

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Interested Parties**  
**FROM: Hart Research Associates**  
**DATE: September 25, 2009**  
**RE: Research Findings**

*On behalf of Family Planning Advocates of New York State, from January 13 to 15, 2009, Hart Research Associates conducted a representative statewide survey among 604 registered voters. The survey was designed to gauge New York voters' understanding of and attitudes toward reproductive health issues in the state. The margin of error for this survey is  $\pm 4.0$  percentage points.*

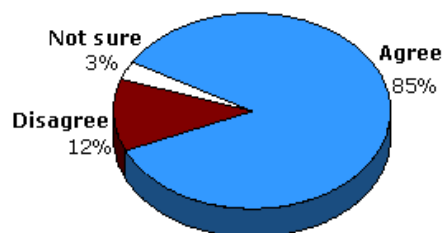
New York voters demonstrate clear, consistent, and broadly shared support for universal, comprehensive, medically accurate sex education in public schools.

Overwhelmingly and virtually unanimously, New York voters say that comprehensive, medically accurate sex education should be standard in public schools. In fact, most voters think that New York public schools already teach sex education, so this provision actually would serve to establish what voters mistakenly perceive to be the status quo.

- Voters overwhelmingly believe that New York public schools already teach sex education: more than three-quarters (77%) mistakenly think that schools are currently teaching some form of sex education.
- When voters are informed that New York does not currently require sex education to be taught in schools, a striking 85% agree that age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education should be taught in public schools. This clear, deep support includes a strong majority of voters in every demographic and attitudinal category, including voters from small town and rural communities (89%), Republicans (84%), seniors (85%), Hispanics (72%), Protestants (89%), Catholics (84%).

### Support For Comprehensive Sex Education In Public Schools

Agree/Disagree: Age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education should be taught in New York public schools



	<b>Agree</b>
Republicans	84%
Seniors	85%
Hispanics	72%
Protestants	89%
Catholics	84%
Upstate voters	87%
Small town/ rural voters	89%
Parents of teens	86%

- While voters Upstate and in the New York City suburbs are more likely to think public schools are required to teach sex education (84% and 86%, respectively), only about half (54%) of New York City voters say the same. However, the three regions overwhelmingly agree that age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education should be taught in public schools (Upstate voters 87%, New York City suburb voters 84%, New York City voters 84%).