

The Effect of Testing on Achievement: Meta-Analyses and Research Summary, 1910–2010

Source List, Effect Sizes, and References for Survey Studies

The text of this study is currently under review by a scholarly journal. The study summarizes the research literature on the effect of testing on student achievement, which comprises several hundred studies conducted from the early 20th century to the present day. Only survey studies, however, are included here (N studies = 247; N effects = 813; total respondent population \approx 700,000). Moreover, the surveys summarized here are limited to North America from the year 1958–2008.

Surveys measure perceptions of effects—either through public opinion polls or surveys of groups selected within program evaluations. The mean effect size (for the perception that testing has a positive effect on achievement) exceeds +1.0, a very large effect. Effect sizes are relatively weaker, however, for situations in which one group is held accountable for the performance of another—holding either teachers or schools accountable for student scores.

THE EFFECT OF TESTING ON ACHIEVEMENT, SURVEY STUDIES

Poll/survey organization / individuals	Year	Survey type	Respondent group(s)	Geographic coverage	Effect size*
Gallup-American Institute of Public Opinion	1958	Poll	adults	US	0.2
Gallup Organization	1961	Poll	adults	US	1.5
Gallup Organization	1962	Poll	adults	US	1.7
Project Talent, U. Pittsburgh	1964	Evaluation	administrators, teachers	US	-0.9
Sharp, Evelyn W	1966	Poll	teachers	US	1.1
Gallup	1976	Poll	adults	US	0.8
<i>CBS News</i>	1978	Poll	adults	US	1.8
Gallup	1978	Poll	adults	US	1.0
Beck & Stetz	1978	Evaluation	teachers	US	-0.1
Ward	1979	Poll	teachers	US	0.4
Gallup	1979	Poll	adults	US	2.2
Anastasi, Geisinger	1980	Evaluation	parents, teachers	US	1.4
Horn	1980	Evaluation	administrators, board presidents, legislators, teachers	NV	0.5
Yankelovich, Skelly & White	1980	Poll	parents, graduates	US	1.5
Gallup	1980	Poll	adults	US	1.0
UCLA, Center for the Study of Evaluation	1981	Evaluation	principals, teachers	US	1.3
Gallup	1981	Poll	adults	US	1.5
<i>ABC News, Washington Post</i>	1981	Poll	parents, principals	US	0.6
Gallup	1981	Poll	adults	US	2.6
G. B. Johnson	1981	Evaluation	administrators, parents, teachers, students	DODS in Europe	2.6
Menahem & Weisman	1981	Evaluation	parents, teachers	US	4.3
Center for the Study of Evaluation	1982	Evaluation	teachers	US	1.5
Estes, Demaline	1982	Evaluation	adults	CA, FL, IL, MT, TX, WI	0.9
Glasnapp, Poggio, Miller	1983	Evaluation	administrators, board members, teachers	KS	1.4
NEA Research	1983	Poll	teachers	US	-0.5
Gallup	1983	Poll	adults, parents	US	1.8
Metropolitan Life	1984	Poll	teachers	US	1.1

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Poll/survey organization / individuals	Year	Survey type	Respondent group(s)	Geographic coverage	Effect size*
Gullickson	1984	Evaluation	teachers	SD	1.0
Higgenbotham	1984	Evaluation	legislators, superintendents, teachers	US	0.3
Associated Press, Media General	1984	Poll	adults	US	2.5
Gallup	1984	Poll	adults, parents	US	1.7
Stager, Green	1984	Evaluation	teachers	WY	0.2
Gallup	1985	Poll	adults, parents	US	2.6
Institute for Research on Teaching, Freeman, Cusick, Houang	1985	Poll	adults	US	2.9
Market Opinion Research	1985	Poll	adults	US	3.2
Public Policy Resources Lab	1986	Poll	adults	TX	1.6
Center for Survey Research	1986	Poll	adults	NV	2.7
<i>Arizona Republic, Phoenix Gazette</i>	1986	Poll	adults	AZ	1.4
Survey Research Center	1986	Poll	adults	MD	2.0
Gallup	1986	Poll	adults, parents	US	1.7
Talmey-Drake Research & Strategy	1986	Poll	adults	CO	2.6
Green	1986	Evaluation	teachers, students	2 Western states	1.0
Ryan McGinn Samples Research	1986	Poll	adults	WV	1.7
Market Opinion Research	1986	Poll	adults	US	3.2
Glasnapp, Poggio, Miller	1987	Evaluation	administrators, board members, parents, students, teachers	KS	2.4
Corbett, Wilson	1987	Evaluation	teachers, administrators	MD	1.1
Corbett, Wilson	1987	Evaluation	teachers, administrators	PA	0.6
Gallup	1987	Poll	adults, parents	US	1.2
Ferrara, Wilhoft, Seburn, Slaughter, Stevenson	1988	Evaluation	administrators	MD	4.9
Met Life	1988	Poll	teachers	US	3.2
Hall, Carroll, Comer	1988	Evaluation	teachers	FL	-0.4
Gallup	1988	Poll	adults, parents	US	1.7

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Poll/survey organization / individuals	Year	Survey type	Respondent group(s)	Geographic coverage	Effect size*
Stake, Theobald	1988	Evaluation	teachers	7 US states	1.7
South Carolina Division of Public Accountability	1989	Evaluation	students	SC	1.3
Stevenson, Chen, Uttal	1989	Evaluation	parents	IL	1.6
Gallup	1989	Poll	adults	US	1.5
Green, Williams	1989	Evaluation	teachers	WY	0.4
Green, Williams	1989	Evaluation	teachers	LA	0.6
Urban Research Institute	1989	Poll	adults	KY	2.2
O'Sullivan	1989	Evaluation	teachers	NC	0.0
Boston College Center for Study of Testing, Education, and Policy	1990	Evaluation	teachers	US	-0.9
Anderson, Muir, Bateson, Blackmore, Rogers.	1990	Evaluation	counselors, parents, principals, students, superintendents, teachers	British Columbia	1.2
Calder	1990	Evaluation	teachers, students	Alberta	0.2
Moore	1990	Evaluation	teachers	Midwest	-1.0
Carnegie Foundation	1990	Poll	teachers	US	0.2
Flynn	1990	Evaluation	adults	NC	1.0
<i>CBS News</i>	1990	Poll	adults	US	0.6
Ryan McGinn Samples Research	1990	Poll	teachers	WV	1.3
Gallup	1990	Poll	adults	US	0.9
Metropolitan Life	1991	Poll	teachers	US	0.5
Harnisch, Switzer	1991	Evaluation	teachers	US	7.2
Bond, Cohen	1991	Evaluation	administrators	IN	2.2
Louis Harris	1991	Poll	adults	US	1.7
Gallup	1991	Poll	adults	US	1.7
Hart and Teeter	1991	Poll	adults	US	0.9
Gallup	1991	Poll	adults	US	0.9
Smith, Hounshell, Copolo, & Wilkerson	1992	Evaluation	teachers	NC	-0.8
Marso & Pigge	1992	Evaluation	teachers	OH	-0.8
Gallup	1992	Poll	adults, parents	US	0.6
Ryan McGinn Samples Research	1992	Poll	adults	WV	2.5
U.S. General Accounting Office	1992	Evaluation	administrators	US	1.2
Metropolitan Life	1993	Poll	teachers	US	0.0
Market Strategies	1993	Poll	adults	MI	3.5
Gallup	1993	Poll	adults, parents	US	0.5

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Poll/survey organization / individuals	Year	Survey type	Respondent group(s)	Geographic coverage	Effect size*
NU Stats, Inc.	1993	Poll	adults	US	1.6
Gallup	1994	Poll	adults, parents	US	2.0
Public Agenda, CRC	1994	Poll	adults	US	1.9
Peter D. Hart	1994	Poll	teachers	US	1.5
Louis Harris	1995	Poll	teachers	US	1.1
Peter D. Hart	1995	Poll	teachers	US	1.0
Gallup	1995	Poll	adults, parents	US	0.7
Public Agenda	1995	Poll	adults, teachers	US	1.3
Public Agenda	1996	Poll	students, teachers	US	1.3
Tarrance; Mellman, Lazurus & Lake	1996	Poll	adults	US	2.2
Miller, David M, University of Florida	1996	Evaluation	teachers	AL	-0.7
Miller, David M, University of Florida	1996	Evaluation	teachers	CT	-0.4
Miller, David M, University of Florida	1996	Evaluation	teachers	DE	-0.3
Miller, David M, University of Florida	1996	Evaluation	teachers	NC	-0.2
Miller, David M, University of Florida	1996	Evaluation	teachers	RI	-0.5
Behuniak, Chudowsky, Dirir	1997	Evaluation	teachers	CT	0.8
Montana State U., Billings	1997	Poll	adults	MT	2.3
Gallup	1997	Poll	adults	US	1.3
Hart and Teeter	1997	Poll	adults	US	1.8
Public Agenda	1997	Poll	professors, teachers	US	1.0
Penn, Schoen & Berland	1997	Poll	registered voters	US	1.7
Gallup	1997	Poll	adults, parents	US	0.4
Public Agenda	1997	Poll	adults, teachers, principals, superintendents	SC	1.5
NAESP	1997	Poll	principals	US	0.5
Hart and Teeter	1997	Poll	adults	US	1.3
Lane, Parke, Stone	1997	Evaluation	principals, students, teachers	US	-0.5
Wirthlin Quorum Survey	1997	Poll	adults	US	3.0
American Viewpoint	1997	Poll	registered voters	US	2.1
Lane, Ventrice, Cerrillo, Parke, Stone	1997	Evaluation	principals, teachers	US	0.0
Parke, Lane	1998	Evaluation	students	MD	0.4

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Poll/survey organization / individuals	Year	Survey type	Respondent group(s)	Geographic coverage	Effect size*
Zogby International	1998	Poll	adults	US	1.9
Penn, Schoen & Berland	1998	Poll	adults	US	2.2
Gallup	1998	Poll	adults	US	1.9
Princeton Survey Research	1998	Poll	adults	US	1.1
Lane, Ventrice, Cerrillo, Parke, Stone	1998	Evaluation	principals, students, teachers	MD	0.0
Public Agenda	1999	Poll	adults, parents, professors, teachers, students	US	2.2
Gallup	1999	Poll	adults, parents	US	3.3
Bradshaw	1999	Evaluation	teachers, administrators	NC	0.8
Yarbrough	1999	Evaluation	teachers	NC	1.0
International Communications Research	1999	Poll	adults, parents	US	1.8
Penn, Schoen & Berland	1999	Poll	registered voters	US	1.9
Guth, et al	1999	Evaluation	adults, parents, school districts	US	2.5
Legislative Office of Education Oversight	2000	Evaluation	teachers	US	0.8
Times-Dispatch	2000	Poll	teacher	US	3.0
Mulvenon, Connors, Lenares	2000	Evaluation	teachers	AR	0.4
Public Agenda	2000	Poll	adults, employees, parents, teachers	US	2.0
Gallup	2000	Poll	adults	US	3.3
Public Agenda	2000	Poll	parents	US	0.5
Beldon Russonello & Stewart	2000	Poll	teachers	US	0.9
Public Agenda	2000	Poll	parents	US	1.0
Haselkorn, Harris, Peter Harris Research Group	2000	Poll	adults	CA	1.4
Beldon Russonello & Stewart	2000	Poll	adults, parents	OH	1.2
<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>	2000	Poll	lawmakers	OH	-0.6
Beldon Russonello & Stewart	2000	Poll	adults, parents	MS	2.1
Beldon Russonello & Stewart	2000	Poll	adults, parents	VA	1.6

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Poll/survey organization / individuals	Year	Survey type	Respondent group(s)	Geographic coverage	Effect size*
Beldon Russonello & Stewart	2000	Poll	adults	WV	2.5
Beldon Russonello & Stewart	2000	Poll	adults	US	0.9
Beldon Russonello & Stewart	2000	Poll	adults, parents	NY	2.1
Beldon Russonello & Stewart	2000	Poll	adults, parents	IL	2.6
Program on International Policy Attitudes	2000	Poll	adults	US	2.0
Gallup	2000	Poll	adults, parents	US	-0.3
Luntz, Laszlo	2000	Poll	adults	US	-0.1
Center for Survey Research, Heldrick Center	2000	Poll	adults	US	1.9
Angus Reid Group	2000	Poll	adults	Ontario	1.6
Harris Interactive	2000	Poll	parents (public schools -- NE, IA)	US	0.3
Opinion Research Corporation	2000	Poll	parents (public schools)	US	0.6
<i>Arizona Republic, Phoenix Gazette</i>	2000	Poll	adults	AZ	0.6
<i>ABC News, Washington Post</i>	2000	Poll	adults	US	-0.6
Lake, Snell, Perry	2000	Poll	parents	US	1.6
Odum Institute for Research	2000	Poll	adults	NC	1.1
<i>The Advocate</i> (Baton Rouge)	2000	Poll	adults	LA	0.6
Albert Shanker Institute	2000	Poll	teachers	US	1.3
Albert Shanker Institute	2001	Poll	teachers	US	0.3
Debard, R., & Kubow, P. K.	2001	Evaluation	students, teachers	OH	0.6
Hoffman, Assaf, Paris	2001	Evaluation	Texas State Reading Association members	TX	-0.5
Public Agenda	2001	Poll	employers, parents, principals, professors, students, teachers	US	1.0
COMPAS	2001	Poll	adults	Canada	1.3
Wisconsin Policy Research Institute	2001	Poll	adults	WI	1.3
Odum Institute for Research	2001	Poll	adults	NC	0.1

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Poll/survey organization / individuals	Year	Survey type	Respondent group(s)	Geographic coverage	Effect size*
Market Shares Corporation	2001	Poll	adults	IL	0.4
International Communications Research	2001	Poll	adults	US	0.2
Opinion Dynamics	2001	Poll	adults	US	1.0
Hart & Teeter	2001	Poll	adults	US	2.5
<i>New York Times, CBS News</i>	2001	Poll	adults	US	0.3
Center for Survey Research	2001	Poll	adults	VA	0.2
Gallup	2001	Poll	adults, parents	US	0.1
Hart & Teeter, Coldwater Corporation	2001	Poll	administrators, adults, parents, teachers	US	1.4
Commonwealth Poll, Genesis Sampling Systems	2001	Poll	administrators, adults, parents, teachers	VA	0.5
Lumley, Yan	2001	Evaluation	teachers	PA	0.1
Institute for Social Research	2001	Poll	adults	US	1.5
<i>CBS News, New York Times</i>	2001	Poll	adults	US	0.3
<i>Los Angeles Times</i>	2001	Poll	adults	CA	1.7
Quinnipiac University Polling Institute	2001	Poll	adults	NY	2.1
Harris Interactive	2001	Poll	adults	US	1.2
Ryan, McGinn Samples Research	2001	Poll	adults	WV	2.3
Greenberg, Quinlan & Tarrance Group	2001	Poll	adults, parents	US	0.8
The Tarrance Group, Inc.	2001	Poll	adults, parents	US	0.9
Princeton Survey Research	2001	Poll	adults	US	1.2
Public Policy Institute (CA)	2001	Poll	adults	CA	0.6
Gallup	2001	Poll	adults	US	1.6
<i>CBS News, New York Times</i>	2001	Poll	adults	US	0.3
Pedulla, Abrams, Madaus, Russell, Ramos, Miao	2001	Evaluation	teachers	US	-1.1
McDonald	2002	Evaluation	teachers	Alberta	-0.7

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Poll/survey organization / individuals	Year	Survey type	Respondent group(s)	Geographic coverage	Effect size*
Jones, Johnston	2002	Evaluation	teachers	NC	1.6
Winston Group	2002	Poll	adults	US	1.1
Jones, Egley	2002	Evaluation	teachers	FL	-0.1
U. Arkansas Survey Research Center	2002	Poll	adults	AR	0.9
Fairbanks, Maslin, Maullin & Assoc.	2002	Poll	adults	CA	1.1
Market Shares Corporation	2002	Poll	adults	IN	0.0
Quinnipiac University Polling Institute	2002	Poll	adults	NY	2.2
Gallup	2002	Poll	adults	US	1.6
Center for Survey Research	2002	Poll	adults	VA	0.3
Peter D. Hart Research Associates	2002	Poll	students	US	0.9
Hart & Teeter	2002	Poll	adults	US	1.8
Public Policy Institute (CA)	2002	Poll	adults	CA	1.3
Opinion Dynamics	2002	Evaluation	students	US	1.5
Bolt	2002	Evaluation	teachers	US	-1.6
Ryan, McGinn Samples Research	2002	Poll	adults	WV	2.3
Public Policy Institute (CA)	2002	Poll	adults	CA	0.6
Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates	2003	Poll	adults	US	1.1
McMillan	2003	Evaluation	teachers	VA	2.1
Pew Hispanic Center	2003	Poll	adults	US	0.2
Gallup	2003	Poll	adults, parents	US	0.3
Hart & Teeter	2003	Poll	adults	US	0.2
Peter D. Hart Research Associates	2003	Poll	students	US	0.7
Moon, Callahan, Tomlinson	2003	Evaluation	teachers	US	1.2
Public Agenda	2003	Poll	principals	US	-0.3
Peter D. Hart Research Associates	2004	Poll	graduates	US	1.8
Phi Delta Kappa	2004	Poll	adults, parents	US	0.3
Hart & Teeter	2004	Poll	adults, parents	US	0.1
Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates	2004	Poll	adults	US	0.2

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Poll/survey organization / individuals	Year	Survey type	Respondent group(s)	Geographic coverage	Effect size*
Public Ed Network & <i>Education Week</i>	2004	Poll	adults	US	2.9
Winston Group	2004	Poll	adults	US	1.0
Mu & Childs	2005	Evaluation	parents	Canada	1.7
Texas Federation of Teachers	2005	Poll	teachers	TX	-3.4
COMPAS, Inc.	2005	Poll	teachers	Ontario	-5.5
Gallup	2005	Poll	adults, parents	US	0.1
Hart Research, Coldwater Corp, Public Opinion Strategy	2005	Poll	students	US	1.8
National Governor's Association	2005	Poll	students	US	1.4
Hart Research, Winston Group	2005	Poll	administrators, adults, parents, principals, teachers	US	1.1
James	2005	Evaluation	elementary teachers	US	-1.2
US Chamber of Commerce Statistics and Research Center	2006	Poll	business leaders	US	4.6
Gallup	2006	Poll	adults, parents	US	0.0
Hart Research & Winston Group	2006	Poll	administrators, adults, business leaders, college faculty, parents, students, teachers	US	0.9
Public Agenda	2006	Poll	parents, principals, students, superintendents, teachers	US	-0.3
Gallup	2007	Poll	adults	US	-0.9
Gallup	2007	Poll	parents	US	0.0
Hart Research Associates	2007	Poll	adults, parents, teachers	US	-0.6
Scripps Howard News Service	2007	Poll	adults	US	-0.2
Public Agenda, FDR Group	2007	Poll	parents	KS, MO	2.3
Knowledge Networks	2007	Poll	adults	US	1.2
Roller	2008	Poll	International Reading Association members	US	-0.1

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Poll/survey organization / individuals	Year	Survey type	Respondent group(s)	Geographic coverage	Effect size*
Torres, Zellner, Erlandson	2008	Evaluation	principals	US	-0.3
Clune, White	2008	Evaluation	teachers	US	1.0
Gallup	2008	Poll	adults, parents	US	1.6
Markow, Cooper	2008	Poll	principals, teachers	US	0.7
Lake Research Partners	2008	Poll	adults	US	0.0
COMPAS	2008	Poll	parents, teachers	British Columbia	0.7

* These are unweighted effect sizes.

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