63% of voters see education in state as serious problem

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WASHINGTON - Voters have expressed concern about the quality of education in state schools, with 63% of those polled saying that education is a major problem.

A poll conducted by the Washington Post found that the quality of education is an extremely serious problem, with 25% of those polled saying that education is a major problem.

Twenty-five percent of those polled said that education is an extremely serious problem, with 26% of those polled saying that education is a major problem.

In the Washington Post's annual poll, voters were asked if they think the quality of education in their state is an extremely serious problem.

The quality of education in the state of Washington is an extremely serious problem, with 26% of those polled saying that education is a major problem.

More than 90% of voters statewide were asked whether they believe the quality of schools in their state is an extreme serious problem.

While 63% rated the quality of public schools as at least serious, hardly anyone could correctly identify Clem Cody as state education superintendent.

Only about 31% of the voters knew Cody was the man at the top of the state's public school pyramid. Two percent placed Cody in other positions and about 8% replied they did not know what position Cody holds.

"I'm just glad I'm not running for statewide office," Cody said jokingly.

"It's easy to see that we're going in the right direction not only at the state level but what local school districts are doing to improve schools is beginning to bear fruit," Cody said.

Cody attributed improved public perception to hiring more experienced teachers and improved facilities.

In the statewide teacher education program, and the new "report cards" on the state's 1,456 public schools.

Cody was pleased, because not surprised, that the poll also showed most voters want education to get any money allocated by the new state lottery and any oil revenue windfall.

"In my view, it's not surprising," Cody said. "Most voters in Louisiana and in other parts of the United States that show that education is an extremely serious problem.

"The poll also showed that education is an extremely serious problem, with 26% of those polled saying that education is a major problem.

In addition, more educated and more affluent the participants, the more likely they were to say that the quality of public schools is an extremely serious problem.

For example, 89 percent of those who have done post-graduate work at least 60 percent of those polled said that education is a major problem.

About 75 percent of those who make more than $45,000 per year have at least serious concerns about the quality of education, compared with 51 percent among those who make less than $15,000, 65 percent for those making between $15,000 and $30,000 and 65 percent making between $30,000 and $45,000.

White and black parents shared about the same concern, both totaling about 63 percent in the extremely serious and serious categories, but more whites believe it to be an extremely serious problem compared with 26 percent among blacks.

Republicans were more likely to view the quality of education as a serious or extremely serious problem than people of other political affiliations -- 68 percent for Republicans, compared with 61 percent for Democrats and 64 percent for those who identified themselves as political independents.

There was no significant difference among those who participated in a labor union and those who did not or among religious denominations.

It seems to me that we're going in the right direction not only at the state level but what local school districts are doing to improve schools is beginning to bear fruit," Cody said.

Cody attributed improved public perception to improved scores, teachers making significant improvements, and the new "report cards" on the state's 1,456 public schools.

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