



Californians & Education

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PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

The PPIC Statewide Survey provides a voice for the public and likely voters—informing policymakers, encouraging discussion, and raising awareness on critical issues of the day.

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News Release

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www.ppic.org/main/pressreleaseindex.asp

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY:

Seeing Need for School Funding, Most Favor Proposition 30 Extension, Construction Bond

MAJORITY WOULD USE BUDGET SURPLUS FOR PRESCHOOL RATHER THAN PAYING DOWN DEBT

SAN FRANCISCO, April 20, 2016—Most Californians say state funding for their local public schools is inadequate, and most favor two proposals that are likely to be on the November ballot to increase it: an extension of the Proposition 30 tax increase on higher incomes and a bond measure to pay for school construction projects.

These are among the key findings in the 12th annual statewide survey on *Californians and Education* released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

Although state spending on local schools has recently increased, 61 percent of adults and 60 percent of likely voters say the current level of funding is not enough. Democrats (73%) and independents (65%) are far more likely to hold this view than are Republicans (42%).

Majorities of adults (64%) and likely voters (62%) favor extending for 12 years the Proposition 30 tax increase on earnings over \$250,000 to fund education and health care, as an initiative now circulating for the November ballot would do. Asked how they would vote on a state bond measure to pay for school construction projects, most (76% adults, 63% likely voters) would vote yes. A bond measure for school construction projects has already qualified for the ballot.

"Six in 10 Californians say that state government funding for their local schools is inadequate," said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO. "In this election-year context, solid majorities favor a Proposition 30 tax increase extension and state and local school bonds."

Asked about potential local school measures, majorities (74% adults, 62% likely voters) would vote yes on a local school district bond for school construction projects—more than the 55 percent majority required for passage of local school bonds. Support for a local parcel tax falls short of the required two-thirds majority: 62 percent of adults and 52 percent of likely voters would vote yes. Should the two-thirds majority threshold be lowered for parcel taxes for local schools? Again, support falls short among likely voters, with 44 percent saying it is a good idea (53% all adults).

Most Prefer Using Budget Surplus for Preschool to Paying Down Debt

Californians' concerns about school funding extend to preschools. Three-quarters of adults (76%) say state government should fund voluntary preschool programs in California. And there is solid support for using some of the projected state budget surplus of several billion dollars to fund public preschool. Given a choice, 63 percent of adults say they would prefer to use the surplus this way, compared to 34 percent who would prefer to pay down the state debt and build up a reserve. (See related *Just the Facts: Californians and Early Childhood Education* for more findings.)

Job Approval for Brown, Legislature Holds Steady

Asked how they view their state's elected leaders, 54 percent of adults and 56 percent of likely voters approve of Governor Jerry Brown's job performance. Fewer approve of the way he is handling the K–12 public education system (45% adults, 36% likely voters). The legislature has a job approval rating of 48 percent among adults and 40 percent among likely voters, but it is also rated lower for its handling of the K–12 system (42% adults, 29% likely voters).

Concerned about Preschool Affordability, K–12 Teacher Shortage

When they are asked about the quality of education in California's K–12 schools, 40 percent of adults say it is a big problem—a record low since PPIC began asking the question in 1998. Notably, public school parents (27%) are much less likely than adults without school-age children (43%) to say quality is a big problem. Among racial/ethnic groups, blacks (58%) and whites (55%) are far more likely to say educational quality is a big problem than are Asians (25%) and Latinos (22%).

When asked about preschool education, there is more concern about affordability than quality. Just 20 percent of adults view the quality of preschool education as a big problem. Nearly three-quarters of Californians say affordability is a big problem (42%) or somewhat of a problem (32%). (See [survey questions 33–38](#).)

Fewer than a third of adults (30%) and public school parents (29%) say teacher quality is a big problem in public schools. Concern about a shortage of teachers is higher. Majorities (53% adults, 55% public school parents) say it is a big problem. Given a set of choices for how the government can attract new teachers, adults (45%) and public school parents (47%) are most likely to say they would prefer to increase minimum starting salaries. Fewer choose providing forgivable loans for teacher education (21% adults), housing assistance (11% adults), or reducing the requirements needed to get a teaching credential (8%).

A majority of adults (53%) are very concerned that schools in lower-income areas have a shortage of good teachers compared to schools in wealthier areas (31% somewhat concerned, 8% not concerned, 7% not at all concerned).

Local Public Schools Get Good Grades

Most adults give the quality of public schools in their neighborhoods grades of A (20%) or B (37%). Ratings are generally similar across parties and regions. Among racial/ethnic groups, blacks (33%) are much less likely to give A's or B's to their schools than are whites (51%), Latinos (67%), or Asians (69%).

Most Californians (61%) say their local public schools are doing an excellent or good job preparing students for college. Their responses are slightly less positive when asked how schools are doing in preparing students for jobs and the workforce. Just over half of adults (52%) say their local public schools are doing an excellent or good job in this area. Blacks are the racial/ethnic group least likely to say their local schools are doing a good or excellent job preparing students for college (49%) or for jobs and the workforce (36%).

A majority of adults (53%) say they are very concerned that students in lower-income areas are less likely than other students to be ready for college when they finish high school (33% somewhat concerned, 7% not too concerned, 6% not at all concerned).

Partisan Divide on Common Core

Two years after implementation of the Common Core State Standards, most adults (66%) and public school parents (75%) have heard at least a little about these standards for English and math. Among public school parents, 40 percent say their child's school or district provided information about Common Core and that it was adequate. Another 22 percent say they received information but needed more, and 35 percent say they were not given information about Common Core.

Based on what they have read or heard, Californians are somewhat divided in their opinions of Common Core. While 43 percent of adults favor the standards, 39 percent are opposed and 18 percent are undecided. Public school parents are more likely to favor the standards (51% favor, 36% oppose). Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (55%) and Asians (48%) are more likely than blacks (37%) and whites (34%) to favor Common Core. And Democrats (46%) are more likely than independents (35%) and much more likely than Republicans (23%) to favor Common Core.

Even though views of the standards are mixed, a majority of Californians are confident (15% very, 39% somewhat) that Common Core will make students more college and career ready.

"Reflecting the 2016 presidential campaign dialogue, Common Core is a politically polarizing issue in California today," Baldassare said. "Still, a majority of Californians have confidence that Common Core will lead to positive outcomes for college readiness and workforce skills."

In addition, a majority of adults (57%) say they are confident that Common Core will achieve another of its goals: helping students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Most adults (58%) are also very or somewhat confident that teachers are adequately prepared to teach the skills. Confidence is even higher among public school parents (72%).

Last spring, students took the new Smarter Balanced Assessment, online tests designed to measure whether students meet grade-level standards in math, reading, and writing. While less than half of public school parents had heard about the tests last April, a majority (55%) today have heard at least a little about them (45% heard nothing at all). Asked last April to predict how students would do on the new tests, 42 percent of public school parents said they expected scores to be about the same as those on past tests. As educational policymakers expected, this proved not to be the case. When the results were released in fall 2015, a smaller percentage of California students had met or exceeded standards than had done so on previous tests. However, when public school parents are asked today about the test results, only about a quarter (26%) correctly answer that students scored lower on the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

Few Know about New School Funding Formula but Most Favor Its Goals

The state enacted the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) to provide school districts with more spending flexibility. However, most adults (55%) think state government has the most control in deciding how state funds are spent in local schools, and nearly half of public school parents (47%) agree. Yet most Californians think it is local districts (45%) or schools (37%) that should have the most control. Just 15 percent say the state government should.

Only about a third of adults (30%) and public school parents (36%) have heard about the LCFF, but after being read a brief description, strong majorities (76% adults, 77% public school parents) favor it. The LCFF provides additional funding to districts with more English Learners and lower-income students. Strong majorities of Californians (65% adults, 73% public school parents) are at least somewhat confident that the additional funding will be spent on these students. Most adults (76%) expect the academic achievement of English Learners and low-income students to improve as a result.

As part of the LCFF, school districts are required to develop, adopt, and annually update a three-year Local Control and Accountability Plan. Districts are required to involve parents and encouraged to seek input from parents of lower-income students and English Learners. How did the districts do? Half of public school parents (51%) say they were provided with information about how to get involved. Half of those with household incomes below \$40,000 (49%) say they were provided with information. Latino public school parents (58%) are slightly more likely than white parents (50%) to have received information. In the end, just 4 percent of public school parents say they were very involved in the development of their school's accountability plan, and 14 percent say they were somewhat involved.

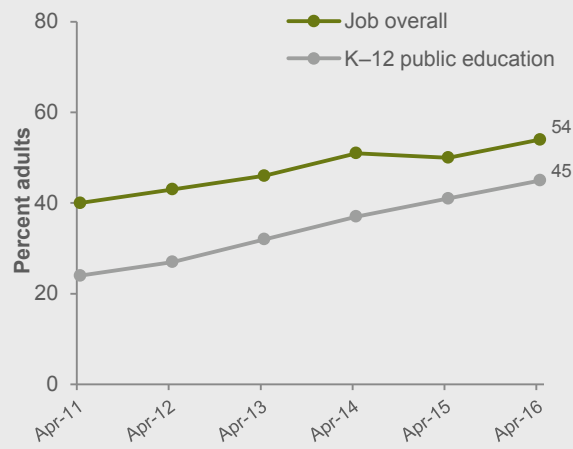
"Parental involvement and knowledge are clearly works in progress as local school districts implement the state's new curriculum, student testing, and funding plans," Baldassare said.

State Government and Local Schools

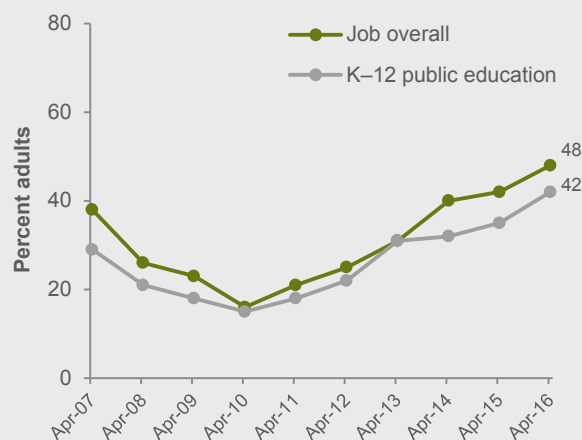
Key Findings

- Job approval ratings stand at 54 percent for Governor Jerry Brown and 48 percent for the California Legislature. Somewhat fewer approve of the governor's and legislature's handling of K–12 education but slightly more say they don't know. *(page 7)*
- Six in 10 adults and likely voters say the current level of state funding for their local public schools is not enough. Solid majorities also favor extending the Prop 30 income tax increase to fund health care and education, and would vote yes on a state bond for school construction. *(page 8)*
- Seventy-four percent of adults and 62 percent of likely voters would vote yes on a local bond measure for school construction. A measure for a local parcel tax for local public schools garners less support (62% adults, 52% likely voters). *(page 9)*
- Four in 10 adults think the quality of K–12 education in the state is a big problem, a record low. But a majority of Californians give their local public schools a grade of A or B. *(page 10)*
- Half of Californians think a shortage of teachers is a big problem in the state. Fewer (30%) see teacher quality as a big problem. A plurality prefer state and local government attract new teachers by increasing the minimum starting salary. *(page 11)*
- Californians are more likely to say that their local public schools are doing an excellent or good job of preparing students for college (61%) than preparing students for jobs and the workforce (52%). *(page 12)*
- Majorities of adults are very concerned that schools in low-income areas have a shortage of good teachers (53%) and that students in those areas are less likely to be ready for college (53%). *(page 13)*

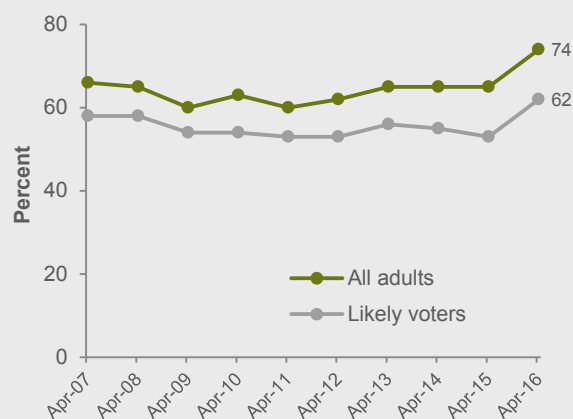
Approval ratings of Governor Brown



Approval ratings of the California Legislature



Would vote yes on a local school bond
(55% needed to pass)



Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

Fifty-four percent of Californians and 56 percent of likely voters approve of the way Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor. Current approval is similar to that in March (51% adults, 53% likely voters) and last April (50% adults, 53% likely voters). Today, Democrats (72%) are more likely than independents (47%) and Republicans (27%) to approve. Across regions, approval is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (62%) and Los Angeles (59%) than elsewhere (50% Central Valley, 48% Inland Empire, 46% Orange/San Diego). Latinos (65%), blacks (61%), and Asians (57%) are more likely than whites (47%) to approve.

Fewer approve of Governor Brown's handling of the state's K–12 public education system (45% adults, 36% likely voters), and approximately one in four Californians say they don't know. Last April, approval ratings of the governor regarding K–12 education were similar (41% adults, 34% likely voters). Today, Democrats (50%) are more likely than independents (39%) and Republicans (18%) to approve. A solid majority of public school parents (60%) also approve of the governor's handling of K–12 education.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
His job as governor of California	Approve	54%	72%	27%	47%	56%
	Disapprove	26	13	65	34	35
	Don't know	19	15	9	19	9
The state's K–12 public education system	Approve	45	50	18	39	36
	Disapprove	30	23	54	36	39
	Don't know	25	28	28	25	25

Forty-eight percent of Californians and 40 percent of likely voters approve of the legislature's job performance. Current approval is similar to that in March (44% adults, 38% likely voters) and slightly higher than last April among all adults (42% adults, 36% likely voters). Today, Democrats (55%) are more likely to approve than independents (39%) or Republicans (21%). Approval is higher in Los Angeles (53%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (52%) than in other regions (43% Inland Empire, 42% Central Valley, 39% Orange/San Diego). Latinos (62%) and Asians (54%) approve of the state legislature more often than blacks and whites (37% each).

Approval of the legislature's handling of the K–12 public education system is lower (42% adults, 29% likely voters), with one in five Californians saying they don't know. Results for adults were slightly lower last April (35% adults, 26% likely voters). Approval today is higher for Democrats (41%) and independents (38%) than for Republicans (15%). Once again, over half of public school parents (53%) express approval.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Its job	Approve	48%	55%	21%	39%	40%
	Disapprove	38	30	74	48	51
	Don't know	14	15	6	12	9
The state's K–12 public education system	Approve	42	41	15	38	29
	Disapprove	39	36	62	45	51
	Don't know	19	23	23	18	20

State Funding

Although state funding for local schools has recently increased, solid majorities of adults (61%) and likely voters (60%) think current state funding for their local public schools is not enough. The results were similar last April (60% adults, 54% likely voters). Republicans (42%) are far less likely than Democrats (73%) and independents (65%) to hold this view. Sixty-six percent of public school parents say state funding is inadequate.

“Do you think the current level of state funding for your local public schools is more than enough, just enough, or not enough?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
More than enough	9%	5%	18%	11%	13%
Just enough	26	19	36	19	22
Not enough	61	73	42	65	60
Don't know	4	4	4	4	5

An initiative that is now circulating for the November 2016 ballot calls for a 12-year extension of the Proposition 30 tax increase on higher-income Californians to fund education and health care. Sixty-four percent of adults and 62 percent of likely voters favor this version of a Proposition 30 tax extension, similar to results in March (61% adults, 58% likely voters). Democrats (82%) and independents (62%) are far more likely than Republicans (32%) to voice support. A strong majority of public school parents (67%) favor this extension.

“As you may know, voters passed Proposition 30 in November 2012. It increased taxes on earnings over \$250,000 until 2018 and sales taxes by one-quarter cent until 2016. Do you favor or oppose extending for 12 years the tax increase on earnings over \$250,000 to fund education and health care?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	64%	82%	32%	62%	62%
Oppose	32	15	65	33	35
Don't know	4	2	3	6	2

A state bond measure that would pay for school construction projects has qualified for the November 2016 ballot. Seventy-six percent of adults and 63 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes on a state school bond, somewhat higher than last April (66% adults, 55% likely voters). Support among Democrats (83%) is higher than among independents (60%) and Republicans (51%). An overwhelming majority of public school parents (84%) support the measure.

“If the state ballot had a bond measure to pay for school construction projects, would you vote yes or no?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Yes	76%	83%	51%	60%	63%
No	21	12	47	37	32
Don't know	3	5	2	4	4

Raising Local School Revenues

Would Californians support local school bonds, which require a majority vote of 55 percent to pass? Seventy-four percent of adults and 62 percent of likely voters would vote yes on a local bond measure to pay for school construction projects. Current support is slightly higher than it was last April (65% adults, 55% likely voters). We have found majority support among adults in all earlier polling. Today, 79 percent of Democrats, 61 percent of independents, and 50 percent of Republicans would vote yes. Eighty-one percent of public school parents would vote yes.

“If your local school district had a bond measure on the ballot to pay for school construction projects, would you vote yes or no?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Yes	74%	79%	50%	61%	62%
No	24	18	48	36	34
Don't know	2	3	3	3	4

A two-thirds majority vote is required to pass local parcel taxes in California. Sixty-two percent of adults and 52 percent of likely voters would vote yes to increase their local parcel taxes to provide more funds for local public schools. We found similar levels of support for a local parcel tax measure last April (57% adults, 49% likely voters). Today, Democrats (71%) are more likely to say they would vote yes than independents (49%) and Republicans (37%). Seventy percent of public school parents would vote yes on a local parcel tax for schools. Across regions, support for a local parcel tax only garners a two-thirds majority in the San Francisco Bay Area (67%).

“What if there was a measure on your local ballot to increase local parcel taxes to provide more funds for the local public schools, would you vote yes or no?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Yes	62%	71%	37%	49%	52%
No	33	24	60	44	43
Don't know	5	5	3	7	5

Should we lower the two-thirds local tax threshold? Support among likely voters falls short of the simple majority vote that would be required to make this change to Proposition 13. Fifty-three percent of adults and 44 percent of likely voters say it is a good idea to replace the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent vote to pass local parcel taxes for local public schools. The results were similar last April (50% adults, 44% likely voters). Today, 57 percent of Democrats, 40 percent of independents, and 33 percent of Republicans say this is a good idea. A solid majority of public school parents (64%) support lowering the threshold to 55 percent.

“Do you think it’s a good idea or a bad idea to replace the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent majority vote for voters to pass local parcel taxes for the local public schools?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Good idea	53%	57%	33%	40%	44%
Bad idea	40	34	64	53	49
Don't know	7	9	3	6	7

School Quality

Four in 10 adults say that the quality of education in California's K–12 public schools is a big problem today (32% somewhat of a problem, 24% not much of a problem). That is down somewhat from last April (48%) and a record low since we began asking the question in 1998. Notably, public school parents (27%) are much less likely than adults without school-age children (43%) to say the quality of public school education is a big problem. Across parties, a solid majority of Republicans (60%) say the quality of K–12 education is a big problem, followed by about half of independents (52%) and even fewer Democrats (41%). The perception that the quality of public education is a big problem increases with age (31% under 35, 39% 35 to 54, 51% 55 and older). Across racial/ethnic groups, blacks (58%) and whites (55%) are far more likely to say quality is a big problem than are Asians (25%) and Latinos (22%).

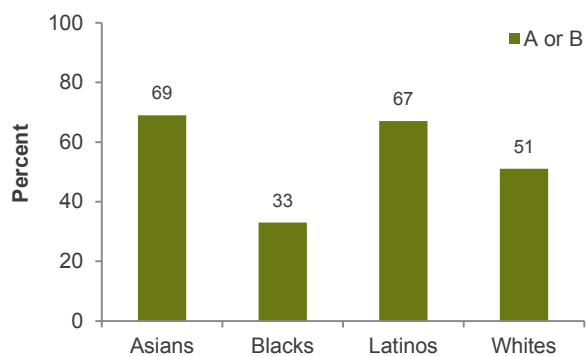
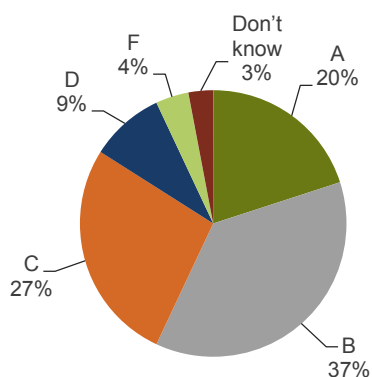
Regardless of how they view the quality of education in California, about six in 10 say that funding for their local schools is not enough. However, those who say that the quality of education is a big problem are less likely than others to favor extending Proposition 30 (57% to 70%), vote yes on a local school bond (64% to 81%), or vote yes on a local parcel tax for schools (54% to 68%).

“How much of a problem is the quality of education in California’s K–12 public schools today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?”

	All adults	Party			Public school parents
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Big problem	40%	41%	60%	52%	27%
Somewhat of a problem	32	41	29	34	34
Not much of a problem	24	13	8	13	36
Don't know	4	4	3	1	2

When asked to rate the quality of public schools in their own neighborhood, most Californians give a positive response. A majority give their local schools a grade of A (20%) or B (37%), while 27 percent say C, 9 percent say D, and only 4 percent say F. At least half have said A or B since 2005. Public school parents (68% A or B) are much more likely than non-parents (53%) to rate their local schools positively. Ratings are generally similar across parties and regions, but among racial/ethnic groups, blacks (33% A or B) are much less likely than whites (51%), Latinos (67%), or Asians (69%) to rate their local schools positively. Responses from Californians in our survey are similar to those of adults nationwide on a similar question in a September 2015 Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup poll (13% A, 38% B, 31% C, 9% D, 4% F).

“Next, overall, how would you rate the quality of public schools in your neighborhood today? If you had to give your local public schools a grade, would it be A, B, C, D, or F?”



School Teachers

Majorities of adults (53%) and public school parents (55%) say a teacher shortage is a big problem in California's K–12 public schools today. Democrats (61%) are more likely than independents (50%) or Republicans (42%) to view a teacher shortage as a big problem. Blacks (61%) and Latinos (59%) are more likely than whites (50%) and Asians (46%) to say the same. Those with incomes below \$40,000 (60%) are more likely than those with higher incomes (47%) to hold this view. Those without a college degree (55% no college, 56% some college) are somewhat more likely than degree holders (47%) to see a teacher shortage as a big problem. We did not ask this question in earlier PPIC Statewide Surveys.

Fewer than one in three adults (30%) and public school parents (29%) say that teacher quality is a big problem in California's public schools today. Findings among all adults were similar in April 2013 (28%). Across regions, Central Valley residents (22%) are least likely to view teacher quality as a big problem (28% San Francisco Bay Area, 33% Orange/San Diego, 35% Los Angeles, 36% Inland Empire). Responses are similar across parties, education, and income groups. Across racial/ethnic groups, blacks (44%) are the most likely to say teacher quality is a big problem (30% Asians, 30% whites, 28% Latinos).

“Next, I’m going to read you a list of issues people have mentioned when talking about California’s K–12 public schools today. For each one, please tell me if you think it is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not really a problem. How about...?”

	A shortage of teachers		Teacher quality	
	All adults	Public school parents	All adults	Public school parents
Big problem	53%	55%	30%	29%
Somewhat of a problem	28	30	45	39
Not really a problem	16	15	22	31
Don't know	3	–	2	1

Given a set of choices for how the government could attract new K–12 public school teachers, pluralities of adults (45%) and public school parents (47%) say they would most prefer to increase the minimum starting salary. Indeed, increasing the minimum salary is the most common response across parties, regions, and demographic groups. Fewer choose providing forgivable loans for teacher education (21%), providing housing assistance such as mortgage guarantees (11%), or reducing some of the requirements needed to get a teaching credential (8%). Democrats (47%) are somewhat more likely than independents (38%) or Republicans (36%) to prefer increasing the minimum starting salary.

“How would you most prefer that the state and local governments attract new K–12 public school teachers...?”

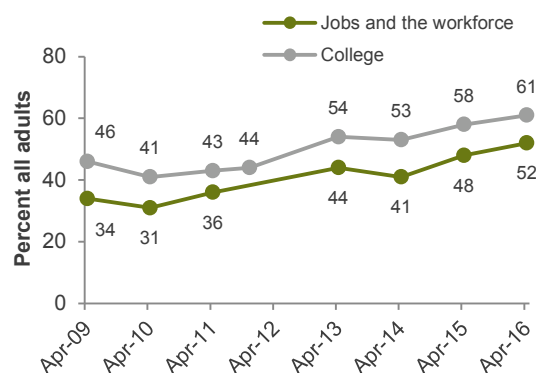
	All adults	Party			Public school parents
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Increase the minimum starting salary	45%	47%	36%	38%	47%
Provide forgivable loans for teacher education	21	20	25	24	24
Provide housing assistance such as mortgage guarantees	11	15	7	11	6
Reduce some of the requirements needed to get a teaching credential	8	4	10	6	8
None, government should not increase efforts to attract new teachers (<i>volunteered</i>)	4	2	11	7	2
All of the above (<i>volunteered</i>)	5	8	3	7	8
Other (<i>volunteered</i>)	2	1	6	4	2
Don't know	3	3	3	4	3

Preparing Students for College and Careers

A majority of adults (61%) say their local public schools are doing an excellent (13%) or good (48%) job preparing students for college (25% not so good, 9% poor). At least half have said so since April 2013.

Today, responses are similar across parties. Public school parents (73%) are much more likely than non-parents (57%) to say their local public schools are doing an excellent or good job preparing students for college. Across regions, Central Valley residents (70%) are most likely to say that schools are doing an excellent or good job (62% Orange/San Diego, 62% Inland Empire, 60% San Francisco Bay Area, 52% Los Angeles). Across racial/ethnic groups, blacks (49%) are least likely to say the same. Those with some college (51%) are somewhat less likely than degree holders (59%) or those with no college (69%) to say that schools are doing an excellent or good job at college preparation.

View that local public schools are doing an excellent or good job preparing students for...



“Are your local public schools doing an excellent, good, not so good, or poor job in preparing students for college?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Excellent	13%	21%	6%	12%	12%	19%
Good	48	47	43	54	46	54
Not so good	25	24	31	23	24	20
Poor	9	3	15	8	11	4
Don't know	5	5	5	3	7	3

About half of adults (52%) say their local public schools are doing an excellent or good job preparing students for jobs and the workforce. Public school parents (69%) are far more likely than non-parents (46%) to say schools are doing an excellent or good job preparing students for the workforce. Those with no college (63%) are more likely than those with more education (39% some college, 53% college degree) to say schools are doing an excellent or good job. Across racial/ethnic groups, blacks (36%) are least likely to say schools are doing an excellent or good job in this area (47% whites, 60% Asians, 61% Latinos). Responses across parties are largely similar.

“Are your local public schools doing an excellent, good, not so good, or poor job in preparing students for jobs and the workforce?”

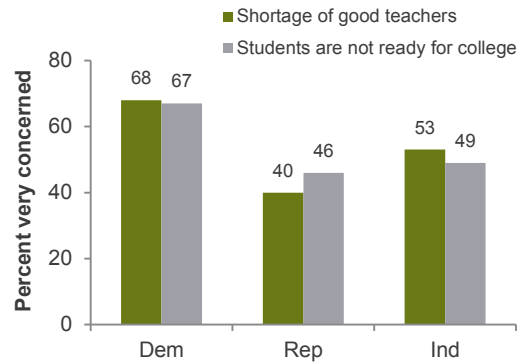
	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Excellent	10%	14%	3%	13%	9%	16%
Good	42	46	33	48	38	53
Not so good	29	27	33	29	30	22
Poor	13	8	23	8	16	5
Don't know	6	4	8	3	8	4

Concerns about Inequity

A majority of adults (53%) say they are very concerned that schools in lower-income areas have a shortage of good teachers compared to schools in wealthier areas (31% somewhat concerned, 8% not too concerned, 7% not at all concerned). A similar proportion (53%) say they are very concerned that students in lower-income areas are less likely than other students to be ready for college when they finish high school (33% somewhat concerned, 7% not too concerned, 6% not at all concerned). Our survey last April saw similar responses (57% very concerned about teacher shortage, 59% very concerned about college readiness).

On both issues, Democrats are much more likely than independents and far more likely than Republicans to say they are very concerned. Across racial/ethnic groups, blacks are much more likely than others to say they are very concerned about both a teacher shortage and college readiness in lower-income areas.

Concern about inequity at schools in lower-income areas



“How concerned are you that schools in lower-income areas have a shortage of good teachers compared to schools in wealthier areas?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Very concerned	53%	51%	78%	51%	53%	50%
Somewhat concerned	31	36	9	33	30	29
Not too concerned	8	6	7	8	9	10
Not at all concerned	7	6	4	8	7	9
Don't know	1	1	1	—	2	1

Women (58%) are more likely than men (48%) to say they are very concerned about a teacher shortage in lower-income areas, and slightly more likely than men to say they are very concerned about college readiness (56% to 50%). Across regions, Central Valley residents (44%) are least likely to say they are very concerned about a teacher shortage (50% Orange/San Diego, 54% Inland Empire, 54% San Francisco Bay Area, 59% Los Angeles). Residents of Los Angeles (58%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (57%) are slightly more likely than those in other regions to say they are very concerned about college readiness in lower-income areas (49% Inland Empire, 48% Orange/San Diego, 45% Central Valley).

“How concerned are you that students in lower-income areas are less likely than other students to be ready for college when they finish high school?”

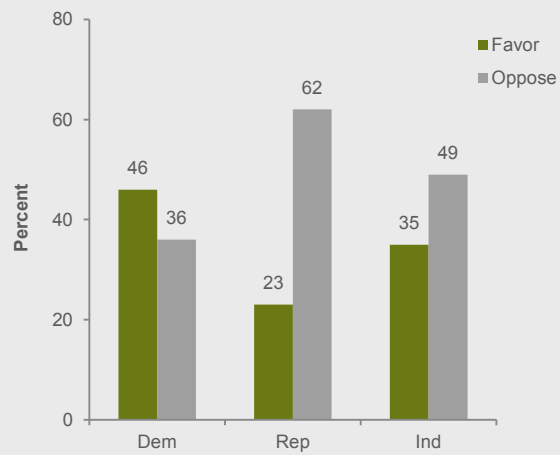
	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Very concerned	53%	44%	77%	55%	51%	53%
Somewhat concerned	33	44	15	32	33	32
Not too concerned	7	9	3	6	9	7
Not at all concerned	6	3	5	7	5	7
Don't know	1	—	—	1	1	1

Common Core and Local Control

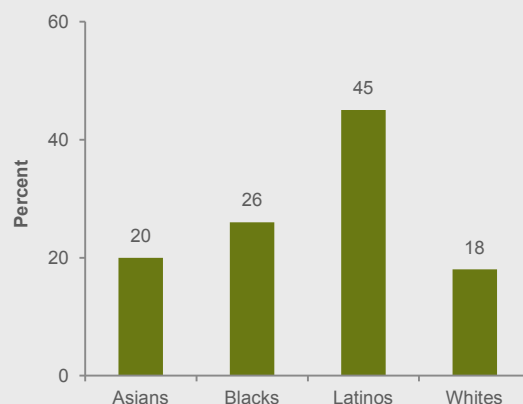
Key Findings

- Two-thirds of adults have heard about the Common Core State Standards. Based on what they have read or heard, Californians are divided in their support of Common Core and split along party lines. *(page 15)*
- Despite mixed overall impressions of Common Core, a majority of Californians are confident that the standards will make students more college and career ready. Fifty-eight percent of adults are confident that teachers are prepared to implement Common Core. *(page 16)*
- A majority of public school parents have heard at least a little about the new Smarter Balanced Assessment. Although student scores on the new test were lower statewide, a plurality of public school parents think scores were about the same as on previous tests. *(page 17)*
- A majority of Californians (55%) think that the state government has the most control in deciding how state money is spent in public schools. A plurality (45%) say local school districts should have the most control. *(page 18)*
- A solid majority of Californians (69%) have heard nothing at all about the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). But, after being read a brief description, 76 percent favor the LCFF. *(page 19)*
- Two-thirds of adults are confident that districts receiving additional LCFF funding will spend it on English language learners and lower-income students. Three in four expect that the academic achievement of these students will improve as the state implements LCFF. *(page 20)*
- Eight in 10 parents have not been involved in their local school district's accountability plan. Eight in 10 hope their children earn at least a four-year college degree. *(page 21)*

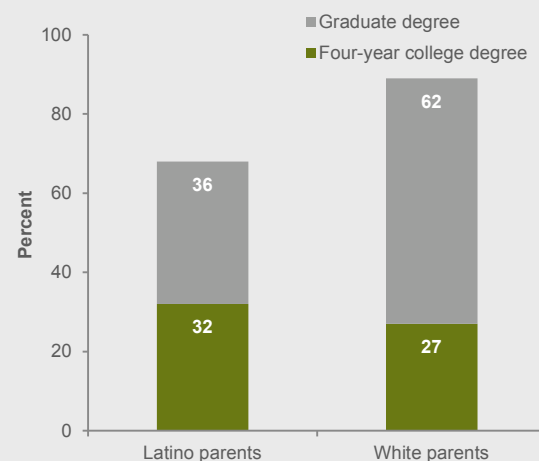
Opinions of the Common Core State Standards



View that academic achievement of English language learners and low-income students will improve a lot with Local Control Funding Formula



Parents' educational hopes for their children



Common Core State Standards

Six years ago, California joined a number of other states in adopting the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). In 2014, the state began implementing the new standards. Have Californians become more aware of Common Core? Today, two-thirds of adults (66%) have heard about the Common Core State Standards. Awareness has increased slightly since last year, when only 58 percent of adults had heard of the new standards. Today, three in four public school parents have heard about the CCSS (34% a lot, 41% a little). Republicans (41%) are more likely than Democrats (26%) and independents (34%) to say they have heard a lot about the Common Core standards. Across racial/ethnic groups, whites (34%) are the most likely to say they have heard a lot about the CCSS (21% Asians, 18% Latinos, 11% blacks). College graduates are more likely than those without a college degree to have heard a lot. The likelihood of having heard a lot about the new standards increases with higher incomes.

Among public school parents, four in 10 say that their child's school or school district provided them with information about the Common Core State Standards, and that they found the information to be adequate. A further 22 percent say they received information but felt they needed more, and 35 percent say they were not provided information about the CCSS.

“How much, if anything, have you heard about the Common Core State Standards, a new set of English and math standards that the state began implementing in recent years? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?”

	All adults	Household income			Public school parents
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	
A lot	25%	15%	25%	40%	34%
A little	41	45	39	38	41
Nothing at all	33	39	35	22	24
Don't know	1	1	—	—	—

Californians are somewhat divided on Common Core—43 percent of adults favor the CCSS while 39 percent oppose it. Public school parents are slightly more likely to favor Common Core (51% favor, 36% oppose). Last April, a similar 47 percent of adults and 57 percent of public school parents favored the CCSS. Today, Democrats (46%) are more likely than independents (35%) and much more likely than Republicans (23%) to hold this view. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (55%) and Asians (48%) are more likely than blacks (37%) and whites (34%) to favor the Common Core standards.

“The Common Core State Standards are a single set of K–12 English language arts and math standards that most states, including California, have voluntarily adopted. From what you've read and heard, do you favor or oppose the Common Core education standards?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Favor	43%	48%	37%	55%	34%	51%
Oppose	39	32	39	28	48	36
Don't know	18	20	24	16	18	13

Common Core Standards Implementation

Even though Californians are divided in their overall views, a majority are confident that the new Common Core standards will make students more college and career ready (54%). Four in ten adults are not too or not at all confident. Findings were similar last April, when 57 percent were confident that implementing Common Core would make students more college and career ready. Today, two in three public school parents say they are very or somewhat confident that Common Core will make students more college and career ready. There are notable partisan differences: Republicans (29%) are less likely than independents (44%) and much less likely than Democrats (53%) to express confidence that Common Core will make students more prepared. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (72%) are the most likely to say they are confident, while whites are the least likely to hold this view (39%).

“How confident are you that implementing Common Core in California’s schools will make students more college or career ready upon graduation?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Very confident	15%	11%	20%	25%	8%	22%
Somewhat confident	39	49	35	47	31	45
Not too confident	22	20	23	17	26	15
Not at all confident	19	14	16	10	27	17
Don't know	5	6	5	1	8	1

A majority of Californians (57%) also say they are confident that Common Core will achieve another of its identified goals—helping students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. More than one-third of Californians express doubt (38% not too or not at all confident). Findings were similar last April, when 57 percent expressed confidence. Today, a solid majority of public school parents (72%) are confident that Common Core will help students develop these skills. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (76%) are the most likely to express confidence, followed by Asians (62%), blacks (51%) and whites (42%).

A majority of Californians (58%) are very or somewhat confident that teachers are adequately prepared to teach the Common Core State Standards. Among public school parents, confidence is higher—seven in 10 express confidence. There are notable partisan differences: a majority of Democrats (59%) and half of independents (51%) express confidence that teachers are prepared, compared to 39 percent of Republicans. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (71%) are the most likely to express confidence in teacher preparedness, while blacks (49%) are the least likely to do so.

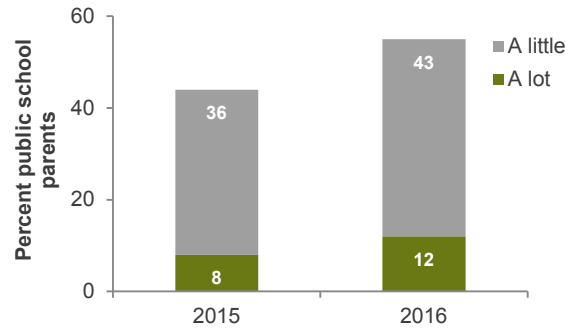
“How confident are you that California’s public school teachers are adequately prepared to implement the Common Core State Standards?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Very confident	14%	13%	12%	21%	10%	24%
Somewhat confident	44	44	37	50	41	48
Not too confident	24	27	29	20	26	16
Not at all confident	11	9	21	6	13	10
Don't know	7	6	2	2	10	2

Smarter Balanced Assessment

Last spring, following the implementation of Common Core, California students took their first Smarter Balanced Assessment tests. This new set of tests is designed to measure whether students are meeting their grade-level standards in math, reading, and writing. Last April, fewer than half of parents had heard about the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Today, a majority of public school parents (55%) have heard at least a little about the new tests, while 45 percent have heard nothing at all.

“How much, if anything, have you heard about the Smarter Balanced Assessment tests?”



“How much, if anything, have you heard about the Smarter Balanced Assessment tests, the new standardized tests which will be administered online in public schools in a number of states which have implemented the Common Core State Standards? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?”

Public school parents only	All public school parents	Household income		Race/Ethnicity	
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 or more	Latinos	Whites
A lot	12%	10%	14%	11%	21%
A little	43	43	41	45	42
Nothing at all	45	46	44	43	35
Don't know	1	1	1	1	2

Last April, when public school parents were asked to predict how California students would score on the new Smarter Balanced Assessment, a plurality of public school parents (42%) expected scores to be about the same as those on past tests. Test results released in the fall of 2015 showed that a smaller share of students met or exceeded the new standards. However, today, a plurality of public school parents (37%) believe that student scores were similar to those on previous tests. Only a quarter of public school parents correctly say that students scored lower on the new Smarter Balanced Assessment.

“In the spring of 2015, California public school students took the new Smarter Balanced Assessment tests. The Smarter Balanced Assessment tests and the tests they replaced measure whether students are proficient in math and reading and writing at grade level. Compared to past test scores do you think that as a whole California students scored higher, lower, or about the same on the new Smarter Balanced Assessment tests?”

Public school parents only	All public school parents	Household income		Race/Ethnicity	
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 or more	Latinos	Whites
Higher	20%	23%	15%	27%	15%
About the same	37	38	39	42	25
Lower	26	23	28	21	33
Don't know	17	16	17	11	27

Local School Funding Control

The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) provides local school districts with increased spending flexibility. However, most Californians (55%) and public school parents (47%) think that the state government has the most control in deciding how money from the state is spent in local public schools. This view is held by pluralities across parties, regions, and demographic groups. Notably, nearly three in four blacks (73%) hold this view, compared to fewer whites (59%), Latinos (50%), and Asians (48%).

“Who do you think has the most control in deciding how the money from state government is spent in local public schools—the local schools, the local school districts, or the state government?”

	All adults	Party			Public school parents
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Local schools	11%	10%	8%	7%	14%
Local school districts	29	29	24	27	35
State government	55	58	63	61	47
Other (<i>volunteered</i>)	1	—	2	1	2
Don't know	3	4	3	3	2

However, few Californians think the state government *should* have the most control in deciding how the money from state government is spent in local public schools. Nearly all Californians think the local school districts (45%) or the local schools (37%) should have the most control, while just 15 percent think the state government should. Each time we asked this question from 2008 to 2013, more than three in four Californians have preferred local control, with a plurality saying school districts should have the most control. Overwhelming majorities across parties, regions, and demographic groups prefer local control, but they are divided over whether this control should be in the hands of schools or school districts. Republicans (54%) are slightly more likely than Democrats (47%) and independents (48%) to prefer local school districts. Blacks (51%) and whites (49%) are slightly more likely than Asians (42%) and Latinos (42%) to prefer that local school districts have the most control.

“Who do you think should have the most control in deciding how the money from state government is spent in local public schools—the local schools, the local school districts, or the state government?”

	All adults	Party			Public school parents
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Local schools	37%	40%	35%	40%	38%
Local school districts	45	47	54	48	42
State government	15	10	10	9	17
Other (<i>volunteered</i>)	1	1	1	2	1
Don't know	2	2	1	1	2

Local Control Funding Formula

As the state enters the second full year of implementation, relatively few Californians (30%) have heard about the Local Control Funding Formula. Awareness has increased 6 points since last year (24%) and is similar to April 2014 (27%). Thirty-six percent of public school parents have heard about the LCFF; this share is up 7 points since last year (29%) and nearly identical to April 2014 (37%). Latinos (38%) and blacks (35%) are more likely than whites and Asians (26% each) to have heard of the LCFF. Fewer than four in 10 across parties and regions—as well as age, education, and income groups—have heard of the LCFF.

“Next, how much, if anything, have you heard about the Local Control Funding Formula, a policy enacted in recent years that changes the way K–12 public school districts are funded in California?”

	All adults	Party			Public school parents
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
A lot	3%	4%	3%	2%	6%
A little	27	26	22	27	30
Nothing at all	69	70	76	71	64

Despite these low levels of awareness, strong majorities of Californians (76%) and public school parents (77%) are in favor of LCFF after being read a brief description. Support among all adults and public school parents was similar in April 2014 and 2015. Support among those who have heard at least a little about the policy is slightly higher than among all adults (83% to 76%). More than two in three Californians across regions and demographic groups are in favor. Notably, support declines as age increases. While there is solid support across political parties, Democrats (85%) more likely than independents (70%) or Republicans (64%) to favor the LCFF.

“The Local Control Funding Formula provides additional funding to school districts that have more English language learners and low-income students and gives flexibility over how state funding is spent. Do you favor or oppose this plan?”

	All adults	Party			Public school parents	Have heard about LCFF
		Dem	Rep	Ind		
Favor	76%	85%	64%	70%	77%	83%
Oppose	19	10	31	23	18	14
Don't know	6	5	5	7	5	3

Local Control Funding Formula Implementation

The Local Control Funding Formula provides local school districts with increased control over spending decisions. It also provides additional funding to school districts that have more English language learners and lower-income students. How confident are Californians that school districts that receive additional funding will spend that money on programs and support for English language learners and lower-income students? Two in three Californians (65%) are very confident (15%) or somewhat confident (50%) that this additional funding will be spent on these students. Public school parents (73%) are even more confident (16% very, 57% somewhat). Confidence is higher than it was last April among all adults (up 9 points) and public school parents (up 7 points). Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (72%) are the most likely to express confidence, followed by Asians (69%), blacks (64%), and

whites (59%). Confidence is higher among Democrats (65%) than among independents (57%) and Republicans (56%). At least six in 10 Californians across regions are confident that this additional funding will be spent on these students; residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (70%) are most likely to hold this view. Majorities across age, education, and income groups are confident, although confidence decreases with increasing age.

“As the state implements the Local Control Funding Formula, how confident are you that local school districts which receive additional funding will spend that money on programs and support for English language learners and low-income students?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Very confident	15%	12%	13%	19%	12%	16%
Somewhat confident	50	57	51	53	47	57
Not too confident	22	19	20	18	26	17
Not at all confident	10	6	14	8	13	7
Don't know	3	5	2	2	3	3

Given these confidence levels, it is not surprising that three in four Californians think the implementation of the new funding formula will improve the academic achievement of English language learners and lower-income students (28% a lot, 48% somewhat). Public school parents are even more likely to think academic achievement will improve a lot (35%) or somewhat (50%). Expectation of improvement is higher today among all adults (66% 2014, 68% 2015, 76% today) and public school parents (71% 2014, 78% 2015, 85% today) than in recent years. Latinos (89%) and Asians (84%) are most likely to expect improvement, followed by blacks (69%) and whites (66%). While majorities across parties are optimistic, Democrats (80%) are more likely to expect improvement than independents (66%) and Republicans (56%). At least two in three Californians across regions and demographic groups are optimistic.

“As the state implements the Local Control Funding Formula, do you think the academic achievement of English language learners and low-income students will or will not improve?” (If it will, ask: “Do you think it will improve a lot or somewhat?”)

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Improve a lot	28%	20%	26%	45%	18%	35%
Improve somewhat	48	64	43	44	48	50
Will not improve	18	9	25	9	25	12
Don't know	7	7	6	2	9	3

Parental Involvement and the Local Control Funding Formula

The LCFF requires school districts to develop, adopt, and annually update three-year Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs). As part of the LCAP process, districts are required to reach out to parents and are encouraged to seek input from parents of lower-income and English language learner students. Half of public school parents (51%) say that they were provided with information about how to get involved—an increase of 9 points from last April. Similar shares of public school parents with household incomes below and above \$40,000 (49% and 55%, respectively) say they were provided with information. Latino public school parents (58%) are slightly more likely than white public school parents (50%) to have received information. Since last April, the share of Latino and white public school parents who reported receiving information increased 12 and 13 points, respectively. Mothers are much more likely than fathers to say they have been provided with information (59% to 41%). Public school parents with only a high school education (57%) were more likely to have received information than those with at least some college (45%).

“The Local Control Funding Formula requires school districts to seek input from parents in developing their accountability plans for how to allocate resources. Did your child’s school or school district provide you with information?”

<i>Public school parents only</i>	All public school parents	Household income		Race/Ethnicity	
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 or more	Latinos	Whites
Yes	51%	49%	55%	58%	50%
No	44	48	39	39	42
Don’t know	5	4	6	3	7

Fewer than one in five public school parents report being very involved (4%) or somewhat involved (14%) in the development of their local school district’s accountability plan; 81 percent say they were not involved. Notably, despite a 9 point increase in the share of public school parents who report that they were provided with information, parental involvement remained nearly identical to last year (3% very involved, 14% somewhat involved, 82% not involved). Mothers are twice as likely as fathers (23% to 11%) to say they were involved.

“Were you involved in the development of your local school district’s accountability plan?” (If yes, ask: “Were you very involved or somewhat involved?”)

<i>Public school parents only</i>	All public school parents	Household income		Gender	
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 or more	Men	Women
Yes, very involved	4%	5%	3%	—	7%
Yes, somewhat involved	14	15	12	11%	16
No, not involved	81	78	85	87	76
Don’t know	1	2	—	1	1

When parents are asked about their educational hopes for their children, a record-matching 51 percent say they would like their youngest child to earn a graduate degree. Another 29 percent say they hope their child earns a four-year degree. Since we began asking this question in 2005, at least four in 10 parents have expressed hope that their child would obtain a graduate degree. Findings among public school parents are similar. Strong majorities of parents across income, education, and racial/ethnic groups would like their child to go to college, but the share hoping for graduate degrees increases as education and income levels rise and is much higher among whites (62%) than Latinos (36%).

Regional Map



Methodology

The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, president and CEO and survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California, with assistance from survey research associate Lunna Lopes, project manager for this survey, associate survey director Dean Bonner, and survey research associate David Kordus. This survey on *Californians and Education* is supported with funding from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment, the Silver Giving Foundation, and the Stuart Foundation. It is the 12th annual PPIC Statewide Survey on K–12 education since 2005. The PPIC Statewide Survey invites input, comments, and suggestions from policy and public opinion experts and from its own advisory committee, but survey methods, questions, and content are determined solely by PPIC’s survey team.

Findings in this report are based on a survey of 1,703 California adult residents, including 851 interviewed on landline telephones and 852 interviewed on cell phones. Interviews took an average of 20 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from April 3–12, 2016.

Landline interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of telephone numbers that ensured that both listed and unlisted numbers were called. All landline telephone exchanges in California were eligible for selection, and the sample telephone numbers were called as many as six times to increase the likelihood of reaching eligible households. Once a household was reached, an adult respondent (age 18 or older) was randomly chosen for interviewing using the “last birthday method” to avoid biases in age and gender.

Cell phone interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of cell phone numbers. All cell phone numbers with California area codes were eligible for selection, and the sample telephone numbers were called as many as eight times to increase the likelihood of reaching an eligible respondent. Once a cell phone user was reached, it was verified that this person was age 18 or older, a resident of California, and in a safe place to continue the survey (e.g., not driving).

Cell phone respondents were offered a small reimbursement to help defray the cost of the call. Cell phone interviews were conducted with adults who have cell phone service only and with those who have both cell phone and landline service in the household.

Live landline and cell phone interviews were conducted by Abt SRBI, Inc., in English and Spanish, according to respondents’ preferences. Accent on Languages, Inc., translated new survey questions into Spanish, with assistance from Renatta DeFever.

Abt SRBI uses the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2010–2014 American Community Survey’s (ACS) Public Use Microdata Series for California (with regional coding information from the University of Minnesota’s Integrated Public Use Microdata Series for California) to compare certain demographic characteristics of the survey sample—region, age, gender, race/ethnicity, and education—with the characteristics of California’s adult population. The survey sample was closely comparable to the ACS figures. To estimate landline and cell phone service in California, Abt SRBI used 2014 state-level estimates released by the National Center for Health Statistics—which used data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and the ACS—and 2015 estimates for the West Census Region in the latest NHIS report. The estimates for California were then compared against landline and cell phone service reported in this survey. We also used voter registration data from the California Secretary of State to compare the party registration of registered voters in our sample to party registration statewide. The landline and cell phone samples were then integrated using a frame integration weight, while sample balancing adjusted for differences across regional, age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, telephone service, and party registration groups.

The sampling error, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is ± 3.5 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,703 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.5 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,384 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 3.8 percent; for the 997 likely voters, it is ± 4.4 percent; for the 507 parents it is ± 6.0 percent; for the 375 public school parents it is ± 7.0 percent. Sampling error is only one type of error to which surveys are subject. Results may also be affected by factors such as question wording, question order, and survey timing.

We present results for five geographic regions, accounting for approximately 90 percent of the state population. "Central Valley" includes Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. "San Francisco Bay Area" includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. "Los Angeles" refers to Los Angeles County, "Inland Empire" refers to Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and "Orange/San Diego" refers to Orange and San Diego Counties. Residents of other geographic areas are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes for these less populous areas are not large enough to report separately.

We present specific results for non-Hispanic whites, who account for 43 percent of the state's adult population, and also for Latinos, who account for about 34 percent of the state's adult population and constitute one of the fastest-growing voter groups. We also present results for non-Hispanic Asians, who make up about 15 percent of the state's adult population, and non-Hispanic blacks, who comprise about 6 percent. Results for other racial/ethnic groups—such as Native Americans—are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes are not large enough for separate analysis. We compare the opinions of those who report they are registered Democrats, registered Republicans, and decline-to-state or independent voters; the results for those who say they are registered to vote in other parties are not large enough for separate analysis. We also analyze the responses of likely voters—so designated per their responses to voter registration survey questions, previous election participation, and current interest in politics.

The percentages presented in the report tables and in the questionnaire may not add to 100 due to rounding.

We compare current PPIC Statewide Survey results to those in our earlier surveys and to those in a national survey by Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup. Additional details about our methodology can be found at www.ppic.org/content/other/SurveyMethodology.pdf and are available upon request through surveys@ppic.org.

Questionnaire and Results

CALIFORNIANS AND EDUCATION

April 3–12, 2016

1,703 California Adult Residents:

English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR $\pm 3.5\%$ AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE

PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

1. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?

54% approve
26 disapprove
19 don't know

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Brown is handling the state's kindergarten through 12th grade public education system?

45% approve
30 disapprove
25 don't know

3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?

48% approve
38 disapprove
14 don't know

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling the state's kindergarten through 12th grade public education system?

42% approve
39 disapprove
19 don't know

Next,

5. How much of a problem is the quality of education in California's K–12 public schools today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?

40% big problem
32 somewhat of a problem
24 not much of a problem
4 don't know

Next,

[rotate questions 6 and 7]

6. How concerned are you that schools in lower-income areas have a shortage of good teachers compared to schools in wealthier areas? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about this issue?

53% very concerned
31 somewhat concerned
8 not too concerned
7 not at all concerned
1 don't know

7. How concerned are you that students in lower-income areas are less likely than other students to be ready for college when they finish high school? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about this issue?

53% very concerned
33 somewhat concerned
7 not too concerned
6 not at all concerned
1 don't know

8. Next, how much, if anything, have you heard about the Common Core State Standards, a new set of English and math standards that the state began implementing in recent years? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

25% a lot
41 a little
33 nothing at all
1 don't know

9. The Common Core State Standards are a single set of K–12 English language arts and math standards that most states, including California, have voluntarily adopted. From what you've read and heard, do you favor or oppose the Common Core education standards?

43% favor
39 oppose
18 don't know

[rotate questions 10 to 12]

10. How confident are you that implementing Common Core in California's schools will make students more college or career ready upon graduation—very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

15% very confident
39 somewhat confident
22 not too confident
19 not at all confident
5 don't know

11. How confident are you that implementing Common Core in California's schools will help students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills—very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

16% very confident
41 somewhat confident
20 not too confident
18 not at all confident
5 don't know

12. How confident are you that California's public school teachers are adequately prepared to implement the Common Core State Standards—very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

14% very confident
44 somewhat confident
24 not too confident
11 not at all confident
7 don't know

13. *[public school parents only]* Has your child's school or school district provided you with any information about Common Core State Standards, or not? *[if yes: Was this information adequate in helping you understand how Common Core will affect your child or do you feel you need more information?]*

40% yes, information was adequate
22 yes, but we need more information
35 no, was not provided with any information
3 don't know

- 13a. *[public school parents only]* How much, if anything, have you heard about the Smarter Balanced Assessment tests, the new standardized tests which will be administered online in public schools in a number of states which have implemented the Common Core State Standards? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

12% a lot
43 a little
45 nothing at all
1 don't know

14. *[public school parents only]* In the spring of 2015, California public school students took the new Smarter Balanced Assessment tests. The Smarter Balanced Assessment tests and the tests they replaced measure whether students are proficient in math and reading and writing at grade level. Compared to past test scores do you think that as a whole California students scored higher, lower or about the same on the new Smarter Balanced Assessment tests?

20% higher
26 lower
37 about the same
17 don't know

15. Next, overall, how would you rate the quality of public schools in your neighborhood today? If you had to give your local public schools a grade, would it be A, B, C, D, or F? *[if necessary, read: Think of grades A to F as a scale where A is the best and F is failing.]*

20% A
37 B
27 C
9 D
4 F
3 don't know

[rotate questions 16 and 17]

16. Are your local public schools doing an excellent, good, not so good, or poor job in preparing students for college?

13% excellent
48 good
25 not so good
9 poor
5 don't know

17. Are your local public schools doing an excellent, good, not so good, or poor job in preparing students for jobs and the workforce?

10% excellent
42 good
29 not so good
13 poor
6 don't know

Next, I'm going to read you a list of issues people have mentioned when talking about California's K–12 public schools today. For each one, please tell me if you think it is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not really a problem.

[rotate questions 18 and 19]

18. How about teacher quality?

30% big problem
45 somewhat of a problem
22 not really a problem
2 don't know

19. How about a shortage of teachers?

53% big problem
28 somewhat of a problem
16 not really a problem
3 don't know

- 19a. How would you most prefer that the state and local governments attract new K–12 public school teachers *[rotate]* (1) increase the minimum starting salary; (2) provide forgivable loans for teacher education; (3) provide housing assistance such as mortgage guarantees *[or]* (4) reduce some of the requirements needed to get a teaching credential?

45% increase the minimum starting salary
21 provide forgivable loans for teacher education
11 provide housing assistance such as mortgage guarantees
8 reduce some of the requirements needed to get a teaching credential
4 none, government should not increase efforts to attract new teachers *(volunteered)*
5 all of the above *(volunteered)*
2 other *(specify)*
3 don't know

Changing topics,

- 20. Do you think the current level of state funding for your local public schools is more than enough, just enough, or not enough?**

9% more than enough
26 just enough
61 not enough
4 don't know

- 21. As you may know, voters passed Proposition 30 in November 2012. It increased taxes on earnings over \$250,000 until 2018 and sales taxes by one quarter cent until 2016. Do you favor or oppose extending for 12 years the tax increase on earnings over \$250,000 to fund education and health care?**

64% favor
32 oppose
4 don't know

- 22. If the state ballot had a bond measure to pay for school construction projects, would you vote yes or no?**

76% yes
21 no
3 don't know

[rotate questions 23 and 24]

- 23. If your local school district had a bond measure on the ballot to pay for school construction projects, would you vote yes or no?**

74% yes
24 no
2 don't know

- 24. What if there was a measure on your local ballot to increase local parcel taxes to provide more funds for the local public schools? Would you vote yes or no?**

62% yes
33 no
5 don't know

- 25. Do you think it's a good idea or a bad idea to replace the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent majority vote for voters to pass local parcel taxes for the local public schools?**

53% good idea
40 bad idea
7 don't know

- 26. Next, who do you think has the most control in deciding how the money from state government is spent in local public schools—*[rotate order]* (1) the local schools, (2) the local school districts, *[or]* (3) the state government?**

11% the local schools
29 the local school districts
55 the state government
1 other (*specify*)
3 don't know

- 27. And who do you think should have the most control in deciding how the money from state government is spent in local public schools—*[rotate in same order as Q26]* (1) the local schools, (2) the local school districts, *[or]* (3) the state government?**

37% the local schools
45 the local school districts
15 the state government
1 other (*specify*)
2 don't know

- 28. Next, how much, if anything, have you heard about the Local Control Funding Formula, a policy enacted last year that changes the way K–12 public school districts are funded in California? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?**

3% a lot
27 a little
69 nothing at all
– don't know

29. The Local Control Funding Formula provides additional funding to school districts that have more [rotate] [English language learners] [and] [lower-income students] and gives local school districts more flexibility over how state funding is spent. In general, do you favor or oppose this plan?

76% favor
19 oppose
6 don't know

30. As the state implements the Local Control Funding Formula, how confident are you that local school districts which receive additional funding will spend that money on programs and support for [rotate in same order as Q29] [English language learners] [and] [lower-income students]? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

15% very confident
50 somewhat confident
22 not too confident
10 not at all confident
3 don't know

31. As the state implements the Local Control Funding Formula, do you think the academic achievement of [rotate in same order as Q29] [English language learners] [and] [lower-income students] will or will not improve? (if it will, ask: Do you think it will improve a lot or somewhat?)

28% improve a lot
48 improve somewhat
18 will not improve
7 don't know

32. [public school parents only] The Local Control Funding Formula requires school districts to seek input from parents in developing their accountability plans for how to allocate resources. Did your child's school or school district provide you with information about how to become involved, or not?

51% yes
44 no
5 don't know

32a. [public school parents only] And were you involved in the development of your local school district's accountability plan? [if yes, ask: Were you very involved or somewhat involved?]

4% yes, very involved
14 yes, somewhat involved
81 no, not involved
1 don't know

32b. [parents only] What do you hope will be the highest grade level that your youngest child will achieve: some high school; high school graduate; two-year community college graduate or career technical training; four-year college graduate; or a graduate degree after college?

— some high school
4% high school graduate
11 two-year community college graduate or career technical training
29 four-year college graduate
51 a graduate degree after college
5 don't know

33. On another topic, do you think that the state government should or should not fund voluntary preschool programs for all four-year-olds in California?

76% should
22 should not
2 don't know

34. The state is projected to have a budget surplus of several billion dollars. In general, how would you prefer to use this extra money? [rotate] (1) Would you prefer to pay down state debt and build up the reserve [or] (2) would you prefer to use some of this money to increase funding for public preschool and early childhood education programs in California?

34% pay down debt and build up reserve
63 increase funding for public preschool and early childhood education programs
3 don't know

- 35. How important is attending preschool to a student's success in kindergarten through grade 12—very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?**

68% very important
21 somewhat important
6 not too important
3 not at all important
1 don't know

[rotate questions 36 and 37]

- 36. How much of a problem is the quality of preschool education in California today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?**

20% big problem
36 somewhat of a problem
34 not much of a problem
9 don't know

- 37. How much of a problem is the affordability of preschool education in California today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?**

42% big problem
32 somewhat of a problem
20 not much of a problem
6 don't know

- 38. How concerned are you that children in lower-income areas are less likely than other children to be ready for kindergarten? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about this issue?**

50% very concerned
31 somewhat concerned
11 not too concerned
8 not at all concerned
1 don't know

- 39. Next, some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote in California?**

63% yes *[ask Q39a]*
37 no *[skip to Q40b]*

- 39a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?**

43% Democrat *[ask Q40]*
27 Republican *[skip to Q40a]*
5 another party *(specify) [skip to Q41]*
24 independent *[skip to Q40b]*

- 40. Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or not a very strong Democrat?**

64% strong
34 not very strong
2 don't know

[skip to Q41]

- 40a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?**

52% strong
46 not very strong
3 don't know

[skip to Q41]

- 40b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?**

23% Republican Party
44 Democratic Party
23 neither *(volunteered)*
9 don't know

- 41. Next, would you consider yourself to be politically: *[read list, rotate order from top to bottom]***

14% very liberal
22 somewhat liberal
32 middle-of-the-road
21 somewhat conservative
10 very conservative
2 don't know

- 42. How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2016 presidential election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?**

36% very closely
39 fairly closely
18 not too closely
7 not at all closely
— don't know

43. Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in politics—a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or none?

26%	great deal
35	fair amount
29	only a little
10	none
—	don't know

[d1 to d14: demographic questions]

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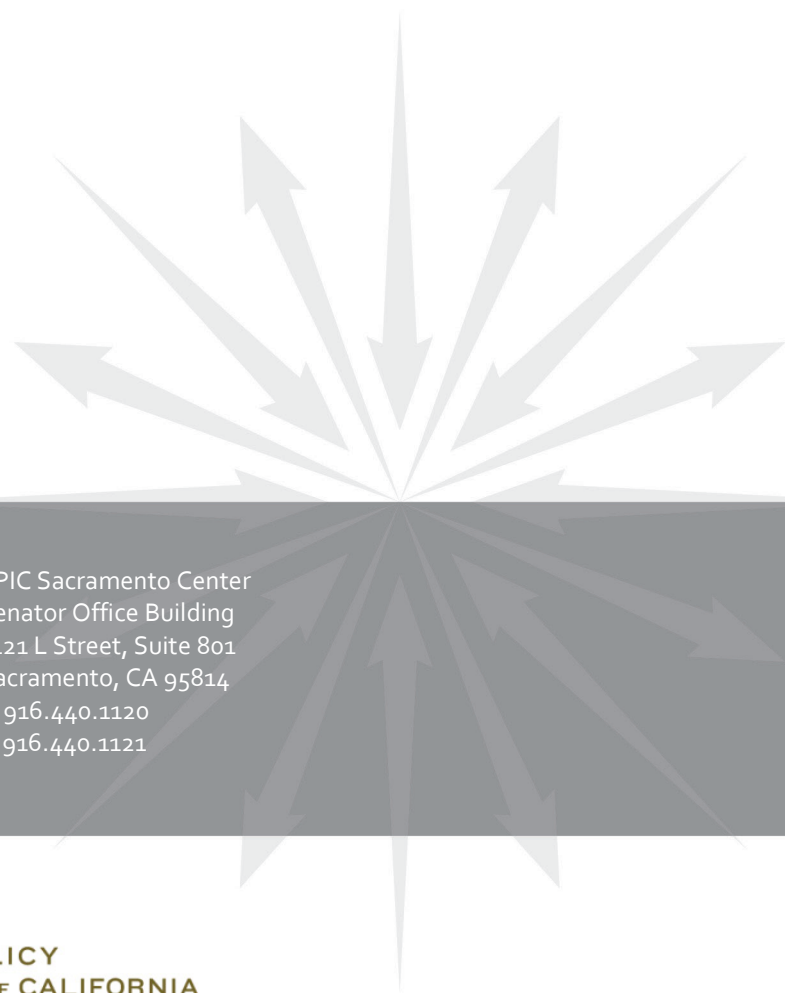
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