



CHESHIRE SCHOOLS COMMUNITY SURVEY FINAL

Researcher:	Date:
Time start:	CB:
Time end:	Supervisor:

Hello, my name is _____. I am a research assistant at The Center for Research and Public Policy. We are talking today with a random selection of residents of Cheshire, Connecticut about the modernization of Cheshire Public Schools including new construction or renovation of buildings, adding modern technology, and updating learning spaces. Your input, whether you have children in the public schools or not, will help guide decisions over the years ahead. Your responses are strictly confidential, and we will not ask for your name.

This survey is an effort to collect important views among residents.

SCREENER

A. Are you at least 18 years of age or older?

- 01 Yes **(Continue)**
- 02 No **(Thank and ask for qualified respondent or terminate)**
- 03 DK **(Thank and terminate)**

B. Are you currently a resident of Cheshire, Connecticut?

- 01 Yes **(Continue)**
 - 02 No **(Thank and ask for qualified respondent)**
 - 03 Unsure **(Thank ask for qualified respondent)**
-

QUALITY OF LIFE

1. Please describe your overall quality of life living in Cheshire, Connecticut. Would you say it is...?

- 01 Very good;
- 02 Good;
- 03 Poor; or
- 04 Very poor.
- 05 Unsure / Don't know

2. How would you describe your own standard of living today compared to two years ago? Would you say....

- 01 Improved;
- 02 No movement, but good;
- 03 No movement, and not so good; or
- 04 Declined.
- 05 Unsure / Don't know

3. Please rate your overall impression of the quality of Cheshire town services such as policing, emergency, library, and parks and recreation using a scale of one to ten where one is very poor and ten is very good.

Rating Cheshire Town Services	Very Poor									Very Good	DK
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11

4. Please rate your overall impression of the quality of Cheshire Public Schools using a scale of one to ten where one is very poor and ten is very good.

Rating Cheshire Public Schools	Very Poor									Very Good	DK
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11

Modernizing Cheshire Public Schools

A committee has been charged with collecting input from residents to assist town leaders in developing the plans for modernizing Cheshire Public Schools. The Cheshire School Modernization Committee, over the past year and a half, has been studying public school needs and associated costs for both new construction and renovation.

For the purposes of this survey, the term modernization is more than just new construction, refurbishing or renovation of buildings and may include adding modern technology, updating learning spaces, meeting building codes as well as Americans with Disabilities / ADA accessibility requirements.

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Interest

5. How interested would you say you are in the planning process for Cheshire Public School modernization? Would you say...?

- 01 Very interested
- 02 Somewhat interested
- 03 Somewhat uninterested
- 04 Not at all interested
- 05 Unsure / Don't know

6. Overall, and in general, how important is it to you that Cheshire Public Schools are modernized? Would you say...?

- 01 Very important
- 02 Somewhat important
- 03 Somewhat unimportant
- 04 Not at all important
- 05 Unsure / Don't know

7. Based on all you know or have heard about the public schools in Cheshire, what is most important to you as the town considers a modernization effort? (**Researchers: Probe several times: “Is there anything else?” and accept multiple responses**)

- 01 Schools that are better designed for teaching and learning
- 02 Schools that are better designed to **attract new families** to town
- 03 Schools that are **safe and secure** for students, faculty and staff
- 04 Increasing **test scores**
- 05 Efforts to ensure our students graduate with **competitive skills**
- 06 **Improving IT or technology**
- 07 School buildings should meet **Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements**
- 08 Schools should improve **energy efficiency**
- 09 Schools should improve **air quality/ventilation**
- 10 Schools need to prevent overcrowding and meet **space needs**
- 11 Ensuring schools are **built to codes**
- 12 Increasing **services and spaces for students with special needs**
- 13 **New school construction**
- 14 **Renovation of school building facilities**
- 15 **Modernization** of schools
- 16 **Improved athletic** fields/playgrounds
- 17 **More athletic / sports programs**
- 18 **Improved climate control and air conditioning**
- 19 More **arts programs**
- 20 **Increase storage space**
- 21 **Improve driveway traffic patters** for pick up/drop off
- 22 **Improve traffic patterns** for cars, buses and pedestrians
- 23 **None – no need for modernizing Cheshire Public Schools**
- 24 **Unsure/no suggestions**
- 25 Other: (Please specify: _____)

Awareness/Knowledge

The following are several issues that have been identified by the Cheshire School Modernization Committee that require attention. For each, please tell me if you were very aware, somewhat aware, somewhat unaware, or not at all aware of each of the following:

Required Needs	Very Aware	Somewhat Aware	Somewhat Unaware	Not at all Aware	DK
8. Most Cheshire public schools were built in the 1950's	01	02	03	04	05
9. The last public school built was in the 1970's	01	02	03	04	05
10. Demand for school services and operational costs are increasing	01	02	03	04	05
11. Outdated Cheshire schools make it difficult to allow access to or install newer technology	01	02	03	04	05
12. Improvements for safety and security within the schools has been identified as a need	01	02	03	04	05
13. State funding provided to Cheshire for schools is stagnant	01	02	03	04	05
14. Based on projections, there is potential for 15% public school enrollment growth between 2020 and 2025 which will result in accelerated overcrowding	01	02	03	04	05
15. Some school buildings do not currently meet Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements	01	02	03	04	05
16. Older Cheshire school buildings cost significantly more for maintenance and upkeep	01	02	03	04	05
17. In 2014, the Kindergarten classes became full day programs. This change utilized additional classrooms	01	02	03	04	05
18. To more effectively serve our special education students and more efficiently provide services, additional special education classes have been created in town	01	02	03	04	05

Statements: Going Forward

The following are several statements related to Cheshire Public Schools. As I read each, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

Statements	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	DK
19. I could be convinced to support funding school modernization if I clearly understood the need	01	02	03	04	05
20. Public communication of modernization needs should distinguish between required and desired upgrades	01	02	03	04	05
21. Modernized public schools in Cheshire are important to maintaining home property values	01	02	03	04	05
22. Modernized public schools in Cheshire are important to preparing and graduating competitive students	01	02	03	04	05
23. Education quality is impacted by the quality of school facilities	01	02	03	04	05
24. Having modern school facilities in Cheshire will impact economic development in a positive way	01	02	03	04	05

Support and Opposition

An independent study has projected an increase in Cheshire enrollment at the K-6 level of more than 650 students and an increase in enrollment at the grade 7 – 8 level of 200 students over the next decade which will exceed the system’s student capacity.

The Cheshire School Modernization Committee has studied various scenarios for updating the schools and providing the needed additional space to meet projected future needs.

25. While the final details and associated costs are not yet available, please tell us generally and overall, how likely you are to support or oppose the modernization of Cheshire Public Schools in a referendum. Would you say...?

- 01 Strongly support
- 02 Somewhat support
- 03 Somewhat opposed
- 04 Strongly opposed
- 05 **DO NOT READ:** Depends
- 06 **DO NOT READ:** Unsure / Don’t know (**Go to Q27**)

26. Please tell us why?

27. Please tell us three or four things you would need to see, hear or better understand before you would be likely to or even more likely to **support** modernizing Cheshire Public Schools in a November 2021 referendum. **(Researchers: Probe – “Is there anything else?”**

Communication

28. Please tell me where you usually get information about the Cheshire public school system and town? **(Researchers: Accept multiple responses)**

- 01 Internet / Websites
- 02 Cheshire School Modernization Committee website
- 03 Cheshire School Modernization Committee Twitter page
- 04 Cheshire Town communication
- 05 Cheshire Schools Website
- 06 Cheshire Town Website
- 05 TV
- 06 Radio
- 07 Local Newspapers: Printed
- 08 Local Newspapers: Online
- 09 Friends/Family/Neighbors/Co-workers
- 10 Social media such as Facebook
- 11 Employer
- 12 Directly from the schools / school system
- 13 Emails
- 14 Flyers/brochures
- 15 Direct mail
- 16 State news outlets (papers, radio, TV)
- 17 Blogs
- 18 The Cheshire School Modernization Committee FaceBook page
- 19 Nextdoor or similar community forum
- 20 DK/Unsure
- 21 Other: _____

29. Please tell me which, if any, social media you use. If you don't use social media, simply say so.
(Researchers: Accept multiple responses)

Social Media Used	
01	Facebook
02	Twitter
03	Pinterest
04	LinkedIn
05	Snap Chat
06	YouTube
07	Yelp
08	Parler
09	Vero
10	WeChat
11	Tumblr
12	Tik Tok
13	Instagram
14	Foursquare
15	Nextdoor or similar community forum
16	Gab
17	WhatsApp
18	Don't Use Social Media (exclusive)
19	Other: _____

History of Cheshire Public School Use

Now, we are interested in learning how you may have interacted with Cheshire Public School facilities or property over the years.

30. Which, if any, Cheshire Public Schools (inside or fields) have you visited or used over the years for any reason? **(Researchers: Multiple responses accepted)**

- 01 Chapman School
- 02 Doolittle School
- 03 Highland School
- 04 Norton School
- 05 Humiston School
- 06 Dodd Middle School
- 07 Cheshire High School
- 08 Darcey School
- 09 **None/Have not visited/use any (Go to Q 32)**
- 10 **Unsure/ Don't know (Go to Q32)**

31. Please tell me the reasons you have visited or used this or these schools. **(Researchers: Multiple responses accepted)**

- 01 Athletic fields/sport events
- 02 Inside sporting events
- 03 Community meetings / events
- 04 Parent/teacher events or conferences
- 05 Student events or productions
- 06 Voting
- 07 Exercise using school facilities
- 08 Adult education
- 09 Volunteering
- 10 Family events
- 11 Shelter / Emergency facility use
- 12 Don't know / Unsure
- 13 Other: (please specify) _____

DEMOGRAPHICS

32. Please tell me the number of years you have lived in Cheshire, Connecticut?

- 01 _____
(Researchers: Please enter one number, no words or ranges)
77 DK/Unsure
99 Refused

33. Please tell me your age?

- 01 18-24
02 25-34
03 35-44
04 45-54
05 55-64
06 65 or older
07 Refused

34. Please tell me which of the following best describes the children you may have...

(Researchers: Accept Multiple Responses)

- 01 No children
02 Children not yet of school age (pre-school or younger)
03 Children of school age currently attending Cheshire schools
04 Children of school age not attending Cheshire schools (private school, home school, etc)
05 Children who started in the Cheshire schools but left for private or other schools
06 Older (over 18) children who attended Cheshire schools in the past
07 Older (over 18) children who did not attend Cheshire schools (such as didn't live in Cheshire / attended private)
08 Unsure / Don't know
09 Refused

35. How likely would you say you are to vote in a referendum on Cheshire School modernization? Would you say...?

- 01 Very likely
02 Somewhat likely
03 Somewhat unlikely
04 Not at all likely
05 Unsure

36. Which of the following categories best describes your total family income before taxes?

- 01 Under \$50,000
- 02 \$50,000 to less than \$75,000
- 03 \$75,000 to less than \$100,000
- 04 \$100,000 to less than \$175,000
- 05 \$175,000 to less than \$200,000
- 06 \$200,000 to less than \$225,000
- 07 \$225,000 to less than \$250,000
- 08 \$250,000 to less than \$300,000
- 09 \$300,00 or more
- 10 Unsure
- 11 Refused

37. Please tell me which of the following elementary school attendance zones you currently live in.

- 01 Chapman School
- 02 Doolittle School
- 03 Highland School
- 04 Norton School
- 05 Don't know/ Unsure

38. Which of the following is your voting location in Cheshire?

- 01 District 1: Cheshire High School, 525 South Main Street
- 02 District 2: Chapman School, 38 Country Club Road
- 03 District 3: Artsplace, 1220 Waterbury Road
- 04 District 4: Norton School, 414 N. Brooksvale Road
- 05 District 5 and 5.3: Doolittle School, 735 Cornwall Avenue
- 06 District 6: Highland School, 490 Highland Avenue
- 07 District 7: Dodd Middle School, 100 Park Avenue
- 08 Don't know / Unsure

39. Do you currently own or manage a business that is located within Cheshire?

- 01 Yes
- 02 No

Q40 and Q41 for Online Survey Only:

40. Please indicate your gender.

- 01 Man
- 02 Woman
- 03 Transgender man
- 04 Transgender woman
- 05 Non-binary
- 06 Other: _____
- 07 Prefer not to answer

41. If you would like to be receive occasional information and updates from the Cheshire School Modernization Committee please enter your email address here:

01 _____

'Thank you very much for your participation in this important survey.'

Phone Survey Only:

Gender by Observation

- 01 Male
- 02 Female