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## **Polling Reveals Virginia Parents' Urgent Call for More Educational Choices Ahead of New School Year**

**LEXINGTON, VA** — As Virginia families gear up for the upcoming school year, new polling data released today by the Virginia Institute for Public Policy (VIPP) in partnership with 50CAN highlights a strong demand for greater educational options across the Commonwealth. The survey of over 400 Virginia parents and guardians of K-12 students uncovers key concerns about school choice, extracurricular access, and workforce readiness, underscoring the need for policies that enable families to select the best fit for their children's unique needs.

The findings paint a clear picture: Only 50-55% of Virginia parents feel they truly have a choice in their child's school, lagging 10% behind the national average. This gap is particularly stark when compared to broader opportunities nationwide, where parents report higher satisfaction with available options. Additionally, the poll reveals disparities in out-of-school activities, with students from low-income households more than 20% less likely to participate in organized sports than the national average for their peers. Confidence in career preparation is also low, with just 30% of Virginia parents extremely confident that their child will be equipped to succeed in the workforce—slightly below the national benchmark.

Together, the data demonstrates that parents from all backgrounds—regardless of income, ethnicity, or location—are united in seeking more flexibility, whether through public school options beyond zoning lines, private schools, charters, or homeschooling. Craig DiSesa, Director of Alternative Education Opportunities at the Virginia Institute for Public Policy, emphasized the poll's implications: "This data confirms what we've heard from families across Virginia: parents know their children best and are demanding the freedom to choose educational paths that foster success. It's time for policymakers to prioritize strong education choice reforms to ensure every family has a range of quality educational choices for their children."

Marc Porter Magee, CEO and founder of 50CAN, added "This polling underscores the widespread desire among Virginia parents for more control over their children's education. By partnering with organizations like VIPP, we're amplifying these voices to drive meaningful change that benefits families from every corner of the state."

These insights build on a nationwide study by 50CAN, providing Virginia-specific analysis that aligns with growing bipartisan support for education reform. Previous polling showed overwhelming approval for initiatives like the Virginia Education Opportunity Scholarships, with net +29 support overall and even stronger backing from Black (+36) and Hispanic (+55) communities, but sadly became a political football as the Republican Governor's plans were torpedoed by the Democratic-controlled General Assembly.

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1 – For further information, contact Craig DiSesa at [cdisesa@virginia institute.org](mailto:cdisesa@virginia institute.org)

2 – For a full copy of the report, visit <https://virginia institute.org/the-state-of-educational-opportunity-in-virginia-a-survey-of-virginia-parents>