

**Badger Institute Survey of Superintendents,
School Board Members and Business Managers — Aggregated
Conducted July-August 2017**

(For results separated by group, email Dan Benson at dan@badgerinstitute.org)

Q1. All districts, as you know, rely upon a mix of funds from local/state and federal sources. (For our purposes, federal funds include those awarded directly to the district and those that flow through the state.) First, we'd like to know more about how your local school board oversees the various kinds of education funds spent in your district. In your view, does the school board pay very close attention, somewhat close attention or very little attention to the allocation of state/local funds?

Answer choices	Response Percentage	Responses
Very close attention	57.43%	259
Somewhat close attention	33.70%	152
Very little attention	8.65%	39
Don't know	0.22%	1
Total		451

Q2. What about funds received from the federal government? In your view, does the school board pay very close attention, somewhat close attention or very little attention to the allocation of funds received from the federal government?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Very close attention	38.80%	175
Somewhat close attention	43.46%	196
Very little attention	17.52%	79
Don't know	0.22%	1
Total		451

Q3. As you know, all school funds come with various reporting requirements and accompanying paperwork. We're wondering what impact these requirements have on teachers and staff. Let's start with the reporting requirements associated with state/local funds. Is satisfying state/local reporting requirements extremely, very, somewhat or not especially time-consuming?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Extremely time-consuming	19.07%	86
Very time-consuming	34.37%	155
Somewhat time-consuming	31.71%	143
Not especially time-consuming	6.65%	30
Don't know	8.20%	37
Total		451

Q4. What about those reporting requirements associated with federal funds? Are the requirements from the federal government extremely, very, somewhat or not especially time-consuming?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Extremely time-consuming	25.94%	117
Very time-consuming	39.25%	177
Somewhat time-consuming	23.95%	108
Not especially time-consuming	1.77%	8
Don't know	9.09%	41
Total		451

Q5. And what about the following two statements about reporting requirements from the federal government? Which comes closer to your view?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Federal government reporting requirements are critical for ensuring the necessary oversight and accountability of public schools.	40.80%	184
Federal government reporting requirements do very little to support the necessary oversight and accountability of public schools.	59.20%	267
Total		451

Q6. Which of the following statements most closely matches your district's experience in dealing with the reporting requirements for federal education funds?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Federal reporting requirements are so complex, contain so much red tape and compliance penalties are so onerous, the district has had to hire additional and/or expert staff to manage federal grant programs and oversee their implementation.	12.42%	56
Despite the challenges of satisfying federal reporting requirements, the district's regular business staff have been able to manage federal grant programs and their implementation.	68.74%	310
Budget constraints do not allow us to add staff to help manage federal grants, but we would do so if funds were available.	18.85%	85
Total		451

Q7. Which of the following statements comes closer to your view about the accompanying paperwork from the federal government?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Paperwork associated with federal education funding too often takes teachers and other staff away from the classroom and otherwise working with students.	59.42%	268
Paperwork associated with federal education funding does not disrupt the efforts of teachers and staff working with students.	40.58%	183
Total		451

Q8. As you know, federal grant programs require training of local school staff. About how many staff hours would you say your district personnel spend in federal grant program training per year?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Less than 20 hours	16.19%	73
20+ hours	21.06%	95
50+ hours	14.63%	66
100+ hours	7.32%	33
150+ hours	2.00%	9
200+ hours	2.00%	9
300+ hours	1.55%	7
400+ hours	0%	0
500+ hours	0.22%	1
Don't know	35.03%	158
Total		451

Q9. As you know, education funds also come with various restrictions on how the money is spent. Let's again start with local/state funds. In your view, are there a lot, some or not many restrictions imposed from outside the district on how local/state education money is spent in your district?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
A lot of restrictions	16.22%	137
Some restrictions	56.76%	242
Not many restrictions	27.03%	45
Don't know	0%	27
Total		451

Q10. What about the federal government? In your view, does the federal government place a lot, some or not many restrictions on how education money is spent in your district?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
A lot of restrictions	56.76%	256
Some restrictions	34.59%	156
Not many restrictions	2.22%	10
Don't know	6.43%	29
Total		451

Q11. In general and in your estimation, are federal funds for education often, sometimes, rarely or never wasted?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Often	2.66%	12
Sometimes	21.73%	98
Rarely	36.36%	164
Never	33.48%	151
Don't know	5.76%	26
Total		451

Q12. We're also interested in your views about accountability. In your view, is the way that federal funds are spent always, often, sometimes, hardly ever or never accountable to parents and taxpayers?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Always	24.17%	109
Often	27.49%	124
Sometimes	25.50%	115
Hardly ever	13.30%	60
Never	3.33%	15
Don't know	6.21%	28
Total		451

Q13. We also would like to know what you think would happen if spending restrictions on federal funds were relaxed. If local school officials had more discretion over how federal funds were spent, what do you think would happen to unnecessary or wasteful spending?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Wasteful spending would increase a great deal.	2.88%	13
Increase somewhat	14.41%	65
Neither increase nor decrease	31.71%	143
Decrease somewhat	14.19%	64
Decrease a great deal	11.53%	52
There is no wasteful spending.	19.73%	89
Don't know	5.54%	25
Total		451

Q14. What about accountability? If local school officials had more discretion over how federal funds were spent, do you think there would be much more, somewhat more, about the same, somewhat less or much less accountability in how federal funds are spent than there is now?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
There would be much more accountability.	11.09%	50
Somewhat more	19.73%	89
About the same	50.11%	226
Somewhat less	10.86%	49
Much less accountability	3.33%	15
Don't know	4.88%	22
Total		451

Q15. What about innovation? If local school officials had more discretion over how federal funds are spent, do you think there would be much more, somewhat more, about the same, somewhat less or much less likely that your district would implement innovative ideas to improve your district and improve education for your students?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Much more likely	49.00%	221
Somewhat more likely	33.92%	153
About the same	13.30%	60
Somewhat less likely	1.11%	5
Much less likely	0.22%	1
Don't know	2.44%	11
Total		451

Q16. Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Restrictions on how federal funds are spent harmfully distort the decisions that local school officials make on behalf of their students.	60.09%	271
Restrictions on how federal funds are spent help ensure that local school officials attend to the best interests of their students.	39.91%	180
Total		451

Q17. All things considered, do you think there are too many, about the right number or too few restrictions on how local districts can spend funds received from the federal government?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Too many restrictions	72.28%	326
About the right number	19.96%	90
Too few restrictions	0.67%	3
Don't know	7.10%	32
Total		451

Q18. Currently, about what percentage of local/state funds are used for direct instructional purposes, as distinct from strictly administrative, operational or support purposes?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
0% - 10%	2.44%	11
11% - 20%	4.88%	22
21% - 30%	3.33%	15
31% - 40%	3.33%	15
41% - 50%	2.66%	12
51% - 60%	7.54%	34
61% - 70%	8.65%	39
71% - 80%	15.96%	72
81% - 90%	13.08%	59
91% - 100%	9.31%	42
Don't know	28.82%	130
Total		451

Q19. What about federal funds? About what percentage of funds from the federal government are used for direct instructional purposes?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
0% - 10%	10.86%	49
11% - 20%	6.65%	30
21% - 30%	3.99%	18
31% - 40%	1.55%	7
41% - 50%	2.66%	12
51% - 60%	3.10%	14
61% - 70%	4.66%	21
71% - 80%	9.53%	43
81% - 90%	10.20%	46
91% - 100%	16.63%	75
Don't know	30.16%	136
Total		451

Q20. If local school officials had more discretion over how federal funds were spent, would more funds be allocated toward any of the following areas, or would spending priorities remain the same? (Check all that apply.)

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Teachers and classroom instruction	68.51%	309
Support services	38.36%	173
Administration	4.21%	19
Operations	17.29%	78
Capital improvements	20.84%	94
Spending priorities would not change.	17.29%	78
Don't know	8.65%	39
Total		451

Q21. We're wondering what you think about how effectively federal funds are spent in categories tracked by the federal government. Let's start with money spent on instruction. In your view, are federal funds meant for the classroom (educating children, training and supporting teachers) in local schools always, often, sometimes, hardly ever or never spent in ways that effectively educate children?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Always	33.92%	153
Often	37.92%	171
Sometimes	18.85%	85
Hardly ever	1.77%	8
Never	0.22%	1
Don't know	7.32%	33
Total		451

Q22. What about federal funds used for non-classroom purposes, such as food service and transportation? Are these funds always, often, sometimes, hardly ever or never spent in ways that efficiently provide services to children?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Always	39.02%	176
Often	36.36%	164
Sometimes	14.63%	66
Hardly ever	2.66%	12
Never	0.67%	3
Don't know	6.65%	30
Total		451

Q23. What about federal funds spent on administration? Are these funds always, often, sometimes, hardly ever or never spent in ways that effectively contribute to the efficient and smooth operation of your district?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Always	27.05%	122
Often	29.27%	132
Sometimes	19.96%	90
Hardly ever	7.32%	33
Never	2.00%	9
Don't know	14.41%	65
Total		451

Q24. Let's now think about federal involvement in education generally — funding, regulations, restrictions, testing and the like. In your view, federal involvement in local education should be:

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Increased	7.98%	36
Remain the same	20.18%	91
Reduced	55.43%	250
Eliminated	9.98%	45
Don't know	6.43%	29
Total		451

Q25. Now we just have a few questions about your school district. Approximately how many students are in your district?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Fewer than 500	26.16%	118
501 - 1,000	26.61%	120
1,001 - 2,000	25.06%	113
2,001 - 3,000	7.54%	34
More than 3,000	13.53%	61
Don't know	1.11%	5
Total		451

Q26. What grade levels are offered in the public schools in your district? (Check all that apply.)

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Pre-Kindergarten	95.57%	431
Elementary school grades	96.67%	436
Middle school grades	96.23%	434
High school grades	90.47%	408
Don't know	1.11%	5
Total		451

Q27. Would you describe your district as urban, suburban or rural?

Answer choices	Response percentage	Responses
Urban	5.76%	26
Suburban	15.30%	69
Rural	77.83%	351
Don't know	1.11%	5
Total		451