

A Survey of Surveys

Karen Skelton, Director of Government Affairs

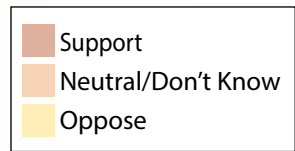
Special for the VaHomeschoolers 25th birthday in 2018: A comparison of survey results from 2012–2017 to see trends over time.

If you've been a member of VaHomeschoolers for a number of years, you've surely seen words to this effect: *We're a membership-driven organization, taking direction from you.* And if you're a new member—welcome! Here is your introduction to what this phrase means and how we put these words into action.

Each year, VaHomeschoolers invites our members to take a survey. We use the findings from each year's survey to set our legislative priorities and direction based on the responses. It's also your opportunity to tell us what you're looking for and what you value from this organization;

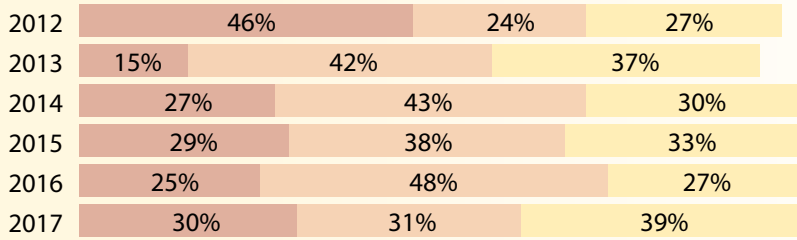
this helps us understand our members' opinions on a variety of homeschooling topics. Be sure to look for an email in early September that invites you to "Take the Annual Membership Survey." In the meantime, we pause to evaluate and present some of the data from the past six years in order to observe trends over time and provide a broader context to the results.

Karen Skelton has served four-and-a-half years on the board of directors and four years as director of Government Affairs.



What percentage of our members think that VaHomeschoolers should support legislation ...

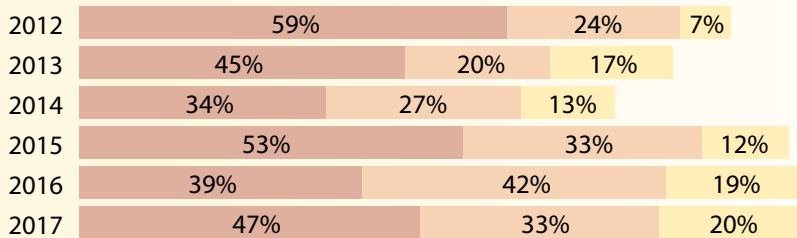
... that state income **Tax Credits** should be available to homeschooling parents?



Takeaways ...

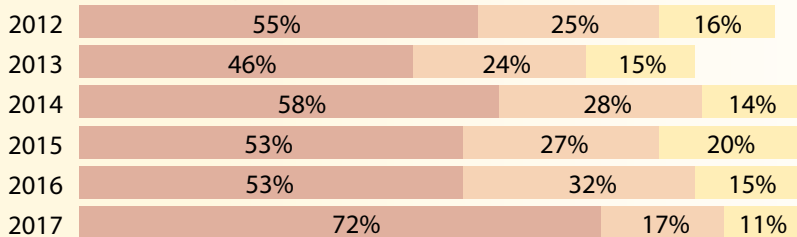
Highest support in 2012 was followed by lowest support in 2013; the highest opposition was most recently in 2017. In four out of six years, more people chose a *neutral/don't know* answer than *for* or *against* combined.

... that parents who hold equivalent diplomas, like the **GED**, be eligible to File their Notice of Intent under Option (i), in place of Options (iii) or (iv)?



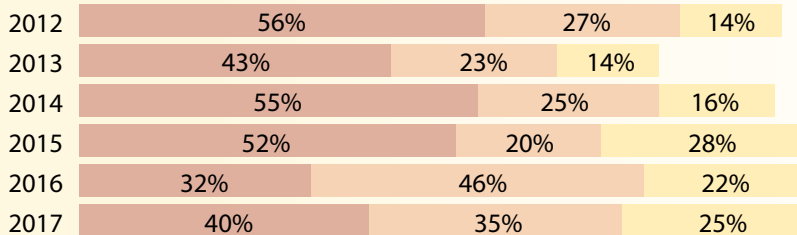
Opposition remains low, at or under 20% each year, but has increased from 7% to 20%.

... that school divisions be required to allow homeschoolers **Part-Time Access** to public school classes?



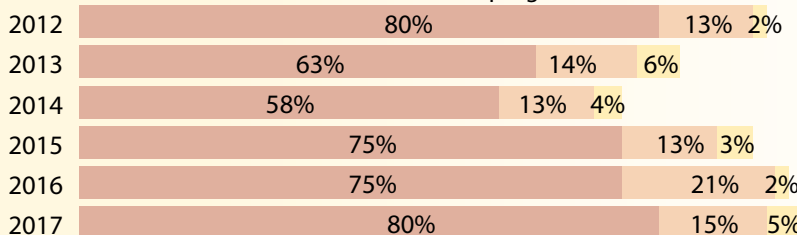
Support has been high every year, and at its highest in 2017 at a stunning 72%.

... that school divisions and the Virginia High School League be required to allow homeschoolers access to try out for public school **Interscholastic Sports** and other competitive activities?



Support has waned in the past couple years, with more people choosing *neutral/don't know* than choosing *opposed*. This may reflect the number of people new to homeschooling who are not as well-versed on the issue. Interestingly, this lower level of support or awareness appears in the same years that the "sports access" bill had its best success in the General Assembly, passing both chambers but then getting vetoed by the governor.

... that school divisions be required to allow homeschooled students to apply for admission to full-time **Governor's School** programs?



Support for this idea has consistently stayed at the top of the charts, while also marking the lowest, single-digit levels of members opposed.

Totals may not equal 100% due to participants declining to indicate a preference for a particular topic.