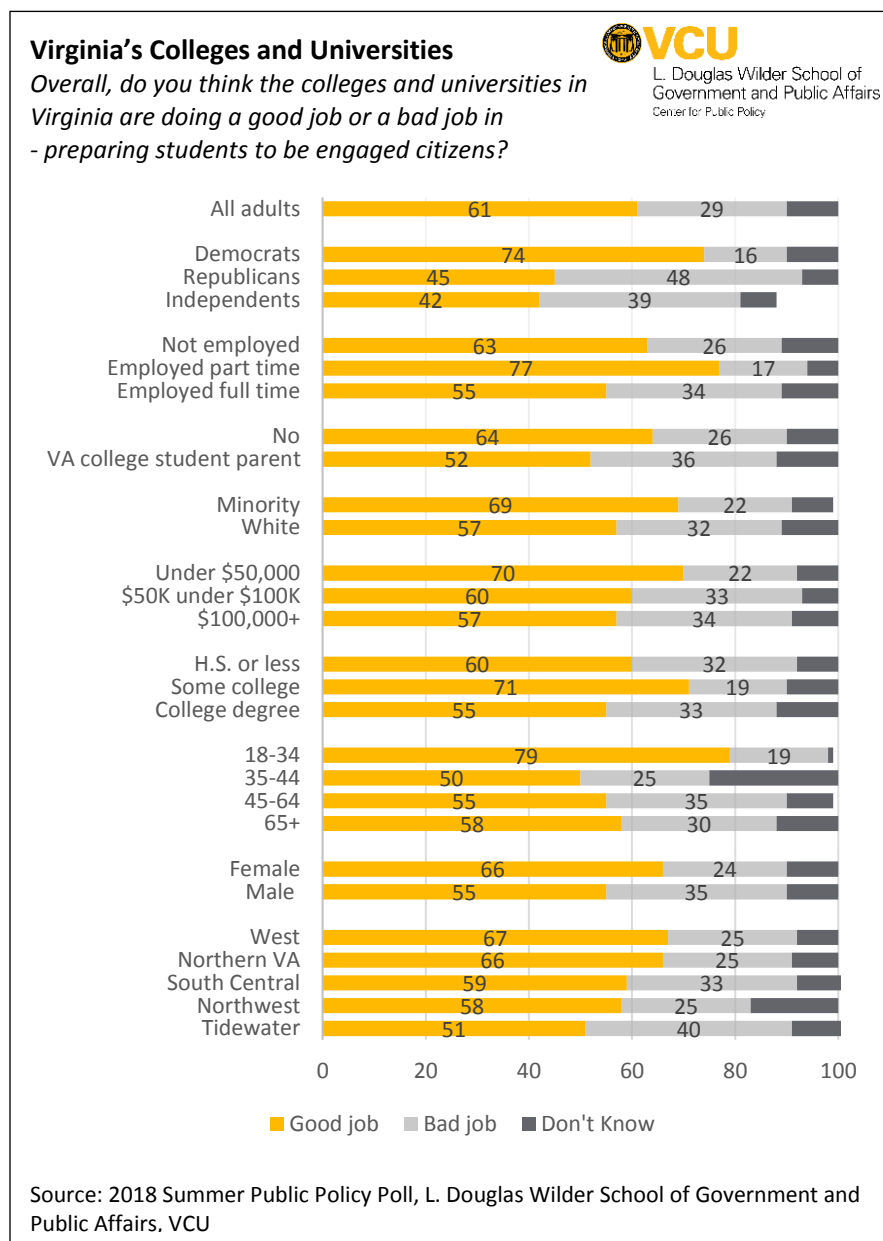
were less likely to say good job, compared to 66 percent of non-parents. White respondents were likewise less likely to say good job (at 55 percent) than were minority respondents.

In terms of income, those making less than \$50,000 were more likely (at 71 percent) to say good job versus those making more than \$100,000, of whom only 53 percent said good job. Those ages 18 to 34 were more likely to say good job (at 74 percent) versus those 35 and older (ages 35 to 44 had 59 percent say good job, while 56 percent of those ages 45 to 64 and 54 percent of those over 65 said the same.) Finally, regionally it was those in the West who were more likely (at 70 percent) to say good job, followed closely by residents of the Northwest (65 percent) and Northern Virginia regions (62 percent). Tidewater and South Central were less likely at 56 percent and 51 percent, respectively.

Preparing students to be engaged citizens

Finally, 61 percent of respondents said colleges and universities are doing a good job at preparing students to be engaged citizens, while 29 percent said those institutions were doing a bad job. In this case, every demographic category showed significant differences.

As was the case with every area assessed by respondents for higher education, Democrats were more likely (at 74 percent) than Republicans (at 45 percent) and independents (at 42



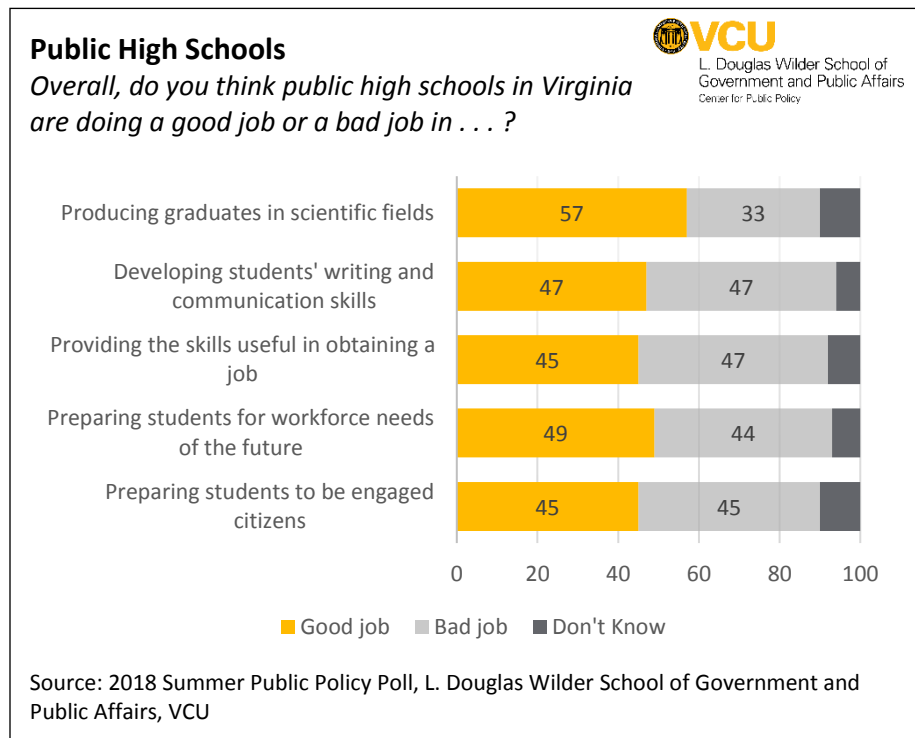
percent) to say they thought colleges and universities were doing a good job. Part-time employed persons were more likely to say good job with 77 percent versus 55 percent of full-time employees who said the same. Minorities (at 69 percent) were also more likely to say good job than were white respondents, where only 57 percent said the same.

Parents of college students were less likely to say good job (52 percent compared to 64 percent of others) while, by contrast, those with household income under \$50,000 were more likely to say good job (at 70 percent) compared to the 57 percent of respondents whose household income exceeded \$100,000. In regards to educational attainment, those with some college experience were more likely (at 71 percent) to say colleges and universities were doing a good job on preparing students to be engaged citizens, compared to only 55 percent of college graduates.

Those ages 18 to 34 were most likely to say good job (at 79 percent) versus those 35 and older (ages 35 to 44 had only 50 percent say good job), while the same was true of 55 percent of those ages 45 to 64 and 58 percent of those 65 and older said the same.) Finally, in regional terms, it was again those in the West and Northern Virginia who were more likely (at 67 and 66 percent, respectively) to say good job, followed by residents of South Central and Northwest (at 59 percent and 58 percent), while Tidewater respondents were least likely to say good job at 51 percent.

Public High Schools and Performance on Workforce Development

As noted previously, findings show that the public is nearly evenly split on whether high schools are doing a good job of preparing students for workforce skill sets. The exception where a majority exists is in producing science-related graduates – 57 percent think public high schools do a good job in



this area. As with estimations of college and university performance, the demographic categories of partisan identification and region show significant differences for each of the workforce goals. The chart below provides insight into the regional impact. With the exception of the category of producing graduates in scientific fields, the residents of the South Central show the most negative evaluation of high schools, while Northern Virginia and the West region consistently show the most positive evaluation.

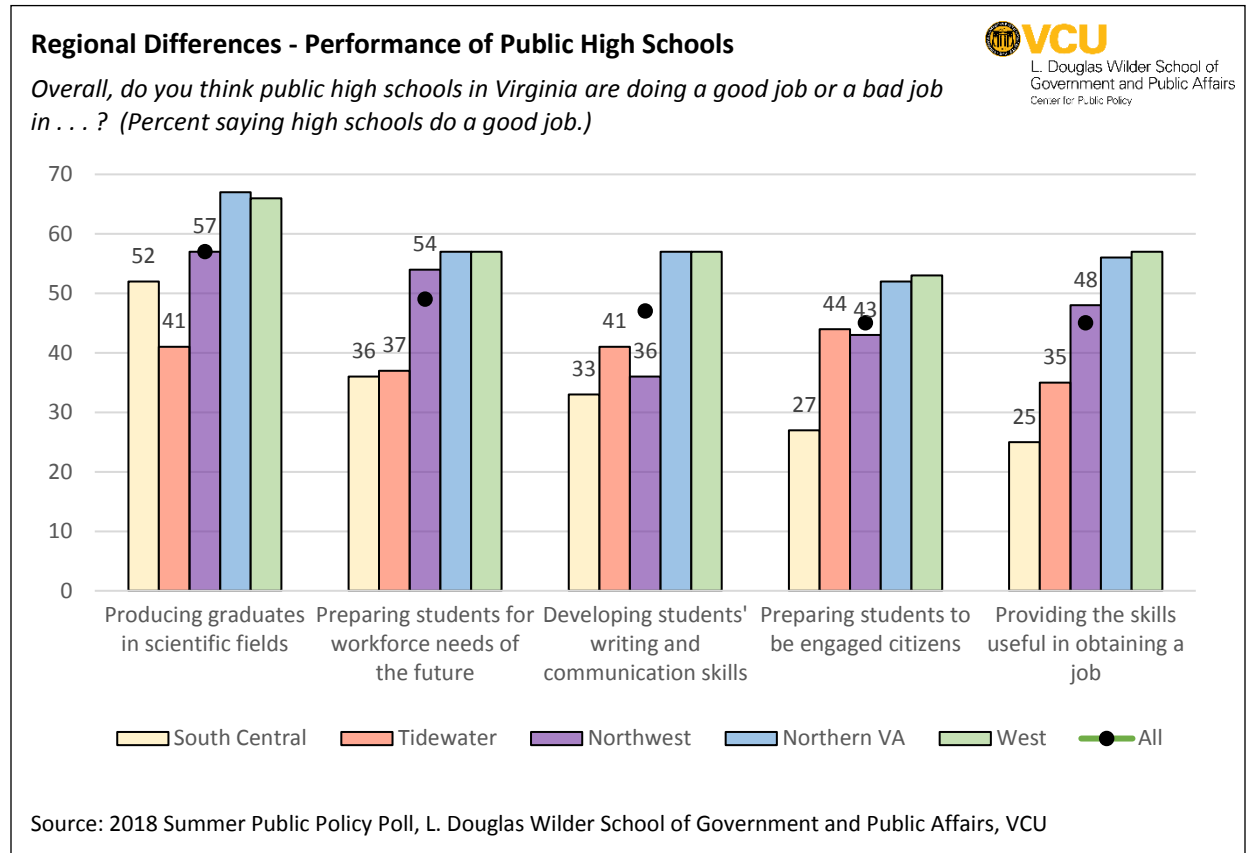


Figure 1: Geographic regions referenced: Northern Virginia (light blue); Northwest (purple); West (green); South Central (yellow); Tidewater (pink)

Methodology and Sample Information

VCU Wilder School 2018 Summer Public Policy Poll

SUMMARY

The Summer 2018 Public Policy Poll, conducted by the Office of Public Policy Outreach at Virginia Commonwealth University's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, obtained telephone interviews among 802 respondents. The telephone surveys were conducted with respondents 18+ years old, living across five areas/regions in Virginia. Issues and Answers Network, Inc. conducted the surveys between July 10 and July 30, 2018. Interviews were conducted with 400 landline (49.9%) and 402 cell (50.1%) phone with soft quotas implemented by region and gender. The average interview length was 15 minutes and conducted in English.

As with the previous wave, the same contact procedures were used for the landline and cell samples. For the landline sample, the program was set up to ask for the youngest adult male/female currently at home. If the specific gender was not available at the time of the call, the interviewer would ask to speak with the youngest male/female currently at home. For the cell phone sample, interviews were conducted with the person answering the phone. The program was set up to verify the respondent was an adult and in a safe place to take the survey. Both sample sources verified they were residents of Virginia.

The data was weighted using an iterative raking technique in WinCross that uses iterative proportional fitting techniques. This method avoids negative weights. Respondents were weighted on several demographics to match a previous wave of this study data and to maintain levels of non-response for each question. The previous study was weighted to 2010 U.S. Census data. The demographics weighted on were:

1. Age
2. Gender
3. Race/Hispanic identity
4. Education
5. Region
6. Population Density
7. HH Telephone Use

The survey's margin of error is +/- 3.49 percentage points, meaning that we are 95 percent confident that the actual result lies within 3.49 percentage points (in either direction) of the result our sample produced.

Topline

2018 Summer Wilder School Public Policy Poll

Conducted by the Center for Public Policy,

L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, VCU

State-wide survey of Virginians¹

July 10-30, 2018

Number of Respondents: 802

QUESTIONS 1 THRU 10 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

QUESTION 11 HELD FOR SEPARATE RELEASE

QUESTION 12 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

QUESTION 13 HELD FOR SEPARATE RELEASE

Q14. Now, thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat DISagree, or strongly disagree? (First,/Next,) [INSERT ITEMS; RANDOMIZE].

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
	%	%	%	%	%
a. Two-year community colleges are worth the cost.	52	28	10	8	2
b. Four-year public colleges or universities are worth the cost.	28	38	16	16	3
c. Four-year private colleges or universities are worth the cost.	16	33	24	24	3

¹ Percentages may add to 99 or 101 due to rounding. Cells that are blank contain no cases. Cells with a zero percent entry contain cases, but the percentage is less than 0.5%.

Now, thinking about colleges and universities in Virginia...

Q15. Overall do you think that colleges and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job...

	Good job %	Bad job %	Don't know %
a. In providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job	66	25	9
2017 (Summer)	63	29	8
16-17	67	26	7
15-16	68	22	10
14-15	69	22	10
13-14	72	18	10
12-13	65	18	16
11-12	68	19	13
b. In developing students' writing and communication skills	63	26	11
2017 (Summer)	65	28	7
16-17	63	29	8
15-16	65	24	12
14-15	62	28	11
13-14	63	25	12
12-13	59	24	17
11-12	57	25	18
c. In producing graduates in scientific fields, such as engineering, math and technology	75	16	10
2017 (Summer)	78	14	9
16-17	75	16	10
15-16	72	16	12
14-15	72	16	12
13-14	72	12	16
12-13	67	12	20
11-12	68	12	21
d. In preparing students for the workforce needs of the future	61	31	9
2017 (Summer)	60	33	8
16-17	64	27	9
15-16	70	20	10
14-15	65	26	9
13-14	69	21	11
12-13	62	21	16
11-12	66	20	14
e. In preparing students to be engaged citizens ²	61	29	10
2017 (Summer)	60	34	6
16-17	61	32	8

² New in 2016-17.

Q16 I'm going to ask whether you feel that PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job in different areas. Overall, do you think public high schools in Virginia are doing a good job or a bad job . . . ?

	Good job %	Bad job %	Don't know %
a. In providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job	45	47	8
b. In developing students' writing and communication skills	47	47	6
c. In producing graduates in scientific fields, such as engineering, math and technology	57	33	10
d. In preparing students for the workforce needs of the future	49	44	7
e. In preparing students to be engaged citizens ³	45	45	10

NO QUESTION 17-19

QUESTIONS 20 THROUGH 22 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

³ New in 2016-17.

Tables for Subgroup Analysis

Based on All Respondents

		Q14a. Now, thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements – Two-year community colleges are worth the cost.					
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		52%	28%	10%	8%	2%	802
VA Region	Northwest	63%	25%	4%	8%	1%	111
	Northern VA	58%	25%	13%	2%	2%	237
	West	50%	29%	6%	15%	1%	136
	South Central	42%	36%	16%	2%	4%	137
	Tidewater	49%	29%	6%	16%	1%	181
Gender	Men	49%	30%	13%	6%	1%	388
	Women	56%	27%	6%	10%	2%	414
Age	18-34	39%	37%	18%	6%	0%	61
	35-44	60%	25%	4%	10%	1%	71
	45-64	51%	26%	11%	10%	3%	338
	65 and older	64%	24%	3%	6%	3%	284
Education	H.S. or less	40%	26%	20%	13%	1%	135
	Some college	60%	25%	4%	9%	2%	184
	College grad or more	59%	33%	4%	2%	2%	470
Family Income	Under \$50,000	45%	29%	8%	16%	3%	180
	50K to under \$100,000	57%	19%	19%	5%	0%	213
	\$100,000 or more	55%	34%	5%	4%	1%	250
Race	White	51%	34%	7%	6%	2%	598
	Minority	51%	19%	15%	13%	2%	149
Employment	Full-time	51%	27%	14%	6%	2%	344
	Part-time	51%	37%	0%	12%	0%	84
	Not Employed	56%	26%	6%	9%	2%	363
Party identification	Democrat	51%	30%	9%	8%	1%	370
	Republican	54%	26%	12%	6%	3%	324
	Independent	49%	33%	3%	15%	0%	81

Q14b. Now, thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements –
Four-year public colleges or universities are worth the cost.

		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		28%	38%	16%	16%	3%	802
VA Region	Northwest	30%	38%	14%	17%	1%	111
	Northern VA	29%	44%	12%	12%	2%	237
	West	25%	33%	23%	15%	4%	136
	South Central	31%	40%	15%	10%	4%	137
	Tidewater	26%	31%	16%	24%	3%	181
Gender	Men	28%	37%	17%	14%	4%	388
	Women	28%	38%	15%	17%	2%	414
Age	18-34	23%	48%	21%	7%	2%	61
	35-44	30%	35%	16%	16%	2%	71
	45-64	24%	37%	15%	21%	3%	338
	65 and older	39%	27%	12%	20%	3%	284
Education	H.S. or less	28%	32%	19%	19%	2%	135
	Some college	28%	37%	16%	16%	3%	184
	College grad or more	29%	44%	12%	12%	3%	470
Family Income	Under \$50,000	31%	32%	18%	15%	4%	180
	50K to under \$100,000	30%	45%	10%	14%	1%	213
	\$100,000 or more	25%	39%	17%	17%	2%	250
Race	White	26%	38%	17%	16%	3%	598
	Minority	32%	39%	11%	16%	2%	149
Employment	Full-time	27%	40%	14%	17%	2%	344
	Part-time	26%	51%	21%	2%	0%	84
	Not Employed	32%	28%	16%	20%	4%	363
Party identification	Democrat	31%	36%	18%	12%	2%	370
	Republican	23%	41%	14%	19%	3%	324
	Independent	29%	36%	9%	22%	4%	81

Q14c. Now, thinking about students and their future, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements –
Four-year private colleges or universities are worth the cost.

		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		16%	33%	24%	24%	3%	802
VA Region	Northwest	13%	24%	30%	29%	4%	111
	Northern VA	17%	37%	26%	18%	2%	237
	West	23%	22%	25%	29%	2%	136
	South Central	8%	55%	16%	18%	3%	137
	Tidewater	18%	25%	22%	31%	5%	181
Gender	Men	18%	34%	23%	22%	3%	388
	Women	14%	33%	24%	26%	3%	414
Age	18-34	16%	45%	23%	16%	0%	61
	35-44	17%	29%	25%	27%	2%	71
	45-64	10%	26%	30%	32%	3%	338
	65 and older	26%	29%	16%	23%	6%	284
Education	H.S. or less	18%	28%	25%	26%	2%	135
	Some college	17%	32%	20%	27%	3%	184
	College grad or more	13%	38%	26%	21%	3%	470
Family Income	Under \$50,000	19%	30%	25%	24%	2%	180
	50K to under \$100,000	13%	34%	25%	24%	4%	213
	\$100,000 or more	11%	35%	26%	27%	1%	250
Race	White	12%	33%	26%	26%	3%	598
	Minority	23%	33%	20%	22%	2%	149
Employment	Full-time	12%	34%	26%	26%	2%	344
	Part-time	18%	41%	29%	12%	1%	84
	Not Employed	21%	27%	19%	27%	5%	363
Party identification	Democrat	18%	33%	26%	20%	3%	370
	Republican	11%	34%	24%	28%	2%	324
	Independent	16%	31%	19%	32%	2%	81

Q15a. Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in providing skills that will be useful in obtaining a job?

		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		66%	25%	9%	802
VA Region	Northwest	62%	20%	18%	111
	Northern VA	71%	20%	10%	237
	West	72%	25%	3%	136
	South Central	68%	27%	5%	137
	Tidewater	58%	33%	9%	181
Gender	Men	67%	24%	9%	388
	Women	66%	26%	8%	414
Age	18-34	81%	18%	1%	61
	35-44	65%	18%	17%	71
	45-64	59%	33%	8%	338
	65 and older	63%	23%	14%	284
Education	H.S. or less	73%	22%	5%	135
	Some college	66%	27%	7%	184
	College grad or more	61%	26%	13%	470
Family Income	Under \$50,000	69%	21%	9%	180
	50K to under \$100,000	64%	29%	8%	213
	\$100,000 or more	64%	29%	7%	250
Race	White	63%	28%	9%	598
	Minority	74%	18%	8%	149
Parent of VA college student	Yes	60%	32%	8%	378
	No	69%	22%	9%	424
Employment status	Employed full time	63%	28%	9%	344
	Employed part time	87%	7%	6%	84
	Not employed	64%	26%	10%	363
Party identification	Democrat	79%	15%	6%	370
	Republican	51%	40%	9%	324
	Independent	58%	24%	18%	81

		Q15b.Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in developing students' writing and communication skills?			
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		63%	26%	11%	802
VA Region	Northwest	49%	31%	20%	111
	Northern VA	70%	20%	9%	237
	West	70%	22%	8%	136
	South Central	57%	34%	9%	137
	Tidewater	59%	28%	13%	181
Gender	Men	61%	26%	13%	388
	Women	65%	26%	9%	414
Age	18-34	86%	13%	1%	61
	35-44	49%	27%	23%	71
	45-64	57%	32%	11%	338
	65 and older	53%	33%	14%	284
Education	H.S. or less	72%	18%	9%	135
	Some college	60%	27%	13%	184
	College grad or more	55%	33%	12%	470
Family Income	Under \$50,000	71%	19%	10%	180
	50K to under \$100,000	63%	29%	8%	213
	\$100,000 or more	56%	32%	12%	250
Race	White	61%	28%	11%	598
	Minority	66%	24%	10%	149
Parent of VA college student	Yes	56%	32%	12%	378
	No	66%	23%	11%	424
Employment status	Employed full time	61%	29%	10%	344
	Employed part time	75%	13%	12%	84
	Not employed	60%	27%	13%	363
Party identification	Democrat	71%	18%	10%	370
	Republican	55%	36%	9%	324
	Independent	53%	28%	19%	81

Q15c. Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in producing graduates in scientific fields, such as engineering, math and technology?

		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		75%	16%	10%	802
VA Region	Northwest	75%	9%	16%	111
	Northern VA	72%	16%	13%	237
	West	91%	6%	3%	136
	South Central	78%	15%	7%	137
	Tidewater	63%	27%	10%	181
Gender	Men	70%	20%	10%	388
	Women	79%	12%	9%	414
Age	18-34	94%	5%	2%	61
	35-44	65%	23%	12%	71
	45-64	67%	20%	13%	338
	65 and older	75%	15%	10%	284
Education	H.S. or less	78%	15%	7%	135
	Some college	71%	16%	13%	184
	College grad or more	75%	15%	10%	470
Family Income	Under \$50,000	73%	20%	7%	180
	50K to under \$100,000	78%	14%	8%	213
	\$100,000 or more	73%	16%	10%	250
Race	White	77%	12%	11%	598
	Minority	72%	23%	5%	149
Parent of VA college student	Yes	71%	18%	11%	378
	No	76%	14%	9%	424
Employment status	Employed full time	73%	18%	9%	344
	Employed part time	88%	4%	7%	84
	Not employed	73%	14%	12%	363
Party identification	Democrat	81%	12%	7%	370
	Republican	73%	15%	12%	324
	Independent	56%	29%	15%	81

Q15d. Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia
are doing a good job or bad job... in preparing students for the
workforce needs of the future?

		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		61%	31%	9%	802
VA Region	Northwest	65%	19%	16%	111
	Northern VA	62%	28%	10%	237
	West	70%	26%	4%	136
	South Central	51%	42%	7%	137
	Tidewater	56%	35%	9%	181
Gender	Men	57%	33%	10%	388
	Women	64%	28%	8%	414
Age	18-34	74%	26%	0%	61
	35-44	59%	27%	14%	71
	45-64	56%	36%	8%	338
	65 and older	54%	31%	15%	284
Education	H.S. or less	61%	32%	6%	135
	Some college	64%	27%	9%	184
	College grad or more	58%	31%	11%	470
Family Income	Under \$50,000	71%	22%	7%	180
	50K to under \$100,000	57%	38%	5%	213
	\$100,000 or more	53%	35%	12%	250
Race	White	55%	34%	11%	598
	Minority	74%	22%	4%	149
Parent of VA college student	Yes	49%	40%	11%	378
	No	66%	26%	8%	424
Employment status	Employed full time	55%	38%	7%	344
	Employed part time	81%	9%	10%	84
	Not employed	62%	27%	11%	363
Party identification	Democrat	74%	18%	7%	370
	Republican	44%	47%	9%	324
	Independent	48%	39%	13%	81

Q15e. Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in preparing students to be engaged citizens?

		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		61%	29%	10%	802
VA Region	Northwest	58%	25%	17%	111
	Northern VA	66%	25%	9%	237
	West	67%	25%	8%	136
	South Central	59%	33%	9%	137
	Tidewater	51%	40%	10%	181
Gender	Men	55%	35%	10%	388
	Women	66%	24%	10%	414
Age	18-34	79%	19%	1%	61
	35-44	50%	25%	25%	71
	45-64	55%	35%	9%	338
	65 and older	58%	30%	12%	284
Education	H.S. or less	60%	32%	8%	135
	Some college	71%	19%	10%	184
	College grad or more	55%	33%	12%	470
Family Income	Under \$50,000	70%	22%	8%	180
	50K to under \$100,000	60%	33%	7%	213
	\$100,000 or more	57%	34%	9%	250
Race	White	57%	32%	11%	598
	Minority	69%	22%	8%	149
Parent of VA college student	Yes	52%	36%	12%	378
	No	64%	26%	10%	424
Employment status	Employed full time	55%	34%	11%	344
	Employed part time	77%	17%	6%	84
	Not employed	63%	26%	11%	363
Party identification	Democrat	74%	16%	10%	370
	Republican	45%	48%	7%	324
	Independent	42%	39%	19%	81

Q16a. Overall do you think the public high schools in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in providing skills that will be useful in obtaining a job?

		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		45%	47%	8%	802
VA Region	Northwest	48%	38%	13%	111
	Northern VA	56%	35%	9%	237
	West	57%	39%	4%	136
	South Central	25%	62%	13%	137
	Tidewater	35%	61%	4%	181
Gender	Men	45%	45%	10%	388
	Women	45%	48%	7%	414
Age	18-34	53%	45%	1%	61
	35-44	44%	38%	18%	71
	45-64	40%	55%	6%	338
	65 and older	51%	36%	12%	284
Education	H.S. or less	52%	45%	3%	135
	Some college	43%	51%	6%	184
	College grad or more	40%	46%	14%	470
Family Income	Under \$50,000	51%	47%	2%	180
	50K to under \$100,000	44%	51%	5%	213
	\$100,000 or more	40%	47%	13%	250
Race	White	45%	48%	7%	598
	Minority	48%	43%	9%	149
Parent of public school student?	Yes	41%	49%	10%	139
	No	46%	46%	8%	663
Employment status	Employed full time	43%	50%	6%	344
	Employed part time	54%	40%	6%	84
	Not employed	45%	44%	11%	363
Party identification	Democrat	53%	38%	9%	370
	Republican	33%	63%	4%	324
	Independent	50%	34%	16%	81

		Q16b.Overall do you think the public high schools in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in developing students' writing and communication skills?			
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		47%	47%	6%	802
VA Region	Northwest	36%	56%	8%	111
	Northern VA	57%	36%	7%	237
	West	57%	38%	5%	136
	South Central	33%	62%	5%	137
	Tidewater	41%	54%	5%	181
Gender	Men	47%	47%	6%	388
	Women	46%	47%	6%	414
Age	18-34	70%	27%	3%	61
	35-44	34%	56%	10%	71
	45-64	38%	57%	5%	338
	65 and older	44%	48%	9%	284
Education	H.S. or less	56%	43%	2%	135
	Some college	41%	53%	7%	184
	College grad or more	41%	49%	10%	470
Family Income	Under \$50,000	58%	39%	3%	180
	50K to under \$100,000	42%	55%	3%	213
	\$100,000 or more	34%	55%	10%	250
Race	White	46%	47%	7%	598
	Minority	49%	48%	3%	149
Parent of public school student?	Yes	49%	45%	5%	139
	No	46%	48%	6%	663
Employment status	Employed full time	44%	52%	4%	344
	Employed part time	65%	29%	6%	84
	Not employed	43%	48%	9%	363
Party identification	Democrat	57%	37%	6%	370
	Republican	34%	62%	4%	324
	Independent	44%	48%	8%	81

Q16c. Overall do you think the public high schools in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in producing graduates in scientific fields, such as engineering, math and technology?

		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		57%	33%	10%	802
VA Region	Northwest	57%	36%	7%	111
	Northern VA	67%	26%	7%	237
	West	66%	25%	10%	136
	South Central	52%	37%	11%	137
	Tidewater	41%	46%	13%	181
Gender	Men	58%	32%	10%	388
	Women	57%	34%	9%	414
Age	18-34	75%	19%	6%	61
	35-44	51%	33%	16%	71
	45-64	48%	43%	9%	338
	65 and older	57%	32%	11%	284
Education	H.S. or less	67%	29%	4%	135
	Some college	48%	40%	12%	184
	College grad or more	55%	31%	14%	470
Family Income	Under \$50,000	53%	38%	9%	180
	50K to under \$100,000	62%	31%	6%	213
	\$100,000 or more	54%	34%	11%	250
Race	White	58%	31%	11%	598
	Minority	57%	37%	6%	149
Parent of public school student?	Yes	63%	28%	10%	139
	No	56%	35%	10%	663
Employment status	Employed full time	56%	36%	7%	344
	Employed part time	76%	16%	8%	84
	Not employed	51%	35%	14%	363
Party identification	Democrat	63%	28%	9%	370
	Republican	53%	39%	9%	324
	Independent	46%	38%	16%	81

Q16d. Overall do you think the public high schools in Virginia are
doing a good job or bad job... in preparing students for the
workforce needs of the future?

		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		49%	44%	7%	802
VA Region	Northwest	54%	38%	8%	111
	Northern VA	57%	36%	7%	237
	West	57%	39%	4%	136
	South Central	36%	51%	13%	137
	Tidewater	37%	57%	5%	181
Gender	Men	45%	46%	8%	388
	Women	52%	41%	7%	414
Age	18-34	67%	33%	1%	61
	35-44	46%	40%	13%	71
	45-64	39%	55%	6%	338
	65 and older	52%	36%	12%	284
Education	H.S. or less	55%	41%	4%	135
	Some college	47%	46%	7%	184
	College grad or more	45%	45%	10%	470
Family Income	Under \$50,000	61%	37%	2%	180
	50K to under \$100,000	45%	51%	4%	213
	\$100,000 or more	41%	49%	11%	250
Race	White	48%	45%	7%	598
	Minority	52%	42%	7%	149
Parent of public school student?	Yes	48%	42%	10%	139
	No	49%	44%	7%	663
Employment status	Employed full time	45%	50%	5%	344
	Employed part time	68%	25%	7%	84
	Not employed	47%	42%	10%	363
Party identification	Democrat	62%	31%	7%	370
	Republican	34%	61%	6%	324
	Independent	32%	53%	14%	81

Q16e. Overall do you think the public high schools in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in preparing students to be engaged citizens?

		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		45%	45%	10%	802
VA Region	Northwest	43%	37%	21%	111
	Northern VA	52%	37%	12%	237
	West	53%	37%	9%	136
	South Central	27%	67%	5%	137
	Tidewater	44%	50%	7%	181
Gender	Men	47%	41%	12%	388
	Women	43%	48%	9%	414
Age	18-34	56%	38%	6%	61
	35-44	40%	43%	17%	71
	45-64	37%	55%	8%	338
	65 and older	52%	34%	14%	284
Education	H.S. or less	54%	42%	4%	135
	Some college	42%	47%	12%	184
	College grad or more	39%	46%	15%	470
Family Income	Under \$50,000	48%	47%	5%	180
	50K to under \$100,000	43%	49%	8%	213
	\$100,000 or more	40%	44%	16%	250
Race	White	43%	49%	8%	598
	Minority	51%	36%	13%	149
Parent of public school student?	Yes	42%	50%	9%	139
	No	46%	44%	11%	663
Employment status	Employed full time	42%	50%	8%	344
	Employed part time	57%	30%	13%	84
	Not employed	45%	42%	13%	363
Party identification	Democrat	55%	35%	10%	370
	Republican	33%	59%	9%	324
	Independent	41%	47%	12%	81