

**Winchester CUSD #1  
Community Survey  
July 2024**

Overview of Data
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In June-July 2024, Creative Entourage conducted an online survey of residents in Winchester CUSD #1. The purpose of the survey was to better understand area residents' perceptions of and priorities for the District. Eight hundred forty (840) respondents completed the survey. Results are weighted by gender and parent/non-parent households, and complete results of every question asked are below.

	%
Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D, and Fail to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools across Illinois were graded in the same way. What grade would you give the public schools in the state of Illinois?	A 1.9%
	B 21.3%
	C 46.3%
	D 12.9%
	Fail 5.7%
	Other, don't know 11.8%

	%
What about your local school district — Winchester CUSD #1? What grade would you assign to your local district?	A 8.9%
	B 41.6%
	C 30.5%
	D 9.8%
	Fail 3.7%
	Other, don't know 5.6%

		%
While no decision has been made, Winchester CUSD #1 is considering the option to build a new high school for grades 9-12 south of the grade school. The cost of this bond proposal is \$36 million. If this proposal was on the ballot, is it something you would...	Strongly Favor	11.1%
	Favor	5.9%
	Lean Favor	7.1%
	Lean Oppose	6.5%
	Oppose	12.3%
	Strongly Oppose	49.8%
	Undecided	7.1%
	Other, don't know	.2%
	<i>Total favor</i>	<i>24.1%</i>
<i>Total oppose</i>	<i>68.6%</i>	

		%
This proposal would increase taxes for the owner of a \$100,000 market value house about \$1,000 per year or about \$83 per month. Knowing this, is it something you would...	Strongly Favor	8.3%
	Favor	6.6%
	Lean Favor	4.5%
	Lean Oppose	7.8%
	Oppose	11.5%
	Strongly Oppose	57.3%
	Undecided	3.6%
	Other, don't know	.3%
	<i>Total favor</i>	<i>19.4%</i>
<i>Total oppose</i>	<i>76.6%</i>	

		%
Another option would be to build a new building for grades 7-12 south of the grade school, removing grades 7-8 from the elementary school. The cost of this bond proposal is also \$36 million and would increase taxes for the owner of a \$100,000 market value house about \$1,000 per year or about \$83 per month. If this option was on the ballot, is it something you would...	Strongly Favor	6.8%
	Favor	5.0%
	Lean Favor	5.5%
	Lean Oppose	7.6%
	Oppose	14.3%
	Strongly Oppose	56.5%
	Undecided	3.8%
	Other, don't know	.4%
	<i>Total favor</i>	<i>17.3%</i>
<i>Total oppose</i>	<i>78.4%</i>	

Next are statements that people might make about their local school district. For each, indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

	<i>Strongly agree</i>	Strongly/ somewhat agree	Strongly/ somewhat disagree	Other, don't know
Supporting our schools is one of the best things we can do to protect our property values and the investment we've made in our home.	20.2%	56.3%	39.5%	4.2%
People like me can't afford higher taxes, no matter how good the cause.	45.1%	73.3%	24.8%	1.9%
I trust the Winchester CUSD #1 leadership to make the right decisions about improving our school district.	10.8%	31.4%	64.8%	3.8%
Our school facilities are fine just the way they are. Nothing needs to be done to improve them.	7.2%	26.2%	71.4%	2.4%
We are falling behind neighboring school districts in making needed improvements in our school facilities.	23.2%	56.0%	37.2%	6.8%
We get excellent value in education for the taxes we pay to Winchester CUSD #1.	16.3%	59.1%	34.7%	6.2%
I'm willing to support an increase in taxes to make sure our kids get the quality of education they need and deserve.	17.3%	42.7%	53.8%	3.5%

There are many reasons why people might support the options listed above for a new high school or a new 7-12 building. Regardless of how you feel about those options, indicate how close each of the following statements are to your way of thinking. If it is very close to how you think, rate it a “10.” If you don’t feel that way at all, rate it a “1” You can use any number between 10 and 1.

	Close to how I feel		Not close to how I feel
	Top 2 (9-10)	Middle 3 (6-8)	Bottom 5 (1-5)
We must take steps to improve our high school.	31.9%	34.6%	33.4%
A high school, where everything is under one roof, would be safer and more secure for students.	26.2%	18.1%	55.7%
To keep up with other area high schools, we need better high school classes and learning spaces.	21.8%	21.2%	57.0%
The current high school is not ADA compliant. Steps must be taken to address that.	40.3%	28.8%	31.0%
No one wants to pay higher taxes. But it is important to our children and community to provide a good high school.	27.6%	26.7%	45.6%
Our high school is past the point where it can be cost-effectively renovated.	18.0%	13.0%	69.0%

Now let's do the same thing for why people might oppose these options. Again, regardless of how you feel about the options, indicate how close each of the following statements are to your way of thinking. If it is very close to how you think, rate it a "10." If you don't feel that way at all, rate it a "1" You can use any number between 10 and 1.

	Close to how I feel		Not close to how I feel
	Top 2 (9-10)	Middle 3 (6-8)	Bottom 5 (1-5)
We can renovate our high school. New construction is just not needed.	45.8%	26.3%	27.9%
We should consolidate with the Bluffs School District before talking about facility renovation.	41.4%	21.5%	37.1%
This is just too big of a tax increase.	68.4%	14.1%	17.5%
Our high school has been good enough for generations of students. It just needs some basic repair and renovation.	44.4%	24.3%	31.3%
I don't think we should remove grades 7-8 from the elementary school.	50.9%	18.1%	31.0%
Borrowing this much money is just a bad business decision.	60.6%	17.6%	21.8%

Next are statements people might make about a bond proposal to support school facility improvements. For each, indicate if the statement makes you much more inclined to support a bond proposal, somewhat more, somewhat less or much less inclined to support the proposal.

	<i>Much more</i>	Much/ somewhat more	Much/ somewhat less	Other, don't know
Investing in improved school buildings now will benefit many future generations of students and homeowners.	18.0%	47.2%	43.4%	9.4%
In the long term, a new school will save taxpayers millions of dollars by not wasting money trying to maintain a worn-out building.	14.1%	30.8%	62.5%	6.8%
Our kids are doing just fine when they graduate. Spending this money is just not necessary.	17.1%	34.7%	56.4%	8.9%
Our kids need the same quality of education that kids in other communities receive. It is time to step up and pass a proposal.	15.2%	31.0%	62.8%	6.2%
We need to make improvements in our high school. But this is just too much.	27.5%	55.4%	38.6%	6.0%
I will support any building improvement proposal that improves the educational environment for our kids.	14.9%	31.8%	61.3%	6.8%

		%
While no decision has been made, Winchester CUSD #1 is considering the option to build a new high school for grades 9-12 south of the grade school. The cost of this bond proposal is \$36 million and would increase taxes for the owner of a \$100,000 market value	Strongly Favor	10.6%
	Favor	4.8%
	Lean Favor	8.1%
	Lean Oppose	6.6%
	Oppose	12.4%
	Strongly Oppose	54.6%
	Undecided	2.5%
	Other, don't know	.4%
	<i>Total favor</i>	<i>23.5%</i>
<i>Total oppose</i>	<i>73.6%</i>	

		%
Another option would be to build a new building for grades 7-12 south of the grade school, removing grades 7-8 from the elementary school. The cost of this bond proposal is also \$36 million and would increase taxes for the owner of a \$100,000 market value	Strongly Favor	8.0%
	Favor	3.3%
	Lean Favor	6.9%
	Lean Oppose	7.7%
	Oppose	13.2%
	Strongly Oppose	57.5%
	Undecided	2.7%
	Other, don't know	.6%
	<i>Total favor</i>	<i>18.2%</i>
<i>Total oppose</i>	<i>78.4%</i>	



		%
How long have you lived in Winchester CUSD #1?	0-2 years	1.2%
	3-5 years	4.0%
	6-10 years	5.2%
	11-20 years	10.1%
	20+ years	78.2%
	Other, don't know	1.3%

		%
Indicate below what describes you best. <i>Please select all that apply.</i>	Parent/guardian with children 18 or younger	33.4%
	Parent/guardian with children in a Winchester CUSD #1 school	27.3%
	Parent/guardian with children older than 18	30.8%
	Winchester CUSD #1 staff	5.3%
	Resident of Winchester CUSD #1	69.0%
	Winchester CUSD #1 Alumni	51.4%

		%
In which of the following age groups are you?	18-34	15.2%
	35-49	31.6%
	50-64	25.1%
	65-74	17.9%
	75+	6.1%
	Other, don't know	.0%
	Prefer not to answer	4.0%

	%
Please indicate where you live. Winchester city limits	44.7%
Manchester	6.9%
Glasgow	3.5%
Aley	5.1%
Unincorporated Scott County	35.3%
Other, don't know	4.4%

	%
Are you... Prefer to self-identify	.6%
Male	46.3%
Female	46.4%
Prefer not to answer	6.7%