PPIC Statewide Survey mission

- Provide timely, relevant, nonpartisan data on political, social, and economic opinions
- Inform and improve state policymaking, raise awareness, encourage discussion
- Provide a voice for all Californians in important state policy debates
  - 295,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 140+ general, issue, and regional surveys
Californians and education

- Conducted with funding from the Bechtel, Kabcenell, Silver Giving, and Stuart Foundations
- Common Core State Standards, Local Control Funding Formula, preschool education
- Approval ratings, concerns about inequities, state and local funding, quality of education, governor’s race
- Telephone interviews, April 8–15
  - 1,702 adults, ± 3.8% margin of error
  - 1,078 likely voters, ± 4.7% margin of error
  - 944 primary likely voters, ± 5.1% margin of error
  - 398 public school parents, ± 7.1% margin of error
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Policy preferences
- Perceptions and attitudes
- Conclusions
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 to roll out this school year?

- A lot: 19%
- A little: 37%
- Nothing at all: 43%
- Don't know: 1%

All adults
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. The state leaders who developed the standards say they are designed to ensure that students graduating from high school have the knowledge and skills they need to enter college programs or the workforce. In general, do you favor or oppose these standards?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>62</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
This school year, the state government provided school districts with $1.25 billion for the implementation of Common Core State Standards. Do you favor or oppose the state government providing school districts with additional funding of approximately $1.5 billion next school year for Common Core implementation?
How concerned are you that California’s public school teachers are not adequately prepared to implement the Common Core State Standards?

- **All adults**: 38% somewhat concerned, 37% very concerned
- **Asians**: 44% somewhat concerned, 35% very concerned
- **Blacks**: 43% somewhat concerned, 46% very concerned
- **Latinos**: 36% somewhat concerned, 31% very concerned
- **Whites**: 37% somewhat concerned, 45% very concerned
- **Public school parents**: 35% somewhat concerned, 45% very concerned
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?)

- Yes, adequate: 37%
- Yes, need more: 16%
- No: 43%
- Don't know: 4%

Public school parents
CCSS: Global competitiveness

Do you believe Common Core State Standards will help make education in the United States more competitive globally, less competitive globally, or have no effect globally?

- More competitive
- No effect
- Less competitive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>More competitive</th>
<th>No effect</th>
<th>Less competitive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public school parents</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
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<td>Ind</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>29</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CCSS: Preparing students for the future

How confident are you that implementing Common Core in California’s schools will…

Help students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills?  
- Very confident: 16%  
- Somewhat confident: 30%  
- Not too/Not at all confident: 48%  
- Don't know: 5%

Make students more college or career ready upon graduation?  
- Very confident: 17%  
- Somewhat confident: 31%  
- Not too/Not at all confident: 49%  
- Don't know: 4%
LCFF: Awareness

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?

- A lot: 24%
- A little: 3%
- Don't know: 1%
- Nothing at all: 72%

All adults
The Local Control Funding Formula provides additional funding to school districts that have more 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?
LCFF: Confidence in local districts

As the state implements the Local Control Funding Formula, how confident are you that local school districts will use this money wisely?

- **All adults**: 53% very/somewhat confident, 46% not too/at all confident
- **Orange/San Diego**: 56% very/somewhat confident, 44% not too/at all confident
- **San Francisco Bay Area**: 55% very/somewhat confident, 43% not too/at all confident
- **Inland Empire**: 54% very/somewhat confident, 45% not too/at all confident
- **Central Valley**: 53% very/somewhat confident, 44% not too/at all confident
- **Los Angeles**: 46% very/somewhat confident, 52% not too/at all confident
As the state implements the Local Control Funding Formula, do you think the academic achievement of English language learners and lower-income students will or will not improve?

- **All adults**: 50% will improve somewhat, 16% will improve a lot
- **Asians**: 60% will improve somewhat, 12% will improve a lot
- **Blacks**: 52% will improve somewhat, 19% will improve a lot
- **Latinos**: 53% will improve somewhat, 28% will improve a lot
- **Whites**: 45% will improve somewhat, 9% will improve a lot
- **Public school parents**: 50% will improve somewhat, 21% will improve a lot
The LCFF requires school districts to seek input from parents in developing accountability plans for how to allocate resources. How important do you think it is for parents to be involved in this process?

How interested are you in becoming involved with your child’s school or school district as the accountability plan is developed?

- **All adults**
  - Very: 77%
  - Somewhat: 18%
  - Not too/not at all important: 5%

- **Public school parents**
  - Very: 53%
  - Somewhat: 38%
  - Not too interested: 8%
Importance of preschool education

How important is attending preschool to a student's success in kindergarten through grade 12?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>% very important</th>
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<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under $40,000</td>
<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>$40,000 to $80,000</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>$80,000 or more</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public school parents</td>
<td>81</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
State funding for preschool education

Do you think that the state government should or should not fund voluntary preschool programs for all four-year-olds in California?

- **All adults**: 73% should, 24% should not
- **Democrats (Dem)**: 83% should, 13% should not
- **Republicans (Rep)**: 44% should, 53% should not
- **Independents (Ind)**: 62% should, 34% should not
- **Public school parents**: 80% should, 17% should not
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
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Approval ratings of Governor Brown

- 40% in April 2011
- 43% in April 2012
- 46% in April 2013
- 51% in April 2014

Job overall

- 24% in April 2011
- 27% in April 2012
- 32% in April 2013
- 37% in April 2014

K–12 public education
Perceptions of state’s education rankings

Compared to other states, where do you think California currently ranks in … for K–12 public schools?

% saying lower than average

- Student test scores
- Per pupil spending

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<thead>
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<th></th>
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<th>Feb 00</th>
<th>Jan 02</th>
<th>Apr 05</th>
<th>Apr 06</th>
<th>Apr 07</th>
<th>Apr 08</th>
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<th>Apr 10</th>
<th>Apr 11</th>
<th>Apr 12</th>
<th>Apr 13</th>
<th>Apr 14</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>49</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spending</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concerns about college readiness

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: 59%
- Blacks: 76%
- Asians: 61%
- Latinos: 59%
- Whites: 56%

% very concerned
Concerns about test scores of English Learners

How concerned are you that English language learners in California’s schools today score lower on standardized tests than other students?

- **All adults**: 51%
- **Blacks**: 51%
- **Whites**: 51%
- **Asians**: 50%
- **Latinos**: 50%
Preparing students for the future

How important to you is it that your local public schools …

Prepare students for college?

- Very important: 81%
- Somewhat important: 15%
- Not too important: 3%
- Don't know: 1%

Include career technical or vocational education as part of the curriculum?

- Very important: 73%
- Somewhat important: 21%
- Not too important: 5%
- Don't know: 5%
What do you hope will be the highest grade level that your youngest child will achieve?

- **Graduate degree**: 42%
- **Four-year degree**: 39%
- **Two-year degree**: 8%
- **High school diploma**: 8%
- **Don't know**: 2%

Public school parents
Educational quality and budget situation

How much of a problem is … for California’s K–12 public schools today?

- Somewhat of a problem
- Big problem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Quality of education</th>
<th>Overall state budget situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big problem</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adequacy and efficiency of state funding

To significantly improve the quality of California’s K–12 public schools, which of the following statements do you agree with the most? We need to use existing state funds more wisely; we need to increase the amount of state funding; or we need to use existing state funds more wisely and increase the amount of state funding.

- Use funds more wisely: 41%
- Increase funding: 10%
- Do both: 46%
- Don’t know: 3%

All adults
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?

- All adults: 38% A, 14% B
- Central Valley: 40% A, 13% B
- San Francisco Area: 33% A, 16% B
- Los Angeles: 35% A, 15% B
- Orange/San Diego: 41% A, 12% B
- Inland Empire: 44% A, 10% B
- Public school parents: 44% A, 19% B
Level of state funding for local schools

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

% not enough

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>% Not Enough</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public school parents</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**: Yes 65%, No 29%
- **Democratic**: Yes 75%, No 21%
- **Republican**: Yes 44%, No 50%
- **Independent**: Yes 53%, No 40%
- **Likely voters**: Yes 55%, No 38%
Local parcel tax for schools

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All adults</th>
<th>Dem</th>
<th>Rep</th>
<th>Ind</th>
<th>Likely voters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
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<td>52</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
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PPIC
Lowering threshold to pass local parcel taxes

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?
Gubernatorial primary

…If the June primary for governor were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?

Primary likely voters

- Jerry Brown: 46%
- Neel Kashkari: 2%
- Tim Donnelly: 9%
- Andrew Blount: 3%
- Someone else: 2%
- Don't know: 38%
In thinking about the upcoming California governor’s election in November, how important to you are the candidates’ positions on K–12 public education?
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Policy preferences
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Conclusions

- Seven in 10 favor Common Core Standards and the Local Control Funding Formula
- Strong support for additional Common Core funding; lower among likely voters
- Three in four say the state should fund voluntary preschool
- Slim majorities consider state budget situation a big problem for education, say state funding not enough for local schools
- Likely voters divided on local parcel tax for schools, oppose lowering vote threshold for passage
Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

surveys@ppic.org

Thank you for your interest in this work.
PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Education

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