



“ I am writing to support a proposal by the Learning First Alliance (LFA) to establish the American Education Poll, an annual poll of the American public designed to scientifically determine people's opinions about American public education.

A national poll of Americans' views about education is a vital tool during a time when so much misinformation abounds. Rather than guessing at Americans' views about the public schools, the poll will point to areas of both consensus and concern. The American Education Poll will be non-partisan, objective, and focused on the

most important issues in education.

The Learning First Alliance will tap the power of its member organizations to disseminate the poll results and through extensive use of social media. This would mean that more than 10 million teachers, administrators, and other education personnel will be aware of this information and serve as ambassadors to share these results with others.

Further, LFA chose the very best individuals to lead this effort. I know both Bill Bushaw and Joan Richardson personally. They possess the knowledge and skills to launch this effort quickly and guide it during its formative period. Bill and Joan are deeply committed to doing work that respects the voices of Americans and reflects their true beliefs about the American public schools.

I know from my own experience how important this poll can be. As Founding President of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards during the late 80's and throughout the 1990's, I learned first-hand how important it was to have national polling data available to guide our communication efforts and to help us build bridges between teachers and parents. Later I served as a senior advisor to the National Academy of Sciences' strategic educational research initiative. I've personally met and discussed education policy issues with dozens of CEOs of top American corporations and similarly have met on dozens of occasions with governors, both individual governors in their offices and speaking at their annual conferences of the National Governors Association. I found that having actual polling data anchors those kinds of discussions solidly and minimizes misinformation and incorrect assertions about the views of public school parents across the country.

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