



The National Tutoring Association National Tutoring Survey (Parents)

The NTA has initiated a first-of-its-kind national survey for parents. The survey is designed to allow parents to broadly report their views of tutoring and its relationship to mainstream education. The survey is structured in 5 parts:

- Who is being tutored
- The cost of tutoring
- The types of tutoring used
- Benefits of tutoring
- Issues in tutoring

The purpose for gathering this data is so that all forms of education and policy-makers can for the first time understand the scope and role of tutoring to American families. This is not an abstract academic survey; it represents a genuine opportunity for parents to communicate their current levels of use of tutoring and why they use tutors for their students.

The importance of information about who is being tutored is that it will demonstrate what the factors are why families decide to take on tutors. For example, do most families hire tutors for children in elementary, middle or high school? Also, why do parents seek tutors for their children? If this is understood then educational authorities and policy makers can better understand the specific educational needs of families and their motivations.

Tutoring costs can be significant but there is no accurate data on the cost of tutoring to families. How can governments support the decisions made by growing numbers of families if they do not understand the amount of money being spent by families?

Finally, there are many misconceptions about tutoring. Generally the focus is on 'hot-housing' exam preparation and various state and national tests. If parents can state the benefits of tutoring and the issues in tutoring then, parent groups, school administration, government policy-makers, tutors and other stakeholders can work to address these issues.

This survey represents an opportunity for parents to become heard in a way that has not been done before. It represents an opportunity for the educational sector in America, to re-cast the national dialogue on education generally, and tutoring specifically.

PLEASE feel free to complete this survey anonymously and send it to us. The survey will be open until December 31, 2011.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NTA_Parent.

Pass this article to other parents or direct them to our website www.ntatutor.org where they can find the link to the online survey.