

## Illinois Results

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National Institute for Early Education Research

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Q.1. In your community, how many parents do you think have access to good preschool programs that they can afford for their three- and four-year-old children--would you say that almost all parents have access to these programs, most parents, about half of parents, or fewer than half of parents have access to these programs for their young children?

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Almost all parents	16	10	23	19	12
Most parents	26	26	25	25	28
About half of parents	23	27	20	22	24
Fewer than half of parents	25	28	22	26	23
Not sure	10	9	10	8	13
Total Almost All/Most	42	36	48	44	40
Total Half Or Fewer	48	55	42	48	47

Q.2. And which one or two of the following do you think are the biggest obstacles facing parents in finding preschool programs for their three- and four-year-old children? (m) \*

\* Asked only of respondents who say most parents" or fewer (Q.1)."

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	280	145	135	168	108
Many of these programs are too per	43	37	50	47	38
There are not enough good program	21	20	22	23	17
The structure and schedule of many	18	18	19	21	14
There is not enough information av	28	30	25	28	28

Many parents cannot find programs	21	25	17	18	27
All (VOL)	7	3	11	6	9
None/other (VOL)	2	2	2	1	3
Not sure	1	2	-	1	1

Q.3. Overall, do you think that state government is doing too much, about the right amount, or too little to make sure that all parents have access to affordable preschool programs for their young children?

	All Illinois Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Doing too much	4	5	3	4	4
Doing about the right amount	26	26	25	28	21
Doing too little	57	59	56	56	60
Not sure	13	10	16	12	15

Q.4. I'd like to read you a list of things that state government could be doing with regard to preschool programs. For each item that I mention, please tell me whether you support or oppose state government getting involved in that specific area.

Q.4. PROPORTIONS WHO SAY THAT THEY STRONGLY SUPPORT STATE GOVERNMENT GETTING INVOLVED IN SELECTED AREAS

	All Illinois Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	335	161	174	208	123

Ensuring the safety of preschool programs by establishing and enforcing licensing and inspection standards

74	69	78	76	70
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Providing funding and financial support for preschool programs so that all parents who want to can afford to enroll their children

66	59	73	64	70
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Ensuring the quality of preschool programs by setting standards for learning and for teacher training and education

59	58	60	57	62
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Working with parents and local school systems to operate preschool programs similar to the way local school systems now run kindergarten through twelfth grade school programs

42                      43                      42                      45                      38  
Holding preschool programs accountable for the learning progress and skill development of young children by establishing evaluation standards

38                      39                      38                      34                      45

Q.5a. Now I'm going to describe an approach that some people have suggested for expanding opportunities for three- and four-year-old children to participate in preschool programs and then get your reaction.

State government would provide funding and financial support so that all parents in the state who want to send their children to a high-quality preschool program can afford to do so. Parents would be able to choose which program to send their child to depending on their needs and preferences--for example, parents could select a public or a private program, and parents could select a program that is part-time or one that is full-time, as long as the program meets state standards for teacher qualifications, class size, and safety.

How do you feel about this approach--do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, feel neutral, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this approach?

	All Illinois Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Strongly agree	47	45	50	47	48
Somewhat agree	28	28	28	30	25
Feel neutral	10	12	8	10	11
Somewhat disagree	6	5	7	6	6
Strongly disagree	7	9	4	7	6
Not sure	2	1	3	-	4
Total Agree	76	73	78	77	72
Total Disagree	12	14	11	12	12

Q.5b. Why do you feel that way about this approach to expanding opportunities for three- and four-year-old children to participate in preschool programs?

(PROBE:) What do you think are the most positive aspects of this approach?

	All Illinois Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	335	161	174	208	123

Net Positive Aspects	-	-	-	-	-
Gives them an early start on their education	-	-	-	-	-
Equal opportunity, for all children/it's important	-	-	-	-	-
Gives parents choices/options	-	-	-	-	-
Makes it affordable, it's pensive, makes it easier	-	-	-	-	-
Good for kids, prepares them for school	-	-	-	-	-
Good flexibility, choice of hours/days	-	-	-	-	-
Government should be involved/private	-	-	-	-	-
Gives them a chance to learn, will be better off	-	-	-	-	-
Good age, able to learn, kids now are better off	-	-	-	-	-
Gives them the best start, makes it easier	-	-	-	-	-
Gets parents involved, aware of their children	-	-	-	-	-
It's important, need to do more for children	-	-	-	-	-
Important to interact with others, social skills	-	-	-	-	-
Benefits working/single parents, is a good idea	-	-	-	-	-
Develop good habits, learn discipline	-	-	-	-	-
It's needed, some kids come from bad homes	-	-	-	-	-
Teaches social/communication skills	-	-	-	-	-
Good for competition/quality, kids will be better off	-	-	-	-	-
Agree with it, it's a good idea, like it	-	-	-	-	-
Supports both public and private, is a good idea	-	-	-	-	-
More access, more programs available	-	-	-	-	-
Parents choose based on needs of their children	-	-	-	-	-
It works, have seen the results, results are good	-	-	-	-	-
All other positive aspects of this approach	-	-	-	-	-

Q.5b. Why do you feel that way about this approach to expanding opportunities for three- and four-year-old children to participate in preschool programs?

(PROBE:) And what concerns do you have about this approach?

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Net Concerns	-	-	-	-	-
Where will money/funding come from	-	-	-	-	-
Against government involvement	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers need to be certified/qualified	-	-	-	-	-
Parents should educate/take care of their children	-	-	-	-	-
Ensure standards/safety, needs to be met	-	-	-	-	-
Too costly, too pensive	-	-	-	-	-
Should be based on need, parents should choose	-	-	-	-	-
Too young, not ready, need to be better prepared	-	-	-	-	-

Will be taken advantage of, abuse	-	-	-	-	-
Not fair, not equitable for all, favor	-	-	-	-	-
Shouldn't pay for private education	-	-	-	-	-
Don't have children, not fair for tho	-	-	-	-	-
The schools/other programs will st	-	-	-	-	-
Every child has different needs, ca	-	-	-	-	-
Against evaluating/qualifying child	-	-	-	-	-
Should be voluntary, not forced up	-	-	-	-	-
Used as babysitting/day care inste	-	-	-	-	-
Not needed, not necessary, enoug	-	-	-	-	-
Most parents will choose private, c	-	-	-	-	-
Should be for public only, not priva	-	-	-	-	-
Against vouchers, sounds like a vc	-	-	-	-	-
Disagree with it, bad idea, disagre	-	-	-	-	-
Concerns about quality of educatic	-	-	-	-	-
Local government/communities sh	-	-	-	-	-
All other concerns about this appr	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know enough, would like more	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know, no response	-	-	-	-	-

Q.6a. Now I'd like to read you two statements about how preschool programs could be made available. Please listen to each statement and then tell me which one best represents your own feelings.

Statement A: These programs should be free to all children, regardless of their family's income, OR

Statement B: These programs should be free ONLY to children from poor and low-income families, with the parents of other children paying based on the family's income and ability to pay.

	All Illinois Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Statement A/These programs shoul	52	54	50	49	57
Statement B/These programs shoul	42	39	45	44	38
Neither/other (VOL)	5	6	3	5	4
Not sure	1	1	2	2	1

Q.6b. And now I'd like to read you three statements about paying for preschool programs. Please listen to each statement and then tell me which one best represents your own feelings.

Statement A: I believe that these programs are a top priority and I would be willing to pay additional state taxes to pay for them

Statement B: I support these programs, but only if they can be funded within the existing state budget and without raising state taxes

Statement C: I do not believe that these programs are an important priority given all the other issues that state government needs to address

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Statement A: I believe that these pr	33	32	34	37	26
Statement B: I support these progra	57	59	55	54	62
Statement C: I do not believe these	8	7	8	8	8
Federal government should pay fo	1	1	1	1	1
None/other (VOL)	-	1	-	-	1
Not sure	1	-	2	-	2

Q.7a. I'd like to list reasons that some people have given for why it is important to have preschool programs available for three- and four-year-old children.

For each statement, please tell me whether you think it is extremely convincing, very convincing, fairly convincing, just somewhat convincing, or not really convincing.

PROPORTIONS WHO SAY THAT SELECTED REASONS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR THREE- AND FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN ARE EXTREMELY OR VERY CONVINCING

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Many children who participate in preschool programs do better when they enter elementary school and score higher on basic skills tests

61            55            65            59            63

Many children who participate in preschool programs are more self-confident, better adjusted, and less likely to be disruptive and cause problems that affect other children in the classroom when they enter elementary school \*

54            47            60            45            70

Good preschool programs help motivate young children to become problem-solvers who are more successful in school, work, and in their communities

57            55            60            55            62

Having children participate in preschool programs strengthens families by giving parents the resources and support they need to help their children get a good start

60 54 65 60 61  
 Good preschool programs cost a lot more than most working families can afford, leaving many parents with few alternatives

44 37 50 42 49  
 Children who participate in preschool programs are less likely to get involved with things like gangs and drugs as they get older and more likely to grow up and become productive, contributing members of the community \*

43 46 41 40 50  
 Good preschool programs benefit the economy and save taxpayers two dollars for every dollar invested, because these programs prevent school failure and crime and produce a better educated, more productive workforce \*\*

44 45 43 40 52  
 Children who do NOT participate in preschool programs are less self-confident, less adjusted, and more likely to be disruptive and cause problems that affect other children in the classroom when they enter elementary school \*\*

32 28 35 21 50  
 Good preschool programs benefit the economy and save taxpayers two dollars for every dollar invested \*

35 34 36 30 43  
 Children who do NOT participate in preschool programs are more likely to have problems in school and to get involved with things like gangs and drugs as they get older \*\*

24 22 26 16 38

Q.7a. I'd like to list reasons that some people have given for why it is important to have preschool programs available for three- and four-year-old children.

Many children who participate in preschool programs do better when they enter elementary school and score higher on basic skills tests

	All Illinois Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Extremely convincing	30	34	28	28	34
Very convincing	30	22	37	31	29
Fairly convincing	16	20	11	16	15
Just somewhat convincing	14	15	13	16	10
Not really convincing	8	6	10	8	9
Not sure	2	3	1	1	3

## FACTUALS

Q.F1. How old are you?

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
18-24	8	10	7	14	-
25-29	10	11	8	15	-
30-34	9	10	7	14	-
35-39	10	8	12	17	-
40-44	13	11	15	21	-
45-49	12	13	12	19	-
50-54	10	8	11	-	26
55-59	7	7	7	-	20
60-64	4	4	4	-	11
65-69	5	5	5	-	13
70-74	4	6	3	-	12
75 and over	7	6	8	-	18
Refused	1	1	1	-	-

Q.F2. Are you currently employed?

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Professional, manor	3	4	2	3	3
White-collar worker	3	3	2	2	4
Blue-collar worker	2	2	2	1	3
Farmer, rancher	-	-	-	-	-
Student	2	1	3	3	-
Homemaker	5	-	10	8	1
Retired	17	18	17	2	45
Unemployed, looking for work	3	4	2	4	2
Other	63	66	60	76	42
Not sure	2	2	2	1	-

Q.F3. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Grade school	-	-	1	-	1
Some high school	9	8	10	5	16
High school graduate	24	23	26	26	22
Some college, no degree	14	15	13	14	14
Vocational training/2-year college	16	17	15	18	13
4-year college/bachelor's degree	20	22	18	23	16
Some postgraduate work, no degree	2	-	2	1	3
2 or 3 years' postgraduate work/master's degree	11	9	13	12	10
Doctoral/law degree	3	5	1	1	5
Not sure/refused	1	1	1	-	-

Q.F4. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or as something else?

(IF REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT, ASK:) Would you call yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not very strong (Republican/Democrat)?

(IF NOT REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT, ASK:) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or closer to the Democratic Party?

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Strong Republican	13	16	11	14	13
Weak Republican	13	15	11	13	14
Independent/lean Republican	9	11	6	10	6
Strictly independent	15	14	16	12	21
Independent/lean Democrat	9	8	10	11	6
Weak Democrat	18	17	20	22	12
Strong Democrat	19	17	22	16	26
Not sure/refused	3	2	3	1	2
Total Republicans	35	42	29	37	33

Total Democrats	47	42	51	49	44
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Q.F5. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be liberal, moderate, or conservative?

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Liberal	22	23	21	20	25
Moderate	40	39	42	42	39
Conservative	31	30	31	32	29
Not sure	7	8	6	6	7

Q.F6. Are you currently single and never married, married, separated, widowed, or divorced?

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Single	23	24	22	33	6
Married	57	61	54	56	61
Separated	2	1	1	-	3
Widowed	8	3	14	-	23
Divorced	9	10	8	11	7
Other (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-
Not sure/refused	1	1	1	-	-

Q.F7a. Do you have any children under 18 currently living in your household?

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	335	161	174	208	123

Yes, kids under 18 in household	37	34	41	53	12
No, no kids under 18 in household	62	65	58	47	88
Not sure	1	1	1	-	-

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following categories?

Zero to five \*

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	125	55	70	111	14
One	28	32	25	31	5
Two	12	17	8	13	-
Three	4	5	3	2	12
Four	1	-	2	1	7
Five or more	-	-	-	-	-
None	54	44	62	52	76
Not sure	1	2	-	1	-

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following categories?

Six to nine \*

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	125	55	70	111	14
One	29	24	33	27	42
Two	8	9	7	9	-
Three	-	-	-	-	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-
Five or more	-	-	-	-	-
None	63	67	60	64	58
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following categories?

Ten to fourteen \*

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	125	55	70	111	14
One	29	28	29	30	18
Two	11	4	16	11	7
Three	2	-	4	3	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-
Five or more	-	-	-	-	-
None	58	68	51	56	75
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following categories?

Fifteen to eighteen \*

	All Illinois Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	125	55	70	111	14
One	19	15	21	15	50
Two	8	8	7	8	5
Three	3	-	6	3	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-
Five or more	-	-	-	-	-
None	70	77	66	74	45
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

Q.F7c. Have you yourself ever had a child under five enrolled in a preschool program?

	All Illinois Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Yes, child is currently enrolled in a p	8	10	6	9	8
Yes, child was enrolled in a preschc	31	27	35	35	26
Yes, child enrolled in a preschool p	1	1	1	1	1
No, never had a child under 5 in a p	56	58	55	52	63
Not sure/refused	4	4	3	3	2
Total Have/Have Had Child In Progi	40	38	42	45	34

Q.F7d. Have you ever had a child under five in a child care arrangement outside the home--including with friends or relatives?

	All Illinois Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Yes, child is currently in a child care	9	12	7	12	5
Yes, child was in child care arrange	24	18	29	24	25
Yes, child was in child care arrang	2	2	3	2	1
No, never had a child under 5 in a c	62	64	59	60	67
Not sure/refused	3	4	2	2	2
Total Have/Have Had Child In Child	35	31	38	38	31

Q.F7e. Do you have any grandchildren under twelve? \*

\* Asked only of respondents who say that they are 40 or over (Q.F1).

	All Illinois Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	335	161	174	208	123

Yes, have grandchildren under 12	27	27	28	8	61
No, do not have grandchildren unde	35	33	36	33	39
Not sure	1	1	1	-	-

Q.F8a. In what religion were you brought up?

	All Illinois Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Protestant	49	45	53	48	53
Catholic	35	36	34	36	33
Jewish	1	1	1	1	1
Other	10	13	9	11	10
None	3	4	1	3	3
Not sure/refused	2	1	2	1	-

Q.F8b. Would you describe yourself as either a fundamentalist or evangelical Christian, or would you not describe yourself that way? \*

\* Asked only of Protestants (Q.F8a).

	All Illinois Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Fundamentalist/evangelical	18	16	20	16	22
Neither fundamentalist nor evangeli	27	28	26	28	27
Not sure	4	1	7	4	4
Non-Protestants (Q.F8a)	51	55	47	52	47

Q.F9. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than \$10,000, between \$10,000 and \$20,000, between \$20,000 and \$30,000, between \$30,000 and \$40,000, between \$40,000 and \$50,000, between \$50,000 and \$75,000, between \$75,000 and \$100,000, or would the total be more than that?

All Illinois	50 and
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	Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	over -----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Less than \$10,000	5	5	6	5	7
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000	7	5	9	7	8
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000	12	9	14	11	13
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000	7	6	7	8	5
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000	11	13	9	11	10
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000	17	20	15	18	16
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000	14	12	15	17	8
More than \$100,000	10	14	6	9	11
Not sure/refused	17	16	19	14	22

Q.F10. What is your race?

	All Illinois Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	335	161	174	208	123
Hispanic	7	7	7	8	5
White	75	75	75	72	82
Black	14	14	14	16	11
Asian	1	1	1	2	-
Other	1	1	2	1	1
Not sure/refused	2	2	1	1	1