



**The Civic Index**  
**A Citywide Survey of 400 Adults**  
**in San Francisco**  
**May 12-18, 2008**



## The Civic Index

**This is the first year the Index has been conducted in San Francisco.**

- **It is the first time it has ever been conducted in California.**
- **It is the first area that has a significant Asian population that can be examined relative to adults of other ethnicities (27% of all respondents).**
- **Asian population in this survey is mostly Chinese (81%), with 16% of all respondents taking the survey in Chinese.**



## A Few Key Findings

1. San Franciscans prioritize public education.
  - More than one in four voters (28%) believes it is the top issue they want their local officials to do something about.
  - No other issue is competitive in the top tier.
  - Nationally, public education is a concern to many voters, but trails other issues like gas prices and jobs and the economy.



**San Franciscans demonstrate their focus on public education by saying they stay informed.**

- **68% say they are informed**
- **Use education in their vote criterion**
- **53% say it is one of the most important or a very important part**



**San Franciscans are heavily focused on education as their top issue concern.**

- **They give their community decent ratings on the Index, but lower ratings than adults nationally rate their local communities.**
- **Following national trends, San Franciscans rate the community highest for achieving gender, racial, and economic equity in the school system.**
- **Lowest for the involvement of business leaders, civic organizations, the media, and communication from elected officials.**

***Beyond the Talk: Taking Action to Educate Every Child Now***  
**A Transformative Plan for Ensuring Quality Schools**

We know where we stand – our schools are good and they are not good enough. For the past seven years, San Francisco has been the highest performing large urban school district in the state. At the same time the district’s achievement gap continues to widen. This means that African American, Latino and Pacific Islander students continue to lag behind their white and Asian peers academically. The SFUSD is committed to closing the achievement gap and has made this the focus of its new strategic plan *Beyond the Talk: Taking Action to Education Every Child Now*.

**Goals we seek to achieve:**

**Access & Equity** – we will make social justice a reality by ensuring every student has access to quality teaching and learning.

**Achievement** – we will ensure that every student graduates from high school ready for college and career and success in the 21st century.

**Accountability** – we will keep our promises to students and families and enlist everyone in the community to join us.



**Both Asian and white adults rate their community high for achieving equal education opportunities for children of all ethnic backgrounds – with Asians offering a slightly more intense rating.**

*Public schools in your community provide equal educational opportunities for children of all ethnic or racial backgrounds.*

Rated on 0-5 scale	All	White	Asians
Mean	3.5	3.4	3.8
Rated 5	31%	27%	33%



Gender and racial equity are the top rated tolerance/inclusiveness statements. There is a decrease when looking at economic backgrounds, ESL students, and special education students – but those categories still receive high ratings.

**TOLERANCE/INCLUSIVNESS**

**Ranked by % Rated "5"**

