

Executive Summary **Spooner Area School District Community Survey**

Spooner Area School District residents are generally pleased with their schools, the people who run them, and the quality of instruction. They also understand that something needs to be done to enhance school district facilities.

This *Executive Summary* presents an overview of a community telephone survey conducted in the Spooner Area School District October 3-6, 2005.

Using an A,B,C,D,F grading scale, 51 percent of respondents give the Spooner Area School District a grade of A or B. This is three percentage points higher than the grade given schools in Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup's annual national sampling of Americans.

Respondents were also asked to grade various programs and services provided by the school district. Teachers receive the highest percentage of A/B grades (51%) while the "physical condition of Spooner High School" receive the lowest percentage of A/B grades (17%).

Over one-half of Spooner Area School District residents who do not have school-age children (52%) say they have not been in a Spooner school during the past twelve months. When these "nonparents" do go to a school, the primary reason is to attend a sporting event.

On the other hand, 92 percent of parents say they have been inside a Spooner school during the past twelve months. Parents tend to go to school to visit their child's classroom or to attend a parent meeting or open house program.

Seventy-three percent of Spooner Area School District residents say they are "very well informed" or "somewhat well informed" about what is happening in the schools. Thirty percent of nonparents and 27 percent of parents say they are "not too well informed."

The number one source of school information for both parents and nonparents is *The Spooner Advocate* (26% and 40%, respectively). Surprisingly, school publications and written communications from classroom teachers rank near the bottom of school information sources.

Asked what types of school information interests them, both parents and nonparents mention "everything" most frequently (45% and 26%, respectively). Interestingly, nonparents appear to be slightly more interested than nonparents in "information about the curriculum / what students are learning."

Less than one-half of respondents (46%) favor the Spooner Area School District offering more before- and after-school programming for children. However, 54 percent of respondents say the Spooner Area School District should offer more adult and community education programs.

Only six percent of Spooner Area School District residents say they do not believe Spooner's school facilities are in need of repairs or replacement. Presented with facility options, 56 percent of survey respondents say the District should build a new high school and renovate the middle school. Seventy-one percent of parent respondents and 50 percent of nonparent respondents favor this idea.

Asked if the District should add a multi-purpose room to the elementary school, just over one-third of respondents (38%) say this is a good idea.

In regard to last November's failed school referendum, most respondents say the referendum failed because 'taxes were too high and people couldn't afford it' (42%) or "the proposal "cost too much, was too expensive, or too elaborate" (22%).

If the Spooner Area School District runs short of money to operate the schools, one-third of survey respondents say the District should seek voter approval of a referendum. Over one-half of respondents (53%) say the District should seek a referendum and make program cuts. Seventy-nine percent of parent respondents and 62 percent of nonparent respondents say they would support a referendum to fund school operations, if the need for more funding existed.

When asked to rank the importance of several Spooner Area School District programs and services, over one-half give "very important" ratings to "teaching students to use computers" (61%), "guidance and counseling services" (57%), "vocational-technical education" (52%), and "programs for students who are at-risk" (52%). "Sports" and "after-school activities" rank last with "very important" ratings of 29 percent and 26 percent, respectively.

When asked to identify "the single best thing" about the Spooner Area School District, respondents say "teachers" (18%) or "all staff, including teachers" (17%).

If respondents could set one priority for the Spooner Area School District they would first "build a new high school" (21%) and, second, "improve the curriculum" (20%).

The community survey was conducted on behalf of the Spooner Area School District by Banach, Banach & Cassidy, an independent survey research firm. The survey of 500 randomly selected Spooner Area School District residents has a 4.2 percent margin of error.



Report of Findings **Spooner Area School District Community Survey**

This report presents findings of a community telephone survey conducted in the Spooner Area School District (SASD) October 3-6, 2005.

Five hundred randomly selected SASD residents ages 18 and older were interviewed by professional, impartial interviewers. The average interview length was ten minutes and 28 seconds. Respondents were selected using a random digit dialing methodology.

The questionnaire was developed by the independent research firm Banach, Banach & Cassidy (BB&C) following input from representatives of the Spooner Area School District. The 50-question instrument assessed opinions on a wide range of topics, from perceptions of educational quality to support for facility improvements to perceptions of the importance of various SASD programs and services.

The survey has a 95% level of confidence with a plus/minus 4.2% sampling error at the 50:50 split.

Grading the Spooner Area School District

Respondents were asked to use the traditional A,B,C,D, F-scale to grade the Spooner Area School District, all things considered. Fifty-one percent of respondents give the SASD a grade of A or B. As a matter of comparison, when respondents to the most recent (the 37th annual) *Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools* were asked to grade the schools in their community, 48 percent of the respondents gave the nation's public schools a grade of A or B.

As was the case in the national sampling, SASD parents award the schools a slightly higher grade (55% A or B) than do SASD nonparents* (49% A or B).

* "Nonparent" is defined as a respondent without school-age children.

QUESTION 5:

Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D, and FAIL to show how well they are doing in school. Suppose the Spooner School District was being graded in the same way. All things considered, what grade would you give the Spooner School District, an A, B, C, D, or FAIL?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
A	59 12%	16 12%	43 12%
B	193 39%	58 43%	134 37%
C	131 26%	48 36%	83 23%
D	35 7%	7 5%	28 8%
F	8 2%	- -	8 2%
CAN'T SAY	74 15%	6 4%	68 19%

Grading people, programs, and other aspects of the SASD

Respondents were asked to grade ten aspects of the SASD, ranging from teachers, administrators, and the school board to the physical condition of various facilities.

Sixty-four percent of respondents give “the quality of Spooner teachers” a grade of A or B. When asked to grade the quality of “principals and administrators,” 56 percent of respondents assign an A/B grade. The school boards quality grade is 42 percent A or B.

Over one-half of the respondents (52%) give “opportunities for citizen involvement in the schools” a grade of A or B, while about two of every five respondents (41%) give an A/B grade to “the quality of the Spooner School District’s relationship with the community.”

More than one-half of the respondents (55%) give an A/B grade to their “knowledge or understanding of the educational program.” About the same percentage (56%) give an A/B grade to the quality of the District’s curriculum, and just under one-half (49%) assign an A/B grade to the District’s reputation.

Respondents were asked to grade the physical condition of the elementary, middle, and high school. Those facilities are assigned grades of 66 percent A/B , 36 percent A/B , and 17 percent A/B, respectively.

All grading questions are displayed below.

QUESTION 6:

Please use A, B, C, D, and FAIL to grade each statement.

THE QUALITY OF SPOONER TEACHERS... WHAT GRADE WOULD YOU GIVE SPOONER TEACHERS, AN A, B, C, D, OR FAIL?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
A	129 26%	41 30%	87 24%
B	191 38%	59 44%	132 36%
C	62 12%	18 13%	44 12%
D	15 3%	7 5%	8 2%
F	3 1%	- -	3 1%
CAN'T SAY	100 20%	10 7%	90 25%

QUESTION 7:

Please use A, B, C, D, and FAIL to grade each statement.

THE QUALITY OF THE SPOONER SCHOOL BOARD

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
A	48 10%	12 9%	36 10%
B	162 32%	48 36%	113 31%
C	138 28%	38 28%	100 27%
D	36 7%	9 7%	27 7%
F	17 3%	2 1%	15 4%
CAN'T SAY	99 20%	26 19%	73 20%

QUESTION 8:

Please use A, B, C, D, and FAIL to grade each statement.

THE QUALITY OF SPOONER'S PRINCIPALS AND ADMINISTRATORS

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
A	83 17%	27 20%	56 15%
B	193 39%	63 47%	129 35%
C	74 15%	25 19%	49 13%
D	30 6%	7 5%	23 6%
F	9 2%	1 1%	8 2%
CAN'T SAY	111 22%	12 9%	99 27%

QUESTION 9:

Please use A, B, C, D, and FAIL to grade each statement.

THE QUALITY OF THE SPOONER SCHOOL DISTRICT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
A	65 13%	16 12%	49 13%
B	140 28%	46 34%	94 26%
C	165 33%	51 38%	113 31%
D	61 12%	13 10%	48 13%
F	31 6%	3 2%	28 8%
CAN'T SAY	38 8%	6 4%	32 9%

QUESTION 10:

Please use A, B, C, D, and FAIL to grade each statement.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCHOOLS

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
A	88 18%	29 21%	59 16%
B	170 34%	49 36%	120 33%
C	124 25%	39 29%	85 23%
D	37 7%	6 4%	31 9%
F	10 2%	- -	10 3%
CAN'T SAY	71 14%	12 9%	59 16%

QUESTION 11:

Please use A, B, C, D, and FAIL to grade each statement.

THE QUALITY OF THE SPOONER SCHOOL DISTRICT'S CURRICULUM

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
A	68 14%	14 10%	54 15%
B	211 42%	73 54%	138 38%
C	85 17%	29 21%	56 15%
D	24 5%	10 7%	14 4%
F	10 2%	5 4%	5 1%
CAN'T SAY	102 20%	4 3%	97 27%

QUESTION 12:

Please use A, B, C, D, and FAIL to grade each statement.

YOUR KNOWLEDGE OR UNDERSTANDING OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
A	92 18%	31 23%	61 17%
B	187 37%	68 50%	119 33%
C	109 22%	25 19%	83 23%
D	23 5%	6 4%	17 5%
F	10 2%	- -	10 3%
CAN'T SAY	79 16%	5 4%	74 20%

QUESTION 13:

Please use A, B, C, D, and FAIL to grade each statement.

THE SPOONER SCHOOL DISTRICT'S REPUTATION

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
A	65 13%	14 10%	51 14%
B	182 36%	52 39%	130 36%
C	134 27%	43 32%	90 25%
D	57 11%	16 12%	41 11%
F	19 4%	6 4%	13 4%
CAN'T SAY	43 9%	4 3%	39 11%

QUESTION 14:

Please use A, B, C, D, and FAIL to grade each statement.

THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF SPOONER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
A	120 24%	49 36%	71 20%
B	209 42%	54 40%	154 42%
C	55 11%	17 13%	38 10%
D	29 6%	8 6%	21 6%
F	6 1%	2 1%	4 1%
CAN'T SAY	81 16%	5 4%	76 21%

QUESTION 15:

Please use A, B, C, D, and FAIL to grade each statement.

THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF SPOONER MIDDLE SCHOOL

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
A	31 6%	10 7%	21 6%
B	150 30%	34 25%	115 32%
C	135 27%	37 27%	98 27%
D	68 14%	31 23%	37 10%
F	24 5%	11 8%	13 4%
CAN'T SAY	92 18%	12 9%	80 22%

QUESTION 16:

Please use A, B, C, D, and FAIL to grade each statement.

THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF SPOONER HIGH SCHOOL

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
A	15 3%	3 2%	12 3%
B	71 14%	13 10%	58 16%
C	131 26%	30 22%	100 27%
D	111 22%	32 24%	79 22%
F	106 21%	46 34%	60 16%
CAN'T SAY	66 13%	11 8%	55 15%

Visiting the Spooner schools

Sixty percent of the respondents say they have been inside a Spooner School District school in the past twelve months. As one might expect, parents are more likely than nonparents to have been inside a Spooner school (92% vs. 48%).

Of those parents who report visiting a Spooner school, the main purpose of the visit is “to visit my child’s classroom” (15%), “to attend a parent meeting/open house” (15%), “to attend a school sporting event” (14%), or “to attend “parent conferences” (14%).

Nonparents are most likely to visit a school “to attend a school sporting event” (22%) or “to attend a school program” (20%).

QUESTION 17:

Have you been inside a Spooner School District school in the past twelve months?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
YES	299 60%	124 92%	174 48%
NO	201 40%	11 8%	190 52%

QUESTION 18:

What was the purpose of your visit?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=BEEN INSIDE SPOONER SD SCHOOL IN PAST 12 MONTHS	299 100%	124 100%	174 100%
TO ATTEND A SCHOOL SPORTING EVENT	56 19%	17 14%	39 22%
TO ATTEND A SCHOOL PROGRAM	39 13%	5 4%	34 20%
TO ATTEND A NON-SCHOOL MEETING OR FUNCTION	28 9%	6 5%	22 13%
TO VISIT MY CHILD'S CLASSROOM	26 9%	18 15%	8 5%
TO ATTEND A PARENT MEETING/ OPEN HOUSE	23 8%	18 15%	5 3%
PARENT CONFERENCES	20 7%	17 14%	3 2%
TO MEET WITH A SCHOOL STAFF MEMBER	15 5%	7 6%	8 5%
TO VOLUNTEER	15 5%	9 7%	6 3%
TO ATTEND A PTO/PTA MEETING	11 4%	5 4%	6 3%
TO ATTEND AN ADULT OR COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASS	6 2%	1 1%	5 3%
OTHER	55 18%	18 15%	36 21%
CAN'T SAY	5 2%	3 2%	2 1%

How well informed

Most respondents (50%) say that they are “somewhat well informed about what is happening in the Spooner Area School District. Similar percentages say they are “very well informed” or “not too well informed” (23% and 27%, respectively).

QUESTION 19:

How well informed would you say you are about what is happening in the Spooner School District - would you say you are very well informed, somewhat well informed, or not too well informed?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
VERY WELL INFORMED	113 23%	45 33%	68 19%
SOMEWHAT WELL INFORMED	251 50%	68 50%	182 50%
NOT TOO WELL INFORMED	133 27%	22 16%	111 30%
CAN'T SAY	3 1%	- -	3 1%

Sources of school information

About one-third of respondents (36%) say that they get their school information from *The Spooner Advocate*. As the display below indicates, nonparents are more likely than parents to get their information from this source (40% vs. 26%).

About one-quarter of parents (24%) rely on their children or other students for their school information. Just eight percent of parents get their school information from building level publications and newsletters. Three percent fewer (5%) get their school information from school district publications and newsletters, and just four percent rely on the SASD's website.

As a source of information, “written communications from classroom teachers” ranks quite low at four percent.

QUESTION 20:

Where do you get your school information?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
THE SPOONER ADVOCATE (WEEKLY NEWSPAPER)	180 36%	35 26%	145 40%
FRIENDS / NEIGHBORS	96 19%	12 9%	84 23%
MY CHILDREN/STUDENTS	52 10%	33 24%	19 5%
CONVERSATIONS WITH TEACHERS OR OTHER SCHOOL STAFF MEMBERS	49 10%	16 12%	32 9%
NEWSPAPERS OTHER THAN THE SPOONER ADVOCATE	38 8%	7 5%	31 9%
SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS/ NEWSLETTERS	23 5%	11 8%	12 3%
SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLICATIONS/NEWSLETTERS	20 4%	7 5%	13 4%
SCHOOL DISTRICT WEB SITE	7 1%	5 4%	2 1%
WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM CLASSROOM TEACHERS	6 1%	5 4%	1 -
RADIO/TV	4 1%	1 1%	3 1%
OTHER	25 5%	3 2%	22 6%

Information of interest

When asked what types of school information interests them, 31 percent of respondents say, “Everything.” “Information about the curriculum / what students are learning” ranks second with 21 percent.

Parents are more likely to want information about “everything” than are nonparents (45% and 26%, respectively). Interestingly, nonparents are more likely than parents to want “information about the curriculum / what students are learning” (23% vs. 19%).

QUESTION 21:

What types of school information interest you?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
EVERYTHING	157 31%	61 45%	96 26%
INFORMATION ABOUT THE CURRICULUM / WHAT STUDENTS ARE LEARNING	107 21%	25 19%	82 23%
NOTHING	67 13%	7 5%	60 16%
SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS	49 10%	15 11%	34 9%
FINANCE/TAX INFORMATION	29 6%	4 3%	24 7%
SCHOOL BOARD DECISIONS AND ACTIONS	21 4%	6 4%	15 4%
INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOL TEACHERS /STAFF	14 3%	5 4%	9 2%
STUDENT TEST SCORES	10 2%	4 3%	6 2%
INFORMATION ABOUT GOALS AND PRIORITIES	9 2%	1 1%	8 2%

QUESTION 21 CONTINUED:

What types of school information interest you?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
OTHER	37 7%	7 5%	30 8%

Time on testing

Over one-half of respondents (56%) say that the Spooner Area School District places “about the right amount” of emphasis on achievement testing. Seven percent say that there is “too much” emphasis on achievement testing, and 14 percent say there is “not enough” emphasis.

QUESTION 22:

In your opinion, is there too much emphasis on achievement testing in the Spooner Schools, not enough emphasis on testing, or about the right amount?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
TOO MUCH	36 7%	17 13%	18 5%
NOT ENOUGH	71 14%	14 10%	57 16%
ABOUT THE RIGHT AMOUNT	281 56%	92 68%	189 52%
CAN'T SAY	112 22%	12 9%	100 27%

Programming beyond the regular school day

Forty-six percent of Spooner respondents say that the District should offer more before- and after-school programs for children. Parents are more supportive of before- and after-school programs for children than are nonparents (59% vs. 41%).

Fifty-nine percent of parents say the Spooner Area School District should offer more adult and community education programs. More than one-half of nonparents (52%) also indicate support for more adult and community education programs.

QUESTION 23:

Do you think the Spooner Area School District should offer more before- and after-school programs for children?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
YES	228 46%	79 59%	149 41%
NO	188 38%	45 33%	142 39%
CAN'T SAY	84 17%	11 8%	73 20%

QUESTION 24:

Do you believe the Spooner Area School District should offer more adult and community education programs?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
YES	269 54%	79 59%	190 52%
NO	160 32%	51 38%	108 30%
CAN'T SAY	71 14%	5 4%	66 18%

Opinions about school facilities

Sixty-five percent of SASD respondents say that school facilities either need to be repaired or replaced. Another 17 percent say that the schools need repairs, not replacement. And, five percent say that only the high school needs to be replaced. Six percent of respondents say that there is no need to repair or replace school district facilities.

When asked if it is a good idea to build a new high school and renovate the middle school, 56 percent of respondents say yes. Parents are more supportive than nonparents by a 21 percentage point margin (71% vs. 50%). Just six percent of respondents say that the cost of construction and renovation would affect their decision.

In regard to the elementary school, 38 percent of respondents say adding a multi-purpose room is a good idea as opposed to 29 percent who say it is “not a good idea.” Four percent of respondents say that the cost of adding a multi-purpose room would affect their decision. Parents are more supportive of the addition than nonparents.

It should be noted that almost one-third of respondents (30%) could not respond to the question.

There is also support for an auditorium at the high school. Eighty-four percent of respondents say it is either “very important” or “somewhat important” to have an auditorium at the high school. There appears to be support for an auditorium among both parents and nonparents.

When asked what they would do if they were in charge of making repairs or deciding which Spooner school facilities to replace, 44 percent of respondents opt for building a new high school. One in five respondents (20%) say that the District should renovate the current middle/high school facility instead of building a new high school. Three percent say they would build a new middle school, and two percent favor enlarging the elementary school.

QUESTION 25:

A recent audit indicates that there are significant deficiencies in our school facilities, especially at Spooner Middle School and Spooner High School. From what you know or have heard, do you believe Spooner's school facilities are in need of repairs or replacement?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
YES	323 65%	102 76%	220 60%
SCHOOLS NEED REPAIRS, NOT REPLACEMENT	87 17%	19 14%	68 19%
ONLY THE HIGH SCHOOL NEEDS TO BE REPLACED	25 5%	5 4%	20 5%
NO	29 6%	4 3%	25 7%
OTHER	- -	- -	- -
CAN'T SAY	36 7%	5 4%	31 9%

QUESTION 26:

Some people have suggested that Spooner build a new high school, and renovate the middle school facility. Do you think this is a good idea or not?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
GOOD IDEA	280 56%	96 71%	183 50%
NOT A GOOD IDEA	131 26%	25 19%	106 29%
DEPENDS ON THE COST	32 6%	6 4%	26 7%
CAN'T SAY	57 11%	8 6%	49 13%

QUESTION 27:

Some people have suggested that the school district should add a multi-purpose room at Spooner Elementary School. Do you think this is a good idea or not?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
GOOD IDEA	190 38%	69 51%	120 33%
NOT A GOOD IDEA	143 29%	31 23%	112 31%
DEPENDS ON THE COST	19 4%	4 3%	15 4%
CAN'T SAY	148 30%	31 23%	117 32%

QUESTION 28:

How important do you think it is for a high school to have an auditorium?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
VERY IMPORTANT	260 52%	77 57%	183 50%
SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	162 32%	40 30%	121 33%
NOT TOO IMPORTANT	73 15%	18 13%	55 15%
CAN'T SAY	5 1%	- -	5 1%

QUESTION 29:

If you were in charge of making repairs or deciding which Spooner school facilities to replace, what repairs or replacements would you make?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
BUILD A NEW HIGH SCHOOL	219 44%	77 57%	141 39%
DON'T BUILD /RENOVATE THE MIDDLE SCHOOL-HIGH SCHOOL FACILITY	102 20%	24 18%	78 21%
BUILD A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL	15 3%	3 2%	12 3%
NONE	11 2%	2 1%	9 2%
ENLARGE THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	10 2%	3 2%	7 2%
OTHER	26 5%	8 6%	18 5%
CAN'T SAY	117 23%	18 13%	99 27%

Why people voted NO in November

Almost one year ago Spooner Area School District voters defeated a school referendum. Forty-two percent of respondents say that the issue was defeated because “taxes are too high and people couldn’t afford it.” Another 22 percent say that the facility proposal “cost too much/was too expensive or too elaborate.”

There is little difference between parent and nonparent responses.

QUESTION 30:

In November Spooner residents defeated a school referendum that was designed to address facility needs. Why do you think most people voted NO in that election?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
TAXES TOO HIGH/PEOPLE COULDN'T AFFORD IT	212 42%	62 46%	149 41%
COST TOO MUCH/TOO EXPENSIVE/TOO ELABORATE	109 22%	29 21%	80 22%
NOT NEEDED	29 6%	7 5%	22 6%
WANTED A NEW HIGH SCHOOL	19 4%	6 4%	13 4%
LOCATION (DIDN'T WANT A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL ON THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE)	13 3%	2 1%	11 3%
DIDN'T WANT A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL	12 2%	6 4%	6 2%
OTHER	53 11%	12 9%	41 11%
CAN'T SAY	53 11%	11 8%	42 12%

Funding school operations

Respondents were asked three questions about funding school operations. First, they were asked what they would do if there were not enough money to operate the Spooner schools. Over one-half (53%) say they would cut programs and seek a referendum. One third say they would seek a referendum (and not cut programs) while nine percent say the opposite -- they would cut programs and not seek a referendum.

About two-thirds of respondents (67%) say they would support a referendum to fund school operations “if the need existed.” Thirteen percent say their decision to support or not support a referendum would depend on the cost.

Parents are more likely to support a school referendum than nonparents.

If Spooner voters approve a new school, most people (63%) say they will approve a referendum to operate it. There is support for such an issue among both parents and nonparents.

QUESTION 44:

Suppose there wasn’t enough money to operate the Spooner Schools. Should the schools cut programs or seek voter approval of a referendum for school operations ... or should they do both?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
CUT PROGRAMS	43 9%	7 5%	36 10%
BOTH (CUT PROGRAMS AND SEEK REFERENDUM)	264 53%	68 50%	195 54%
SEEK REFERENDUM	165 33%	57 42%	108 30%
CAN’T SAY	28 6%	3 2%	25 7%

QUESTION 45:

If the need existed, would you support a referendum to fund school operations?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
YES	334 67%	106 79%	227 62%
NO	62 12%	8 6%	54 15%
DEPENDS ON COST	65 13%	14 10%	51 14%
CAN'T SAY	39 8%	7 5%	32 9%

QUESTION 46:

What if voters approved construction of a new school ... would you support a referendum to operate the new school?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
YES	315 63%	99 73%	215 59%
NO	101 20%	19 14%	82 23%
DEPENDS ON COST	44 9%	11 8%	33 9%
CAN'T SAY	40 8%	6 4%	34 9%

Important programs and services

Respondents were presented with a list of SASD programs and services and, in the case of each one, asked to indicate how important it is for the Spooner schools to offer the program or service. Respondents used a five-point scale ranging from very important (1) to not important (5).

The programs and services are ranked below by the number of respondents saying the program or service is “very important.”

<u>Program or Service</u>	<u>Percent Saying “very important”</u>
Teaching students to use computers	61%
Guidance and counseling services	57
Vocational-technical education	52
Programs for students who are at-risk	52
Programs for gifted and talented students	47
Health education	44
Physical education	42
Music programs such as choir and band	41
Foreign language	35
Art	34
Family and consumer education	33
Sports	29

QUESTION 31:

Please use a five-point scale to tell me how important you think it is for the Spooner schools to offer that program or service. A rating of one means it is very important, and a rating of five means it is not important.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING SERVICES ... WOULD YOU GIVE GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING SERVICES A RATING OF 1, 2, 3, 4, OR 5?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
5 - NOT IMPORTANT	9 2%	1 1%	8 2%
4	11 2%	3 2%	8 2%
3	92 18%	19 14%	73 20%
2	102 20%	28 21%	74 20%
1 - VERY IMPORTANT	284 57%	84 62%	199 55%
CAN'T SAY	2 -	- -	2 1%

QUESTION 32:

Please use a five-point scale to tell me how important you think it is for the Spooner schools to offer that program or service. A rating of one means it is very important, and a rating of five means it is not important.

MUSIC PROGRAMS SUCH AS CHOIR AND BAND

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
5 - NOT IMPORTANT	8 2%	2 1%	6 2%
4	23 5%	8 6%	15 4%
3	108 22%	24 18%	84 23%
2	152 30%	39 29%	112 31%
1 - VERY IMPORTANT	207 41%	62 46%	145 40%
CAN'T SAY	2 -	- -	2 1%

QUESTION 33:

Please use a five-point scale to tell me how important you think it is for the Spooner schools to offer that program or service. A rating of one means it is very important, and a rating of five means it is not important.

ART

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
5 - NOT IMPORTANT	12 2%	1 1%	11 3%
4	29 6%	9 7%	20 5%
3	127 25%	27 20%	100 27%
2	160 32%	43 32%	116 32%
1 - VERY IMPORTANT	170 34%	55 41%	115 32%
CAN'T SAY	2 -	- -	2 1%

QUESTION 34:

Please use a five-point scale to tell me how important you think it is for the Spooner schools to offer that program or service. A rating of one means it is very important, and a rating of five means it is not important.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
5 - NOT IMPORTANT	32 6%	3 2%	29 8%
4	39 8%	11 8%	28 8%
3	113 23%	26 19%	87 24%
2	140 28%	37 27%	103 28%
1 - VERY IMPORTANT	175 35%	58 43%	116 32%
CAN'T SAY	1 -	- -	1 -

QUESTION 35:

Please use a five-point scale to tell me how important you think it is for the Spooner schools to offer that program or service. A rating of one means it is very important, and a rating of five means it is not important.

HEALTH EDUCATION

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
5 - NOT IMPORTANT	6 1%	- -	6 2%
4	16 3%	5 4%	11 3%
3	104 21%	23 17%	81 22%
2	152 30%	43 32%	109 30%
1 - VERY IMPORTANT	218 44%	64 47%	153 42%
CAN'T SAY	4 1%	- -	4 1%

QUESTION 36:

Please use a five-point scale to tell me how important you think it is for the Spooner schools to offer that program or service. A rating of one means it is very important, and a rating of five means it is not important.

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION, WHICH IS SOMETIMES CALLED INDUSTRIAL ARTS

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
5 - NOT IMPORTANT	16 3%	2 1%	14 4%
4	18 4%	7 5%	11 3%
3	51 10%	11 8%	40 11%
2	149 30%	41 30%	108 30%
1 - VERY IMPORTANT	262 52%	73 54%	188 52%
CAN'T SAY	4 1%	1 1%	3 1%

QUESTION 37:

Please use a five-point scale to tell me how important you think it is for the Spooner schools to offer that program or service. A rating of one means it is very important, and a rating of five means it is not important.

PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE AT-RISK

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
5 - NOT IMPORTANT	9 2%	2 1%	7 2%
4	21 4%	1 1%	20 5%
3	79 16%	25 19%	54 15%
2	107 21%	21 16%	86 24%
1 - VERY IMPORTANT	262 52%	83 61%	178 49%
CAN'T SAY	22 4%	3 2%	19 5%

QUESTION 38:

Please use a five-point scale to tell me how important you think it is for the Spooner schools to offer that program or service. A rating of one means it is very important, and a rating of five means it is not important.

PROGRAMS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
5 - NOT IMPORTANT	11 2%	1 1%	10 3%
4	24 5%	9 7%	15 4%
3	77 15%	17 13%	60 16%
2	146 29%	30 22%	116 32%
1 - VERY IMPORTANT	236 47%	78 58%	157 43%
CAN'T SAY	6 1%	- -	6 2%

QUESTION 39:

Please use a five-point scale to tell me how important you think it is for the Spooner schools to offer that program or service. A rating of one means it is very important, and a rating of five means it is not important.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
5 - NOT IMPORTANT	7 1%	- -	7 2%
4	29 6%	7 5%	22 6%
3	104 21%	16 12%	88 24%
2	150 30%	40 30%	110 30%
1 - VERY IMPORTANT	208 42%	72 53%	135 37%
CAN'T SAY	2 -	- -	2 1%

QUESTION 40:

Please use a five-point scale to tell me how important you think it is for the Spooner schools to offer that program or service. A rating of one means it is very important, and a rating of five means it is not important.

TEACHING STUDENTS TO USE COMPUTERS

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500	135	364
	100%	100%	100%
5 - NOT IMPORTANT	12	-	12
	2%	-	3%
4	19	4	15
	4%	3%	4%
3	47	8	39
	9%	6%	11%
2	111	38	73
	22%	28%	20%
1 - VERY IMPORTANT	307	85	221
	61%	63%	61%
CAN'T SAY	4	-	4
	1%	-	1%

QUESTION 41:

Please use a five-point scale to tell me how important you think it is for the Spooner schools to offer that program or service. A rating of one means it is very important, and a rating of five means it is not important.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER EDUCATION (OR WHAT USED TO BE CALLED “HOME ECONOMICS”)

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
5 - NOT IMPORTANT	7 1%	1 1%	6 2%
4	32 6%	11 8%	21 6%
3	137 27%	40 30%	97 27%
2	158 32%	40 30%	117 32%
1 - VERY IMPORTANT	164 33%	43 32%	121 33%
CAN'T SAY	2 -	- -	2 1%

QUESTION 42:

Please use a five-point scale to tell me how important you think it is for the Spooner schools to offer that program or service. A rating of one means it is very important, and a rating of five means it is not important.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
5 - NOT IMPORTANT	28 6%	7 5%	21 6%
4	38 8%	9 7%	29 8%
3	154 31%	30 22%	124 34%
2	144 29%	39 29%	104 29%
1 - VERY IMPORTANT	129 26%	50 37%	79 22%
CAN'T SAY	7 1%	- -	7 2%

QUESTION 43:

Please use a five-point scale to tell me how important you think it is for the Spooner schools to offer that program or service. A rating of one means it is very important, and a rating of five means it is not important.

SPORTS

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
5 - NOT IMPORTANT	28 6%	5 4%	23 6%
4	52 10%	7 5%	45 12%
3	134 27%	34 25%	100 27%
2	138 28%	37 27%	100 27%
1 - VERY IMPORTANT	145 29%	52 39%	93 26%
CAN'T SAY	3 1%	- -	3 1%

The single best thing

The single best thing about the Spooner Area School District, according to respondents, is the District's people. Eighteen percent say the teaching staff is the single best thing, while another 17 percent say "all staff, including teachers" is the single best thing.

The "curriculum/quality of school program" and "size of school district/community" both are mentioned by ten percent of respondents.

QUESTION 47:

In your opinion, what is the single best thing about the Spooner School District?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
TEACHERS	92 18%	38 28%	53 15%
ALL STAFF, INCLUDING TEACHERS	85 17%	30 22%	55 15%
CURRICULUM/QUALITY OF SCHOOL PROGRAM	52 10%	8 6%	44 12%
SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT/ COMMUNITY	48 10%	11 8%	37 10%
PARENT/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	23 5%	3 2%	20 5%
QUALITY FACILITIES	11 2%	2 1%	9 2%
SPORTS/ATHLETIC PROGRAM	10	3	7

2% 2% 2%

QUESTION 47 CONTINUED:

In your opinion, what is the single best thing about the Spooner School District?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
COMMUNICATION	9 2%	3 2%	6 2%
FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE	1 -	- -	1 -
OTHER	39 8%	9 7%	30 8%
CAN'T SAY	130 26%	28 21%	102 28%

Setting priorities

Asked what one priority they would set for the SASD, 21 percent say they would “build a new high school” while another eleven percent say they would “address the District’s facility needs.” Twenty percent say they would “improve the curriculum.” Other suggestions all receive single digit percentage responses.

QUESTION 48:

If you could set one priority for our school district, what would that one priority be?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
BUILD A NEW HIGH SCHOOL	107 21%	37 27%	70 19%
IMPROVE THE CURRICULUM	99 20%	28 21%	71 20%
ADDRESS FACILITY NEEDS	57 11%	19 14%	38 10%



QUESTION 48 CONTINUED:

If you could set one priority for our school district, what would that one priority be?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
IMPROVE COMMUNICATION	23 5%	5 4%	18 5%
PREVENT DRUG/ALCOHOL/ SUBSTANCE ABUSE	16 3%	- -	16 4%
MORE PARENT INVOLVEMENT	16 3%	4 3%	12 3%
REPLACE SOME TEACHERS	14 3%	2 1%	12 3%
IMPROVE FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS	9 2%	3 2%	6 2%
MORE STUDENT DISCIPLINE	7 1%	3 2%	4 1%
MORE AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	5 1%	1 1%	4 1%
IMPROVE TEST SCORES	2 -	- -	2 1%
BUILD A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL	1 -	1 1%	- -
OTHER	74 15%	17 13%	56 15%
CAN'T SAY	70 14%	15 11%	55 15%

Demographics

The demographics below indicate that the “most likely” SASD survey respondent has lived in the District for 10 or more years, is a nonparent, and is a female born in 1940 or earlier (age 65 or older).

The most likely parent respondent has lived in the District for ten or more years, has a child in the elementary school or high school, and is a female born between 1961 and 1970 (age 35-44).

QUESTION 1:

How many years have you lived in the Spooner School District?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
LESS THAN ONE	6 1%	3 2%	3 1%
1-3 YEARS	35 7%	13 10%	22 6%
4-9 YEARS	84 17%	29 21%	55 15%
10 OR MORE YEARS	375 75%	90 67%	284 78%
CAN'T SAY	- -	- -	- -

DOESN'T LIVE IN SCHOOL DISTRICT	-	-	-
	-	-	-

QUESTION 2:

Do you have children of school age or younger?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
YES	135 27%	135 100%	- -
NO	364 73%	- -	364 100%
NO RESPONSE	1 -	- -	- -

QUESTION 3:

What grades are they in?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=HAVE CHILDREN SCHOOL AGE OR YOUNGER	135 100%	135 100%	- -
PRESCHOOLER - DOESN'T ATTEND SCHOOL	14 10%	14 10%	- -
PRESCHOOLER - ENROLLED IN PRESCHOOL PROGRAM	8 6%	8 6%	- -
ELEMENTARY	60 44%	60 44%	- -
JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL	50 37%	50 37%	- -
HIGH SCHOOL	60 44%	60 44%	- -

GRADUATED	5	5	-
	4%	4%	-

QUESTION 4:

Do your children attend a Spooner School District school, a nonpublic school, or are they home schooled?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=HAVE CHILDREN SCHOOL AGE OR YOUNGER	135 100%	135 100%	- -
SPOONER SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL	112 83%	112 83%	- -
NONPUBLIC SCHOOL	8 6%	8 6%	- -
HOME SCHOOLED	2 1%	2 1%	- -
ATTEND BOTH SPOONER AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOL	- -	- -	- -
ATTEND BOTH SPOONER AND HOME SCHOOL	- -	- -	- -
OTHER	13	13	-

10% 10% -

QUESTION 49:
In what year were you born?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
1987 - 1981	7 1%	2 1%	5 1%
1980 - 1971	37 7%	27 20%	10 3%
1970 - 1961	78 16%	65 48%	13 4%
1960 - 1951	120 24%	40 30%	80 22%
1950 - 1941	113 23%	1 1%	111 30%
1940 OR EARLIER	145 29%	- -	145 40%

QUESTION 50:
Gender of respondent

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>NONPARENT</u>
BASE=TOTAL SAMPLE	500 100%	135 100%	364 100%
MALE	240 48%	56 41%	183 50%
FEMALE	260 52%	79 59%	181 50%