

A SUTHERLAND INSTITUTE
POLICY PUBLICATION

Issue Brief:
**Support for the
Success Sequence**

**Overview of new survey data showing Utahns' level of
support for the principles of the success sequence**



December 2023



For more information about this survey, the success sequence, or the work of Sutherland Institute, contact us:

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Y² Analytics conducted the survey highlighted in this report.

METHODOLOGY DETAILS

n = 1,210

Online interviews fielded Oct. 12 – Nov. 10, 2023

Margin of error +- 2.8

For this survey, likely Utah voters were sampled from the Utah state voter file. Survey invitations were sent via email and text message, and interviews were completed online. The data were weighted to reflect the demographics of likely voters in the Utah 2024 general election, specifically in regard to gender, age, race, political party registration, and probability of voting in the election.

Before drawing the sample, a model of general election turnout was estimated using age, party registration status, length of registration, permanent absentee status, and past election turnout. This model produces a sampling pool of registered voters that can be randomly sampled based on their likelihood of voting. A Probability Proportionate to Size (PPS) sample was drawn using this predicted turnout estimate such that voters with a higher probability of voting have a higher probability of being selected in the sample. Thus, the final sample accurately approximates a population of general election voters.

For more information about survey methodology, please contact Kyrene Gibb or Quin Monson at:

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Utahns' views on education, work, and marriage before children

A new Sutherland Institute/Y² Analytics survey found that **most likely voters in Utah recognize the positive impact that each step of the success sequence has on avoiding poverty in adulthood, and most support teaching the economic outcomes of the success sequence to students.**

Methodology: 1,210 Utah likely voters were selected via email and text messages and then interviewed online between Oct. 12 and Nov. 10, 2023. Data were weighted to reflect demographics of likely voters in the Utah 2024 general election, with a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points.



73%

of likely voters in Utah support including the economic outcomes of the success sequence in school curriculum.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Neither

Sutherland Institute partnered with Y² Analytics to understand whether likely voters in Utah view high school completion, full-time work, and waiting until marriage to have children as important life milestones for leading a successful and happy life. This issue brief provides an overview of key findings that are relevant to policy discussions about education, work, family, and overall opportunity for Utah's youth.

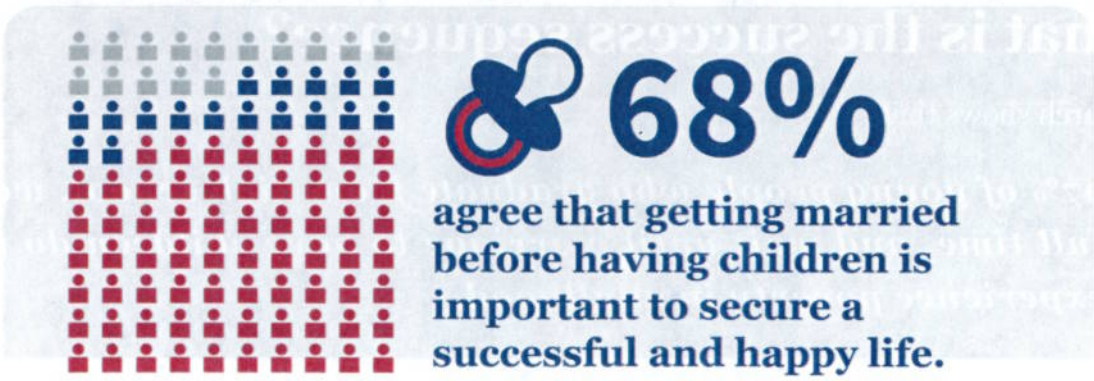
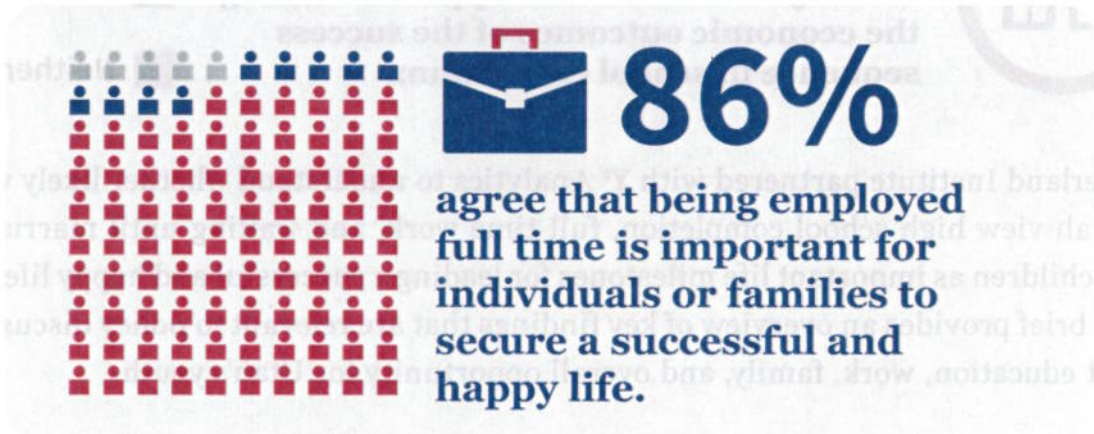
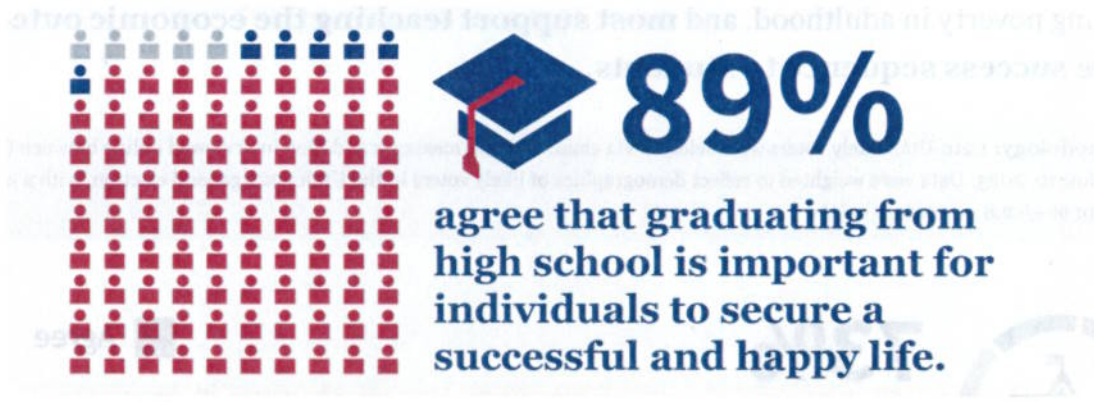
What is the success sequence?

Research shows that:

97% of young people who graduate from high school, work full time, and wait until marriage to have children do not experience poverty in adulthood.

Likely voters in Utah were asked about each individual pillar of the success sequence to gauge attitudes about its importance as a step toward a successful and happy life. They were also asked about their feelings toward the three steps being packaged together as a cohesive framework to help young people avoid poverty in adulthood. The following breakouts show responses by issue and a number of sub-demographics in the overall likely voter sample.

 Agree  Disagree  Neither



Most Utahns believe each aspect of the success sequence is important to avoid poverty as an adult.

Graduate from high school



Work a full-time job



Get married before having children



- Very Important
- Somewhat Important
- Not Very Important
- Not At All Important

Question: Would you support or oppose including data about the economic outcome of achieving the milestones identified in the success sequence in middle school and high school curriculum in the state of Utah?

- Support
- Neither Support nor Oppose
- Oppose

Utah Likely Voters



Single or Cohabiting



Income < \$50k



Parents



Less Than College Degree



Hispanic, Asian, Black and other



White



Republican



Democrat



Independent/Other



Conservative



Liberal

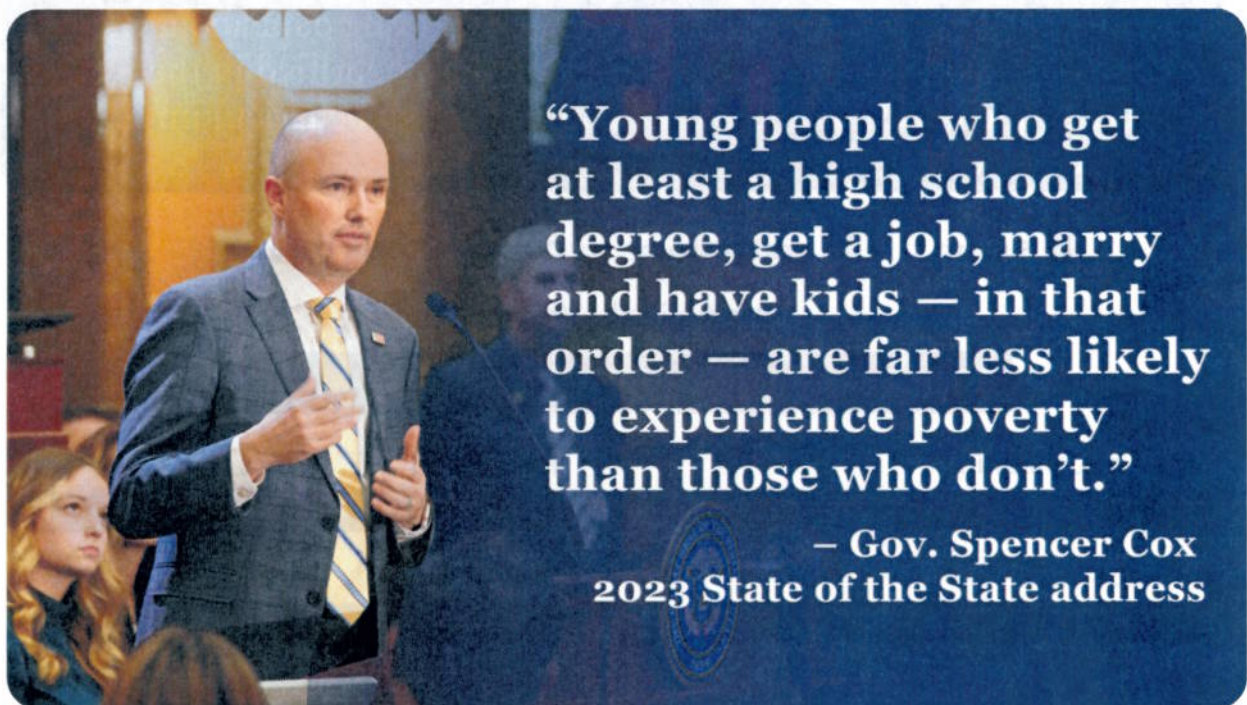


Neither Conservative nor Liberal



The Sutherland Institute/Y² Analytics survey results show broad majority support among Utah's likely voters for the success sequence, both as a set of individual steps and as a cohesive framework for avoiding poverty. While distinct demographic breakouts show some variation, support remains strong among various groups in Utah. These findings suggest that if Utah lawmakers pursue legislation promoting and incorporating the success sequence into education, economic and family policy, they are likely to be broadly supported by likely voters for doing so.

For more information about the success sequence, including additional research, insights, and conversations with experts and policymakers, visit sutherlandinstitute.org/success.



“Young people who get at least a high school degree, get a job, marry and have kids — in that order — are far less likely to experience poverty than those who don’t.”

**– Gov. Spencer Cox
2023 State of the State address**

Photo: Utah State Office of the Governor



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