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Californians & education



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In collaboration with the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, the Silver Giving Foundation, and the Stuart Foundation



PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The PPIC Statewide Survey provides policymakers, the media, and the public with objective, advocacy-free information on the perceptions, opinions, and public policy preferences of California residents. This is the 141st PPIC Statewide Survey in a series that was inaugurated in April 1998 and has generated a database of responses from more than 295,000 Californians.

Supported with funding from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, the Silver Giving Foundation, and the Stuart Foundation, the current survey seeks to inform state policymakers, encourage discussion, and raise public awareness about K–12 public education issues. It is the 10th annual PPIC Statewide Survey on K–12 education since 2005.

California has the largest K–12 public education system in the nation. According to the California Department of Education and the Education Data Partnership (Ed-Data), the state serves more than 6.2 million students and employs more than 275,000 teachers in about 950 school districts and nearly 10,000 public schools. California also has a highly diverse student population: nearly six in 10 (58%) are economically disadvantaged, about one in five (22%) are English Learners, and about one in 10 (11%) require special education services. Latinos (53%) make up the largest racial/ethnic group of students, followed by whites (26%), Asians (12%, including Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos), and blacks (6%).

This year's survey is conducted during two historic changes to the K–12 system. The first major change is implementation of the Common Core State Standards, a new set of English language arts and math standards designed by state leaders from around the U.S. that nearly all states have voluntarily adopted. The second is the Local Control Funding Formula, enacted last year, which will be phased in over eight years. It directs extra funding to English Learners and lower-income students while giving local school districts more flexibility in their spending decisions. Meanwhile, Democratic legislators are stressing the importance of early childhood education and pressuring Governor Brown to include funding for universal voluntary preschool in next year's budget.

This report presents the responses of 1,702 California adults on the following issues:

- Policy preferences, including attitudes toward the Common Core State Standards (awareness, overall support, support for additional implementation funding, anticipated outcomes, concerns about teacher preparation, and parents' knowledge); the Local Control Funding Formula (awareness, overall support, confidence in local districts, anticipated outcomes, and parental involvement); and preschool education, including support for state funding of preschool for all four-year-olds.
- Perceptions and attitudes, including approval ratings of the governor and legislature, overall and on K–12 education; California's spending and test scores compared with those of other states; concerns about inequities; attitudes toward college and career preparation; perceptions of educational quality, the state budget situation, and funding levels at local schools; ways to raise local revenues; and the importance of gubernatorial candidates' positions on education.
- Time trends and the extent to which Californians may differ in their perceptions, attitudes, and preferences based on their political party affiliation, likelihood of voting, region of residence, race/ethnicity, whether they have children attending a California public school, and other demographics.

This report may be downloaded free of charge from our website (www.ppic.org). If you have questions about the survey, please contact survey@ppic.org. Try our PPIC Statewide Survey interactive tools online at <http://www.ppic.org/main/survAdvancedSearch.asp>.

NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGOED: Do not publish or broadcast until 9:00 p.m. PDT on Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

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<http://www.ppic.org/main/pressreleaseindex.asp>

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND EDUCATION

Common Core, New Funding Formula Get High Marks

BUT MANY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT DISTRICTS' ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT THESE POLICIES

SAN FRANCISCO, April 23, 2014—Most Californians favor two historic changes under way in K–12 education: implementation of new English and math standards and a new funding formula that gives school districts increased flexibility over spending and provides extra money for disadvantaged students.

At the same time, most Californians are concerned about whether teachers are prepared to implement the new standards, called the Common Core State Standards. And many residents lack confidence that local districts will make wise use of the money allotted to them in the new Local Control Funding Formula.

These are among the key findings of a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

“Public support is solidly behind the significant changes that are being made to school funding and classroom curricula this year,” said PPIC’s president and CEO, Mark Baldassare. “However, many Californians have concerns about whether their local schools can effectively implement the new state policies associated with the Local Control Funding Formula and Common Core standards.”

A majority of Californians (56%) say they have heard a lot (19%) or a little (37%) about Common Core, while 43 percent have heard nothing at all. A somewhat higher share of public school parents (65%) have heard at least a little about the new standards.

When read a brief description, 69 percent are in favor of the new standards, 22 percent are opposed, and 10 percent are unsure. Views among public school parents are similar (72% favor, 20% oppose, 8% don't know). Solid majorities of adults across parties favor Common Core—which has drawn opposition in other states. Among racial/ethnic groups, Asians (88%), Latinos (77%), and blacks (71%) are more likely than whites (57%) to favor the new standards. Solid majorities across age, education, and income groups are in favor. However, support is higher among those who have heard nothing about Common Core (73%) than among those who have heard a lot (59%).

Half of Californians (49%) agree with the assertion that Common Core will help make education in the United States more competitive globally. A quarter (26%) say there will be no effect, and 14 percent say it will make U.S. education less competitive globally. About two-thirds of residents are at least somewhat confident that implementing the new standards will help students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills (64%) and make them more college or career ready upon graduation (66%).

Among public school parents, a slim majority (53%) say their child’s school or school district has provided them with information about Common Core, with 37 percent saying that the information is adequately helping them understand how the standards will affect their child (16% need more information; 43% report receiving no information).

Three-quarters of adults (75%) are very concerned (37%) or somewhat concerned (38%) that teachers are not adequately prepared to implement Common Core. Among public school parents, 80 percent are at least somewhat concerned.

The current state budget gives districts \$1.25 billion to implement Common Core. As districts begin to roll it out, some policymakers have advocated for additional money. Strong majorities of adults (65%) and public school parents (71%) favor providing more funding. Support is lower among likely voters (53%).

MAJORITIES ACROSS PARTIES FAVOR NEW FUNDING FORMULA

When PPIC asked Californians whether they had heard about the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), just 27 percent had heard of it by name (3% heard a lot, 24% heard a little). Awareness was higher among public school parents (7% heard a lot, 30% heard a little). Across parties, regions, and demographic groups, awareness of the LCFF was relatively low, with no more than 5 percent in any group saying they have heard a lot about it.

After hearing a brief description, most Californians (70%), likely voters (67%), and public school parents (71%) say they generally favor the LCFF. Majorities across parties favor it, with Democrats the most likely to be in favor (77% Democrats, 65% independents, 60% Republicans). Among those who have heard of the LCFF, 75 percent favor it. There is also strong support among those who have heard nothing (68%).

The LCFF allocates extra money to districts with more English Learners and lower-income students. Californians have long expressed the view in PPIC surveys that school districts in lower-income areas of the state lack the same resources—including good teachers and classroom materials—as those in wealthier areas. Today, 79 percent hold this view, which is consistent with their support of the LCFF. A majority (59%) also 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, and half (51%) say they are very concerned that English Learners score lower on standardized tests than other students.

As the state implements the LCFF, a slim majority of residents (53%) are at least somewhat confident that school districts will use the money wisely. Just 7 percent are very confident. Half of likely voters (49%) and 57 percent of public school parents are at least somewhat confident. Two-thirds of adults (66%) are optimistic that the academic achievement of English Learners and lower-income students will improve (16% a lot, 50% somewhat) as a result of the LCFF, while a quarter (25%) say it will not improve.

In their implementation of the new funding formula, school districts are required to create accountability plans every three years and seek parent input in developing the plans. The first of these plans must be adopted by July 1. Most Californians (77%) say it is very important for parents to be involved in this process. Yet only about half of parents (52%) say their district has provided them with information about how to participate. Latino parents (61%) are much more likely than whites (42%) to say they have received information about getting involved (sample sizes for Asian and black parents are too small for separate analysis). Parents with lower household incomes are more likely than those with higher incomes to report receiving information (62% under \$40,000; 50% \$40,000 to under \$80,000; 42% \$80,000 or more).

How interested are parents in getting involved in the development of accountability plans? Nearly all (91%) are at least somewhat interested. Similar shares of Latinos (53%) and whites (55%) are very interested. Lower-income (59%) and middle-income (60%) parents are much more likely than those earning \$80,000 or more (42%) to be very interested.

MOST SUPPORT STATE FUNDING OF PRESCHOOL

Democratic lawmakers are urging Governor Brown to include funding for voluntary preschool for all four-year-olds in his 2014–15 budget. Solid majorities of California adults (73%), likely voters (63%), and public school parents (80%) say the state should do this.

Consistent with this finding, 66 percent of adults say attending preschool is very important to a student's success in kindergarten through grade 12 (22% somewhat important). Strong majorities across parties, regions, and demographic groups say preschool is at least somewhat important. Among registered voters, 63 percent say preschool attendance is very important, nearly identical to the response in May 2006 (60%)—just before voters rejected a June ballot measure that would have taxed upper-income residents to fund universal voluntary preschool.

SLIM MAJORITY SAY STATE FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS STILL INADEQUATE

Most Californians (81%) consider the quality of education to be at least somewhat of a problem for California schools. Half of adults (50%), 61 percent of likely voters, and 47 percent of public school parents say it is a big problem. Most adults (81%) also say the state budget situation is at least somewhat of a problem for schools. Majorities of adults (55%), likely voters (62%), and public school parents (59%) say it is a big problem. Asked which of three funding choices will significantly improve the quality of public schools, 41 percent of adults say we need to use state funds more wisely, 10 percent say we need to increase state funding, and the largest share—46 percent—say we need to do both.

At a time when state money for public schools is being restored after the Great Recession, is the current level of funding more than enough, just enough, or not enough? About half of adults (53%) and likely voters (49%) say it is not enough, and 62 percent of public school parents express this view.

Baldassare notes: “Even while the state's economy and budget situation have improved markedly this year, most adults and even more public school parents say that state funding is falling short of the needs in their local schools.”

How do Californians feel about options to raise money for their local districts? Among likely voters, 55 percent would vote yes if asked to vote on a bond measure to pay for school construction projects. This matches the 55 percent majority vote required to pass a local school bond.

If a measure to increase local parcel taxes for public schools were on the ballot, about half of likely voters (48%) would vote yes—a level of support far short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass a local parcel tax. Asked if they are willing to change Proposition 13 to make it easier to pass local parcel taxes, just 39 percent of likely voters say it is a good idea to lower the two-thirds vote requirement to 55 percent.

MORE KEY FINDINGS

- **Brown's approval at 56 percent among likely voters—he keeps big primary lead—pages 15, 23**
Far fewer approve of the governor's handling of the public school system (33%) than of his overall job performance. The legislature's job approval rating is 29 percent among likely voters.
- **Just 35 percent give schools high marks for both college, career preparation—pages 18, 19**
Large majorities say it is very important that their local public schools prepare students for college (81%) and that career technical or vocational education be part of the curriculum (73%). They are more likely to give high marks for college (53%) than career preparation (41%).
- **Half give their local schools good marks—page 21**
Asked to grade their local public schools, 14 percent of residents give an “A” and 38 percent give a “B.” About a third (30%) give their local schools a “C.”

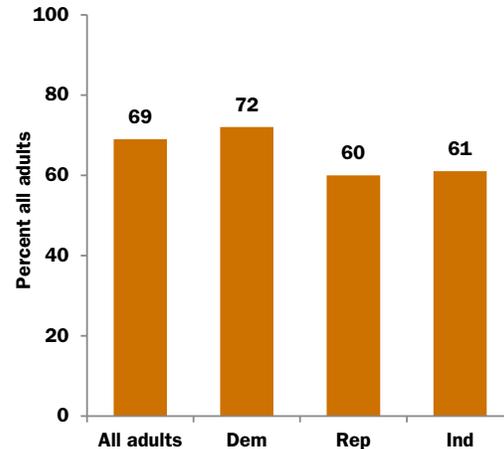
This PPIC survey is conducted with funding from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation; The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation; the Silver Giving Foundation; and the Stuart Foundation.

POLICY PREFERENCES

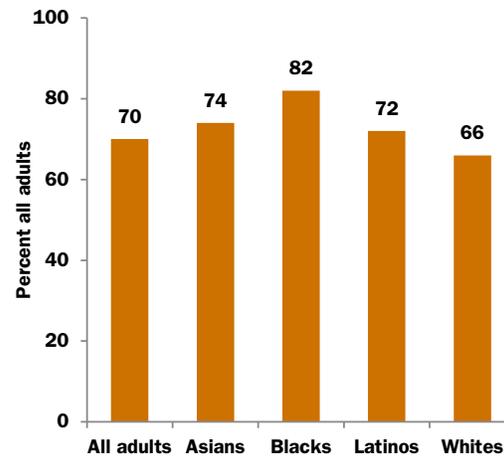
KEY FINDINGS

- Seven in 10 Californians say they favor the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) after being read a brief description. Many were already aware of them. *(page 7)*
- Two in three favor providing school districts with additional funding of \$1.5 billion for Common Core implementation. Many are concerned that teachers are not adequately prepared to implement the new standards. *(page 8)*
- About half of Californians say Common Core will make U.S. education more competitive globally. *(page 9)*
- Seven in 10 Californians say they favor the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) after being provided with a brief description of the plan. Most have not heard of the new policy by its official name. *(page 10)*
- As the state implements the LCFF, a slim majority are confident that school districts will use LCFF money wisely. Two in three say the LCFF will improve academic achievement among English Learners and lower-income students. *(page 11)*
- About three in four say it is very important for parents to be involved in the development of local accountability plans, as required under LCFF—but only about half of public school parents say they have received information from their child’s school or district about how to get involved. *(page 12)*
- Majorities of Californians across regions and racial/ethnic and other demographic groups say preschool is very important to a child’s later success in school. About three in four say the state government should fund voluntary preschool for all four-year-olds. *(page 13)*

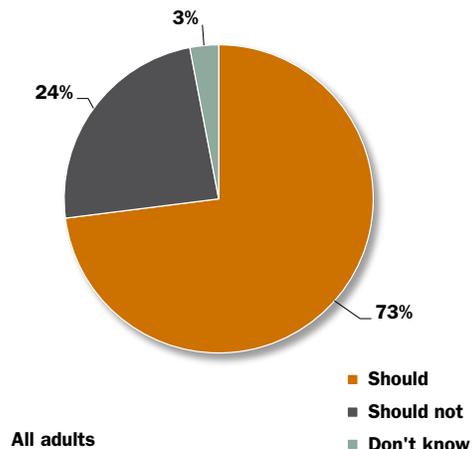
Support for Common Core State Standards



Support for Local Control Funding Formula



Should the State Fund Universal Voluntary Preschool?



COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

As California implements the Common Core State Standards, how much have Californians heard about them? A majority of Californians (56%) say they have heard either a lot (19%) or a little (37%) about the new set of English and math standards, while 43 percent say they have heard nothing at all. Public school parents are somewhat more likely (65%) to have heard at least a little about Common Core (24% heard a lot, 41% heard a little, and 34% heard nothing at all). Awareness among public school parents is much higher today than it was last April (9% a lot, 36% a little, 54% nothing at all). Public school parents nationwide were about as likely as California public school parents to have heard of the Common Core State Standards, when asked a similar question in a recent Gallup survey (68% heard of them).

Awareness of Common Core is similar across parties (61% Democrats, 57% Republicans, 58% independents). Residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (64%) are the most aware, followed by those in the Central Valley (58%), Orange/San Diego (54%), Los Angeles (53%), and the Inland Empire (52%). Majorities across racial/ethnic groups have heard at least a little about CCSS (59% whites, 56% blacks, 55% Latinos, 51% Asians). College graduates (68%) are more likely to be aware than Californians with only a high school degree or less (50%) or some college (51%). Awareness increases as income rises and is higher among those 35 and older than among younger adults.

“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? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?”

	All adults	Party			Public school parents
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
A lot	19%	22%	19%	26%	24%
A little	37	39	38	32	41
Nothing at all	43	38	42	41	34
Don't know	1	1	1	–	1

When read a brief description of the Common Core State Standards, 69 percent of Californians say they favor them, while 22 are opposed and 10 percent are unsure. Views among public school parents are similar (72% favor, 20% opposed, 8% don't know). Solid majorities across parties favor CCSS, with Democrats (72%) more likely than Republicans (60%) and independents (61%) to be in favor. Residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (76%) and Los Angeles (73%) are the most likely to be in favor, followed by those in the Central Valley (67%), the Inland Empire (63%), and Orange/San Diego (60%). Asians (88%), Latinos (77%), and blacks (71%) are much more likely than whites (57%) to be in favor. At least six in 10 across age, education, and income groups favor CCSS, and support decreases as awareness increases (73% heard nothing at all, 68% heard a little, 59% heard a lot).

“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?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Favor	69%	88%	71%	77%	57%	72%
Oppose	22	8	22	15	31	20
Don't know	10	4	7	8	12	8

IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

The enacted 2013–14 state budget provided school districts with \$1.25 billion for the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. As school districts across the state roll out the new standards, some policymakers have asked for additional funding for CCSS implementation. Strong majorities of adults (65%) and public school parents (71%) favor providing additional funding of \$1.5 billion. However, support is lower among likely voters (53%) and there are sharp partisan differences: 76 percent of Democrats are in favor, compared to fewer than half of Republicans (43%) and independents (49%). Support for additional funding is highest in Los Angeles (69%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (68%), followed by the Central Valley (63%), Orange/San Diego (63%), and the Inland Empire (59%). Latinos (81%), blacks (76%), and Asians (69%) are much more likely than whites (51%) to be in favor, and support declines as age and income rise. Support is higher among those with only a high school degree (73%) than among those with some college (62%) or a college degree (59%).

“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?”

	All adults	Party			Public school parents
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	65%	76%	43%	49%	71%
Oppose	27	18	48	42	23
Don't know	8	6	9	9	6

As California implements CCSS, how concerned are residents about whether public school teachers are prepared to implement these standards? Three in four Californians (75%) and eight in 10 public school parents (80%) are at least somewhat concerned, while about one in five are not concerned. Across parties, regions, and demographic groups, at least two in three are very or somewhat concerned.

“How concerned are you that California’s public school teachers are not adequately prepared to implement the Common Core State Standards?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Very concerned	37%	35%	43%	46%	31%	45%
Somewhat concerned	38	44	35	36	37	35
Not too concerned	13	16	19	7	16	11
Not at all concerned	8	3	3	10	10	8
Don't know	3	2	–	2	6	2

A slim majority of public school parents (53%) in California say that their child’s school or school district has provided them with information about CCSS: 37 percent say this information is adequately helping them understand how Common Core will affect their child and 16 percent feel they need more information. Forty-three percent of public school parents report having not received any information. Most Latino (56%) and white parents (54%) say they have received information; however, Latino parents (44%) are slightly more likely than white parents (36%) to say this information is adequate. Majorities of parents in households with incomes under \$40,000 (56%) and over \$80,000 (53%) report receiving information, as do 48 percent of middle-income parents (50% have not). Lower-income parents are more likely than others to say the information they received is adequate. Younger parents (49% age 18 to 44) are less likely than older parents (60% age 45 and older) to say they have received information. Majorities of parents who are college graduates (57%) and those who are not (51%) report receiving information.

COMMON CORE STANDARDS AND STUDENT OUTCOMES

Half of Californians (49%) agree with proponents' assertion that the Common Core State Standards will help make education in the U.S. more competitive globally. Twenty-six percent say the standards will have no effect globally and 14 percent say it will make education in America less competitive globally. Findings among public school parents are similar (54% more competitive, 21% no effect, 14% less competitive). Democrats (55%) are much more likely than independents (37%) and Republicans (33%) to say CCSS will make America more competitive. Whites (32%) are far less likely than blacks (57%), Asians (63%), and Latinos (64%) to say CCSS will increase competitiveness. Those with a high school degree or less (56%) are more likely than more educated adults (45% some college, 42% college graduates) to say CCSS will increase competitiveness. According to a May 2013 Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup poll, 41 percent of adults nationwide who had heard of Common Core State Standards think they will increase competitiveness (21% less competitive, 35% no effect); 46 percent of Californians in our survey who have heard of Common Core say it will increase competitiveness (18% less competitive, 26% no effect).

“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?”

	All adults	Party			Public school parents
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
More competitive globally	49%	55%	33%	37%	54%
Less competitive globally	14	11	19	20	14
No effect globally	26	26	34	29	21
Don't know	11	8	14	14	11

About two in three Californians say they are confident that implementing Common Core in California schools will help students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills (64%) and make them more college or career ready upon graduation (66%); about three in 10 are not too or not at all confident on each outcome. At least seven in 10 public school parents are confident these outcomes will occur. Democrats are much more likely than independents and far more likely than Republicans to be confident that either outcome will occur. For both outcomes, supporters of Common Core are far more likely than opponents to express confidence.

“How confident are you that implementing Common Core in California’s schools will...?”

		All adults	Party			Public school parents
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
<i>Help students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills</i>	Very confident	16%	17%	10%	13%	20%
	Somewhat confident	48	52	33	37	54
	Not too confident	19	16	29	29	12
	Not at all confident	11	10	17	17	9
	Don't know	5	5	10	4	4
<i>Make students more college or career ready upon graduation</i>	Very confident	17	17	12	10	23
	Somewhat confident	49	55	33	46	48
	Not too confident	21	18	31	21	16
	Not at all confident	10	6	16	19	9
	Don't know	4	4	9	5	4

LOCAL CONTROL FUNDING FORMULA

The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) was enacted with the state's 2013–14 budget. It is designed to address the needs of disadvantaged students with additional targeted funding and to provide local school districts with increased spending flexibility. Californians have long expressed the view that school districts in lower-income areas of the state lack the same resources—including good teachers and classroom materials—as districts in wealthier areas, and today is no different: 79 percent hold this view. Since 2005, when we first asked this question, at least 75 percent have said that school districts in lower-income areas of the state do not have the same resources as other school districts. Today, at least 70 percent across parties, regions, and demographic groups say resources are unequal.

Just 27 percent of Californians have heard of the Local Control Funding Formula by name (3% heard a lot, 24% heard a little), while 72 percent say they have heard nothing at all. Awareness of the LCFF is higher among public school parents (7% heard a lot, 30% heard a little), yet 63 percent say that they have heard nothing. Awareness is relatively low across parties, regions, and demographic groups, and 5 percent or fewer in any group have heard a lot. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (36%) are the most likely to have heard a lot or a little about the LCFF, followed by Asians (26%), blacks (21%), and whites (21%).

“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?”

	All adults	Party			Public school parents
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
A lot	3%	4%	3%	3%	7%
A little	24	24	24	15	30
Nothing at all	72	72	71	81	63
Don't know	1	–	2	–	1

After being read a brief description of the LCFF, most Californians (70%), likely voters (67%), and public school parents (71%) say they generally favor this plan. Support tracks findings from similar questions we asked about the proposal in 2013 (75% January 2013, 71% April 2013, 77% May 2013, 72% September 2013, 70% today). The earlier questions focused on the idea of directing funding to districts with more English Learners and lower-income students and did not include the local flexibility component or use the official name.

Majorities across parties favor the LCFF, with Democrats the most likely to express this view (77% Democrats, 65% independents, 60% Republicans). Among those who have heard of the LCFF, 75 percent favor the plan, and there is strong majority support even among those who have heard nothing about the LCFF (68%). Strong majorities across regions and demographic groups favor this plan, including about seven in 10 across household income groups. Across racial/ethnic groups, blacks (82%) are the most likely to favor the plan, followed by Asians (74%), Latinos (72%), and whites (66%).

“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?”

	All adults	Party			Public school parents
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	70%	77%	60%	65%	71%
Oppose	23	18	31	25	23
Don't know	7	6	9	9	6

LOCAL CONTROL FUNDING FORMULA IMPLEMENTATION

Local school districts are taking on more responsibilities with the implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula. They have more control over their spending decisions and are expected to help the disadvantaged students for whom additional funds are being provided. A slim majority (53%) of Californians are confident that school districts will use the money wisely, but just 7 percent are very confident (46% somewhat confident). Forty-six percent are not too (30%) or not at all confident (16%). Among likely voters, 49 percent are very or somewhat confident. Among public school parents, 57 percent express these levels of confidence. More than half of residents across regions are confident local school districts will use the money wisely, except in Los Angeles where 46 percent are confident and 52 percent are not. Democrats (61%) are more likely than independents (42%) or Republicans (40%) to be confident. Blacks (64%) and Latinos (62%) are more likely than Asians (51%) or whites (47%) to be very or somewhat confident. Across parties, regions, and demographic groups, however, the percentage saying they are very confident is low. Among those who favor the LCFF, 63 percent are confident local school districts will spend wisely. Among those who oppose the LCFF, just 31 percent express confidence.

“As the state implements the Local Control Funding Formula, how confident are you that local school districts will use this money wisely? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?”

	All adults	Region					Public school parents
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
Very confident	7%	6%	5%	8%	5%	9%	8%
Somewhat confident	46	47	50	38	51	45	49
Not too confident	30	30	34	30	29	28	29
Not at all confident	16	14	9	22	15	17	12
Don't know	2	2	2	2	1	–	2

Two in three Californians (66%) are optimistic the academic achievement of English Learners and lower-income students will improve (16% a lot, 50% somewhat) as a result of LCFF implementation. A quarter (25%) say academic achievement will not improve. Likely voters are less optimistic (54% improve a lot or somewhat)—and public school parents are slightly more optimistic (71% improve a lot or somewhat)—than all adults. Democrats (73%) are much more likely than independents (54%) and Republicans (47%) to say there will be improvements. Although majorities across regions and demographic groups hold this view, whites are much less likely than others to express optimism (54% whites, 71% blacks, 72% Asians, 81% Latinos), and optimism declines as age, education, and income increase. Among those who favor the LCFF, 77 percent expect the achievement of disadvantaged students to improve. Among those who oppose it, 46 percent are optimistic that achievement will improve. Similarly, those who are confident in local districts are far more likely to expect academic improvement than those who are not (84% to 48%).

“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?” (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	16%	12%	19%	28%	9%	21%
Improve somewhat	50	60	52	53	45	50
Will not improve	25	22	20	15	34	21
Don't know	9	6	8	4	13	8

LOCAL CONTROL FUNDING FORMULA AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

As part of implementing the Local Control Funding Formula, local school districts are required to develop accountability plans every three years (known as Local Control and Accountability Plans). Districts must adopt their first plans by July 1; they are required to seek parental input as they develop these plans. Nearly all Californians think it is either very (77%) or somewhat (18%) important for parents to be involved in this process. Similarly high shares of likely voters (78% very, 18% somewhat) and public school parents (85% very, 11% somewhat) agree. At least 70 percent across parties, regions, and demographic groups say it is very important for parents to be involved in developing local accountability plans. Those who favor the LCFF agree (80% very important) as do those who oppose it (71% very important).

“The Local Control Funding Formula 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?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Very important	77%	78%	87%	85%	70%	85%
Somewhat important	18	20	3	11	26	11
Not too important	3	1	–	3	3	3
Not at all important	2	1	9	–	2	1
Don't know	–	–	–	–	–	1

Many school districts have already begun collecting parental feedback through meetings, forums, and surveys. About half of the public school parents (52%) in our survey say that their child’s school or school district has provided them with information about how to become involved, while 45 percent say they have not been provided with information. Latino public school parents (61%) are much more likely than whites (42%) to say they have received information about getting involved with their district’s accountability plan. (Sample sizes for Asian and black public school parents are too small for separate analysis.) Public school parents with lower household incomes are more likely than those with higher incomes to say they have received information (62% under \$40,000, 50% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 42% \$80,000 or more).

Most public school parents are very (53%) or somewhat (38%) interested in becoming involved in the development of the accountability plans. Overwhelming majorities across demographic groups are at least somewhat interested. Similar shares of Latinos (53%) and whites (55%) are very interested. Lower- (59%) and middle-income (60%) public school parents are much more likely than those earning \$80,000 or more (42%) to say they are very interested. Those without a college degree (56%) are more likely than college graduates (45%) to be very interested. Among both those who have—and have not—received information about how to get involved, 54 percent are very interested (39% somewhat interested).

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

<i>Public school parents only</i>	All public school parents	Race/Ethnicity		Household income		
		Latinos	Whites	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
Very interested	53%	53%	55%	59%	60%	42%
Somewhat interested	38	41	29	36	35	44
Not too interested	8	6	16	5	5	13
Don't know	–	–	–	–	–	–

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

A growing body of evidence shows that early childhood education can contribute greatly to a student's success in school and there is increased discussion at the state and federal level about expanding access to preschool. Nearly nine in 10 Californians say that attending preschool is very (66%) or somewhat (22%) important to a student's success in grades K–12. Strong majorities across parties, regions, and demographic groups say preschool is at least somewhat important, but Democrats (77%) are far more likely than Republicans (51%) and independents (49%) to say it is very important, as are blacks and Latinos (82% each) when compared to Asians (61%) and whites (54%). Eighty-one percent of public school parents say preschool attendance is very important. Californians with lower incomes are more likely than other income groups to hold this view. In May 2006—just before voters rejected a measure on the June ballot that would have taxed upper-income Californians to fund universal voluntary preschool—60 percent of registered voters said preschool attendance was very important. The share of registered voters saying it is very important today is nearly identical (63%).

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

	All adults	Household income			Public school parents
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	
Very important	66%	73%	66%	60%	81%
Somewhat important	22	21	23	23	12
Not too important	7	4	5	9	3
Not at all important	4	2	4	6	4
Don't know	1	1	1	2	–

California currently has a patchwork of state and federally funded preschool programs for qualified children, but disadvantaged children are often less likely than others to attend high-quality programs, if at all. Most Californians are concerned (55% very, 26% somewhat) that children in lower-income areas may not be able to attend preschool. Among public school parents, 67 percent are very concerned and 21 percent are somewhat concerned. Majorities across parties, regions, and demographic groups are at least somewhat concerned, but Democrats (70%) are far more likely than independents (40%) and Republicans (31%) to be very concerned, and blacks (78%) and Latinos (66%) are more likely than Asians and whites (46% each) to be very concerned. Concern declines as income levels rise. In April 2006, concern among registered voters (47% very concerned) was similar to today (51%).

Democratic lawmakers would like Governor Brown to include funding for voluntary preschool for all four-year-olds in his budget for 2014–15. Most Californians (73%), likely voters (63%), and public school parents (80%) say the state should do this. Democrats (83%) are much more likely than independents (62%) and far more likely than Republicans (44%) to express support. More than six in 10 across regions and demographic groups say the state should do this, although support is higher among blacks and Latinos (88% each) than among Asians (68%) and whites (63%). Support declines as income increases. Among those who say preschool is very important, 88 percent favor state funding for universal preschool.

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

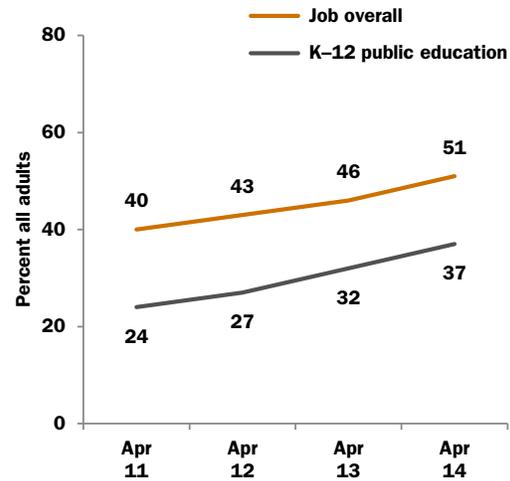
	All adults	Party			Public school parents
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Should	73%	83%	44%	62%	80%
Should not	24	13	53	34	17
Don't know	3	4	3	4	3

PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES

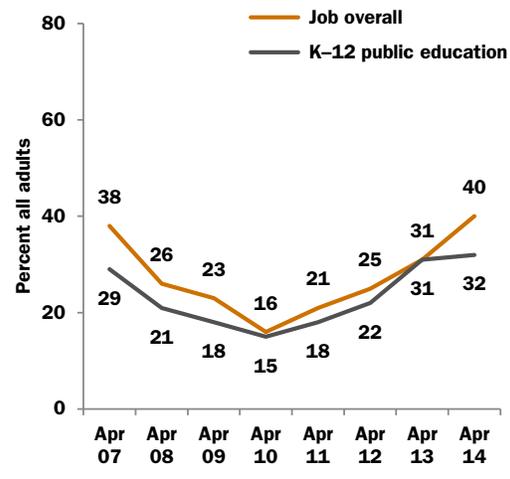
KEY FINDINGS

- Governor Brown’s approval rating (51%) is similar to last month’s rating, but higher than last April’s. Fewer approve of his handling of K–12 education. Approval of the legislature overall is up 9 points since last April, but hasn’t changed much on its handling of education. *(page 15)*
- About four in 10 residents are aware that California ranks below other states on per pupil spending; 46 percent know that it is below average on student test scores. *(page 16)*
- Most parents want their children to finish college or graduate school, and most Californians consider college preparation to be a very important goal of local public schools. Three in four also consider career technical education to be a very important part of the curriculum. *(pages 18, 19)*
- Despite fiscal improvements, 55 percent say the state budget situation is a big problem for schools. Many also believe that existing funds need to be used more wisely, even if state funding increases. *(page 20)*
- As in previous years, about half of Californians rate their local public schools with grades of A or B, but 53 percent also say the current level of state funding for these schools is “not enough.” *(page 21)*
- Support among likely voters for a local school bond (55%) would just meet the required threshold for passage. Support for a parcel tax for schools (48%) would fall well below the required two-thirds vote; 39 percent say lowering this threshold to 55 percent is a good idea. *(pages 22, 23)*
- Governor Brown continues to lead in the gubernatorial primary. Most primary likely voters say candidate positions on K–12 education are important. *(page 23)*

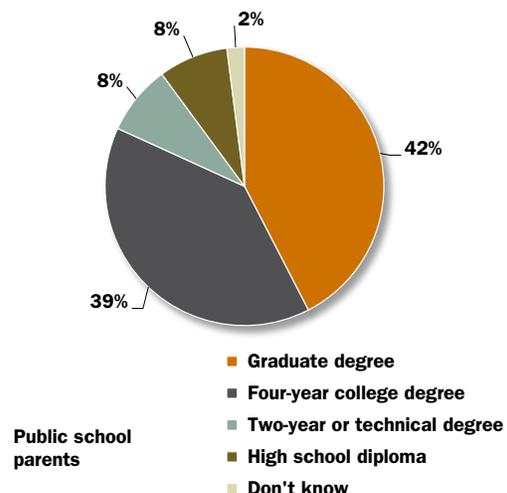
Approval Ratings of Governor Brown



Approval Ratings of the California Legislature



Educational Hopes for Youngest Child



APPROVAL RATINGS OF STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Half of Californians (51%) approve of the way Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor, while one in four disapprove (26%). Approval today is similar to approval in March (49%), and lower than the record high in January (58%). A year ago, 46 percent approved. Among likely voters today, 56 percent approve. Democrats (70%) are far more likely than independents (48%) and Republicans (31%) to approve. San Francisco Bay Area residents (62%) are the most likely—and Orange/San Diego residents (42%) the least likely—to approve. Majorities of blacks (62%), Asians (55%), and Latinos (55%) approve, as do 48 percent of whites.

When it comes to Governor Brown’s handling of the state’s K–12 public education system, 37 percent approve, 34 percent disapprove, and 30 percent are unsure. Likely voters hold similar views. Last April, Californians held slightly more negative opinions (32% approve, 42% disapprove). Democrats (49%) are far more approving than independents (26%) or Republicans (17%). Fewer than half across regions approve of Brown’s job performance on this issue. Blacks (53%) are more likely than either Latinos (45%) or Asians (40%)—and far more likely than whites (29%)—to approve of Brown’s handling of K–12.

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

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
<i>His job as governor of California</i>	Approve	51%	70%	31%	48%	56%
	Disapprove	26	12	52	34	31
	Don't know	23	18	18	18	13
<i>The state's kindergarten through 12th grade public education system</i>	Approve	37	49	17	26	33
	Disapprove	34	24	51	43	38
	Don't know	30	27	33	31	29

Forty percent of Californians approve of the legislature’s job performance. This is similar to our findings in March (36%) and January (42%), and 9 points higher than last April (31%). Today, 29 percent of likely voters approve. Democrats (42%) are more approving than independents (27%) and Republicans (17%). Los Angeles residents (49%) are most likely—and Central Valley residents (29%) are least likely—to approve. Pluralities of blacks (58%), Latinos (54%), and Asians (44%) approve; 27 percent of whites do.

One in three Californians (32%) approve of the legislature’s handling of the state’s K–12 public education system; 45 percent disapprove. Just 22 percent of likely voters approve. Findings among all adults were similar last April (31%). Today, approval fails to rise above 40 percent across parties and regions. Latinos (46%) and blacks (45%) are more likely than Asians (36%) and far more likely than whites (20%) to approve.

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

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
<i>Its job</i>	Approve	40%	42%	17%	27%	29%
	Disapprove	44	40	67	55	56
	Don't know	17	19	15	17	15
<i>The state's kindergarten through 12th grade public education system</i>	Approve	32	34	14	20	22
	Disapprove	45	42	63	56	51
	Don't know	23	24	24	24	27

CALIFORNIA’S RELATIVE RANKINGS

Four in 10 Californians think that the state’s per pupil spending for K–12 public schools is lower than average compared to other states (26% below average, 13% near the bottom); 27 percent say it is average and 26 percent say it is higher than average (11% near the top, 15% above average). According to the National Education Association’s *Rankings and Estimates* reports, California has consistently ranked below average in recent years. Over the years in our surveys, a plurality of Californians have said that the state’s spending is below average or near the bottom. Today, 44 percent of public school parents hold this view. Pluralities of Asians (46%), blacks (43%), Latinos (37%), and whites (37%) think spending is lower than average. Democrats (47%) are much more likely than Republicans (32%) and independents (33%) to say that spending is lower than average.

“Where do you think California currently ranks in per pupil spending for K–12 public schools? Compared to other states, is California’s spending near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Near the top/Above average	26%	22%	27%	22%	28%	22%
Average	27	28	22	32	23	28
Below average/Near the bottom	39	46	43	37	37	44
Don’t know	9	4	8	9	12	7

On K–12 student test scores, 46 percent of adults say California currently ranks lower than average (32% below average, 14% near the bottom) compared to other states; 39 percent say it is average and 10 percent say it ranks above average (2% near the top, 8% above average). According to test scores compiled by the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics, California has ranked near the bottom in both math and reading scores for grades 4 and 8 in recent years. In our surveys since 1998, a plurality of Californians have said the state ranks below average or near the bottom in student test scores. Today, views of California’s test score rankings among public school parents are similar to those of all adults. A majority of whites (56%) say California is below average, as do a plurality of Asians (44%); nearly half of Latinos (49%) say it is average. Among blacks, equal shares say it is average (38%) or below average (38%). Majorities across parties say California’s test scores are lower than average (58% Republicans, 53% independents, 52% Democrats). Those with at least some college education (53%) are much more likely than those with a high school education or less (37%) to say California ranks lower than average. Adults with incomes of \$80,000 or more (59%) are much more likely than those earning less to hold this view (40% under \$80,000).

About one in four adults (23%), likely voters (23%), and public school parents (24%) correctly rank both per pupil spending and test scores in California as lower than average relative to other states.

“Where do you think California currently ranks in student test scores for K–12 public schools? Compared to other states, are California’s student test scores near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Near the top/Above average	10%	18%	15%	12%	6%	13%
Average	39	36	38	49	33	38
Below average/Near the bottom	46	44	38	33	56	43
Don’t know	5	2	7	5	6	5

CONCERNS ABOUT INEQUITIES

Majorities of Californians and public school parents (57% each) are very concerned that schools in lower-income areas have a shortage of good teachers compared to schools in wealthier areas. Since we first asked this question in 2006, the share of adults expressing this level of concern has ranged from 52 percent (April 2013) to 65 percent (April 2011). Today, Democrats (68%) are much more likely than independents (52%) and Republicans (49%) to be very concerned. Blacks (71%) are more likely than Latinos (61%), Asians (59%), and whites (52%) to be very concerned. Those in the middle-income group (69%) are much more likely than those in the lower-income (55%) and upper-income (56%) groups to express this level of concern. Los Angeles (61%) and Central Valley (59%) residents are the most likely to be very concerned about teacher shortages in lower-income areas, followed by residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (55%), Orange/San Diego (54%), and the Inland Empire (53%).

Six in 10 adults (59%) and public school parents (60%) 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. These findings are similar to those in past surveys (61% April 2010 and April 2011, 56% April 2013). Today, blacks (76%) are much more likely than Asians (61%), Latinos (59%), and whites (56%) to be very concerned. Solid majorities of Democrats (73%) and independents (63%) are very concerned, compared to 47 percent of Republicans. Majorities across regions and demographic groups are very concerned.

“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	59%	61%	76%	59%	56%	60%
Somewhat concerned	27	26	11	27	29	29
Not too concerned	9	11	9	10	8	9
Not at all concerned	5	1	4	4	6	2
Don't know	1	1	–	–	1	1

Half of adults (51%) and public school parents (52%) are very concerned that English language learners in California’s schools today score lower than other students on standardized tests. The share of adults who are very concerned was at 43 percent in April 2006, when we first asked this question, and it reached 56 percent (April 2011 and April 2012) before declining slightly to current levels (47% April 2013, 51% today). About half across racial/ethnic groups are very concerned. Californians in Orange/San Diego (58%) are the most likely to be very concerned, followed by those in Los Angeles (53%), the San Francisco Bay Area (48%), the Central Valley (47%), and the Inland Empire (43%).

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

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Very concerned	51%	50%	51%	50%	51%	52%
Somewhat concerned	29	27	28	31	27	29
Not too concerned	12	12	15	11	13	11
Not at all concerned	7	6	3	7	8	6
Don't know	2	5	3	1	1	2

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE

Eight in 10 public school parents (81%) say they hope that their youngest child earns a four-year college degree (39%) or a graduate degree after college (42%); far fewer hope for a high school diploma (8%), or a two-year community college degree/career technical training (8%). In nine surveys since April 2005, overwhelming majorities of California’s public school parents have consistently said they hope their youngest child obtains a four-year college or graduate degree. Today, aspirations for a graduate degree are far higher among whites than Latinos (54% to 27%), and higher among those with a college degree than among those without (59% to 36%). Graduate degree aspirations also increase as income levels rise (31% under \$40,000, 46% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 52% \$80,000 or more).

Eight in 10 adults (81%) and an even higher share of public school parents (89%) say that it is very important that their local public schools prepare students for college. In the four times we have asked this question since April 2007, at least three in four Californians have considered college preparation very important. Today, nearly all Latinos (91%) hold this view, as do 84 percent of blacks and Asians and 73 percent of whites. More than seven in 10 Californians across parties, regions, and demographic groups say college preparation is very important.

“How important to you is it that your local public schools prepare students for college?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Very important	81%	84%	84%	91%	73%	89%
Somewhat important	15	12	8	8	21	10
Not too important	3	5	8	1	4	1
Don’t know	1	–	–	–	2	–

With strong majorities of Californians considering college preparation very important, how do they rate their local public schools in this area? About half of adults (53%) say their local public schools are doing an excellent (10%) or a good (43%) job, while four in 10 (40%) say they are doing a not so good (28%) or poor (12%) job in preparing students for college. Public school parents give similar assessments. The share of Californians giving positive ratings today is similar to the record high reached last April (54%). Today, Latinos (59%) and Asians (57%) are more likely than whites (50%) and blacks (45%) to give positive ratings. A slim majority of Democrats (54%) give positive ratings; Republicans (48% positive, 44% negative) and independents (42% positive, 45% negative) are divided. Inland Empire (60%) residents are the most likely to give positive ratings, followed by those in Orange/San Diego (57%), the San Francisco Bay Area (54%), Los Angeles (52%), and the Central Valley (44%, with 48% negative ratings).

“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	10%	9%	10%	11%	10%	12%
Good	43	48	35	48	40	45
Not so good	28	26	31	27	29	28
Poor	12	9	20	10	11	10
Don’t know	7	8	4	4	11	5

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR CAREERS

Seven in 10 adults (73%) and three in four public school parents (76%) say it is very important that their local public schools include career technical or vocational education as part of the curriculum. Opinions have been similar in past surveys, with strong majorities saying inclusion of technical and vocational education is very important (67% April 2007, 71% April 2009, 74% April 2013, 73% today).

Today, overwhelming majorities across racial/ethnic groups say that it is very important for their local schools to include career technical or vocational education in the curriculum, although blacks (82%) are the most likely to hold this view (75% Latinos, 71% Asians, 71% whites). More than two in three Californians across parties, regions, and demographic groups share this view.

“How important to you is it that your local public schools include career technical or vocational education as part of the curriculum?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Very important	73%	71%	82%	75%	71%	76%
Somewhat important	21	23	17	21	22	21
Not too important	5	6	1	3	7	2
Don't know	–	–	–	–	–	–

Four in 10 Californians (41%) say their local public schools are doing an excellent (6%) or a good (35%) job in preparing students for jobs and the workforce, while about half (52%) say they are doing a not so good (35%) or poor (17%) job. The share giving positive ratings to their local schools in this area is similar to the share last April (44%), and is somewhat higher today than it was when we started asking this question in April 2006 (33%).

Today, majorities of whites (57%) and blacks (56%) give negative ratings on this issue; Asians (44% positive, 47% negative) and Latinos (49% positive, 46% negative) are divided. Across parties, six in 10 Republicans (62%) and independents (61%) give negative ratings, as do half of Democrats (51%, with 42% positive ratings). Central Valley (62%) and Los Angeles (58%) residents are more likely to give negative ratings than positive ones, while Californians in other regions are closely divided.

Thirty-five percent of Californians give positive ratings to their local public schools on both college and workforce preparation; 33 percent give negative ratings on both.

“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	6%	5%	4%	8%	4%	9%
Good	35	39	38	41	29	39
Not so good	35	31	32	32	39	32
Poor	17	16	24	14	18	14
Don't know	8	9	3	5	11	6

EDUCATIONAL QUALITY AND STATE FUNDING

Eight in 10 Californians (81%) consider educational quality to be at least somewhat of a problem for California’s K–12 public schools, and 50 percent of adults and 61 percent of likely voters say it is a big problem. Last year, 49 percent of adults said educational quality was a big problem, and at least half have held this view in annual surveys since 2005. Today, Republicans (64%) and independents (62%) are more likely than Democrats (53%) to say it is a big problem. Whites (62%) are more likely than either blacks (51%) or Asians (46%)—and far more likely than Latinos (34%)—to say it is a big problem. Forty-seven percent of public school parents say educational quality is a big problem in California’s K–12 public schools today.

Eight in 10 Californians (81%) also say the state budget situation is at least somewhat of a problem for the state’s K–12 public schools, and 55 percent of adults and 62 percent of likely voters say it is a big problem. Last April, 57 percent of adults said it was a big problem; 65 percent said this in 2012. Today, majorities across parties say the budget is a big problem for schools. Whites (63%) and blacks (61%) are more likely than Asians (51%) and Latinos (43%) to hold this view. Fifty-nine percent of public school parents say that the state budget situation is a big problem for California’s K–12 public schools.

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

		All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
			Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
Quality of education	Big problem	50%	46%	51%	34%	62%	47%
	Somewhat of a problem	31	41	24	35	27	32
	Not much of a problem	15	12	23	27	7	19
	Don’t know	4	1	2	4	4	2
State budget situation	Big problem	55	51	61	43	63	59
	Somewhat of a problem	26	28	27	28	25	24
	Not much of a problem	11	14	11	18	5	14
	Don’t know	8	7	1	10	8	3

Increased state funding or wiser use of existing state funds—which is needed to significantly improve the quality of California’s K–12 public schools? Forty-six percent of adults say that both are needed, 41 percent prefer wiser use of existing funds, and only 10 percent prefer increased state funding. Likely voters are divided between using existing funds more wisely and the dual approach of wiser use and increased funds. Democrats (61%) favor the dual approach more than independents (43%) and Republicans (30%) do. Blacks (67%) prefer the dual approach more than whites (48%), Asians (45%), and Latinos (41%) do. Forty-eight percent of public school parents say that we need to do both to significantly improve the quality of California’s K–12 public schools.

“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.”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Use existing funds more wisely	41%	29%	60%	51%	46%
Increase amount of funding	10	9	8	5	6
Do both	46	61	30	43	47
Don’t know	3	1	2	–	1

LOCAL SCHOOLS AND STATE FUNDING

About half of Californians give their local public schools grades of A (14%) or B (38%); 30 percent give them a grade of C, and relatively few give them grades of D (10%) or F (5%). Adults nationwide gave similar ratings of their local schools in a May 2013 Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup poll (13% A, 40% B, 29% C, 11% D, 4% Fail). In our surveys since 2005, at least half but no more than 55 percent have given their local public schools grades of A or B. Today, grades of A or B are similar across the state's regions (54% Inland Empire, 53% Central Valley, 53% Orange/San Diego, 50% Los Angeles, 49% San Francisco Bay Area). Sixty-seven percent of Asians and 59 percent of Latinos give their local public schools an A or B, compared to 44 percent of whites and 41 percent of blacks. Sixty-three percent of public school parents give an A or B to their local public schools.

**“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	Region					Public school parents
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
A	14%	13%	16%	15%	12%	10%	19%
B	38	40	33	35	41	44	44
C	30	31	33	28	33	22	23
D	10	11	7	10	4	19	8
F	5	3	5	7	4	–	5
Don't know	4	3	7	5	5	4	1

What do Californians think about the current level of state funding for their local public schools, at a time when state funding for local public schools is being restored after the Great Recession? A slim majority (53%) say that current state funding is not enough, 29 percent say it is just enough, and 14 percent say it is more than enough. In 2013 and 2012, the share saying not enough was at 63 percent, and at least 50 percent of adults have said funding was inadequate since 2008. Today, 49 percent of likely voters think state funding is not enough. Six in 10 Democrats (60%) say state funding is inadequate but fewer than half of independents (46%) and Republicans (38%) agree. Central Valley (60%), San Francisco Bay Area (55%), and Los Angeles (54%) residents are more likely than Orange/San Diego (48%) and Inland Empire residents (40%) to say that state funding is not enough. Blacks (74%) are much more likely to hold this view than Latinos (55%), whites (51%), and Asians (41%). The belief that state funding is inadequate does not vary much by education or income, and it is similar among renters (53%) and homeowners (52%). Sixty-two percent of public school parents say that current state funding for their local public schools is not enough. Among those who say the state budget situation is a big problem for K–12 schools, 61 percent say state funding for local schools is not enough.

“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	Race/Ethnicity				Public school parents
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
More than enough	14%	14%	3%	10%	17%	10%
Just enough	29	41	22	33	25	26
Not enough	53	41	74	55	51	62
Don't know	4	4	–	2	6	3

RAISING LOCAL SCHOOL REVENUES

Sixty-five percent of adults would vote yes if their local school districts had a bond measure on the ballot to pay for school construction projects. In the 15 times we have asked this question since 1999, at least six in 10 adults have said they would vote yes. Today, a 55 percent majority of likely voters would vote yes, matching the 55 percent majority vote required to pass local school bonds in California. An overwhelming majority of Democrats (75%) would vote yes, compared to 53 percent of independents and 44 percent of Republicans. Majority support is found across regions and racial/ethnic groups. The share saying they would support a bond declines as education and income increase. Renters (75%) have higher levels of support than homeowners (57%). Seventy-seven 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	65%	75%	44%	53%	55%
No	29	21	50	40	38
Don't know	5	4	6	7	8

Fifty-seven percent of Californians would vote yes to increase local parcel taxes to provide more funds for their local public schools. We have found majority support among adults since first asking this question in 2009, although it has never been higher than 60 percent. Today, 48 percent of likely voters would vote yes, and thus support falls well below the two-thirds majority vote required to pass a local parcel tax. A large majority of Democrats (71%) would vote yes, but fewer than half of independents (45%) and Republicans (36%) would do so. Majority support is higher in the Inland Empire (63%), the San Francisco Bay Area (61%), the Central Valley (59%), and Los Angeles (58%) than in Orange/San Diego (51%). Large majorities of blacks (73%) and Latinos (69%), and 56 percent of Asians, would vote yes; 49 percent whites would. Support is higher among those under age 55 and those with lower incomes; it is higher among renters (66%) than homeowners (49%). Sixty-nine percent of public school parents would vote yes.

“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	57%	71%	36%	45%	48%
No	39	24	62	52	48
Don't know	3	5	3	3	3

Are Californians willing to change the Proposition 13 vote requirement to make it easier to pass local parcel taxes for their local public schools? Forty-nine percent of adults say it is a good idea to replace the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent vote requirement. A year ago, 51 percent of adults said this was a good idea, and 48 percent agreed in 2011. Today, 39 percent of likely voters say it is a good idea, and thus support falls well short of the 50 percent majority vote that would be needed to pass a statewide proposition and make this change to Proposition 13. A majority of Democrats (55%) say it is a good idea, compared to fewer than half of independents (41%) and Republicans (32%). Support is similar across regions, and it is higher among Latinos (64%), Asians (55%), and blacks (51%) than whites (36%). It is higher among renters (56%) than homeowners (42%). Fifty-eight percent of public school parents favor this change.

RAISING LOCAL SCHOOL REVENUES (CONTINUED)

“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	49%	55%	32%	41%	39%
Bad idea	43	34	63	55	54
Don’t know	8	11	6	4	8

2014 GOVERNOR’S RACE AND IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

With the gubernatorial primary two months away, just 38 percent of primary likely voters are following news about the candidates very (11%) or fairly (27%) closely. Democratic governor Jerry Brown (46%) leads the three Republican challengers named in our primary question—Tim Donnelly (9%), Andrew Blount (3%), and Neel Kashkari (2%)—while 2 percent name someone else and 38 percent are undecided. Most Democrats (75%) support Brown; 58 percent of Republicans and 45 percent of independents are undecided. A plurality of Latinos (48%), whites (43%), and public school parents (46%) support Brown.

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

Primary likely voters only	All primary likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites
Jerry Brown, a Democrat	46%	75%	7%	38%	48%	43%
Tim Donnelly, a Republican	9	1	20	11	6	11
Andrew Blount, a Republican	3	–	8	2	4	2
Neel Kashkari, a Republican	2	–	5	2	–	3
Someone else	2	2	3	2	4	2
Don’t know	38	22	58	45	38	39

Nearly all primary likely voters say the candidates’ positions on K–12 public education are very (58%) or somewhat (35%) important in thinking about the upcoming California governor’s election in November. In April 2010 and April 2006, six in 10 likely voters viewed the candidates’ positions on K–12 public education as very important. Today, most Democrats (70%)—and fewer independents (47%) and Republicans (43%)—say this is very important. Latinos (69%) are more likely than whites (54%) to say this is very important. Seven in 10 public school parents (71%) hold this view.

“In thinking about the upcoming California governor’s election in November, how important to you are the candidates’ positions on K–12 public education?”

Primary likely voters only	All primary likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites
Very important	58%	70%	43%	47%	69%	54%
Somewhat important	35	24	46	43	25	38
Not too important	7	6	9	9	4	7
Don’t know	1	–	2	1	1	1

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 Sonja Petek, project manager for this survey, and survey research associates Dean Bonner and Jui Shrestha. This survey on *Californians and Education* is supported with funding from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, the Silver Giving Foundation, and the Stuart Foundation. 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 1,702 California adult residents, including 1,190 interviewed on landline telephones and 512 interviewed on cell phones. Interviews took an average of 19 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from April 8 to 15, 2014.

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 phones were included in this survey to account for the growing number of Californians who use them. These 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 2010–2012 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 2012 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 2013 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 ± 3.8 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,702 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.8 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: For the 1,428 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 4.1 percent; for the 1,078 likely voters, it is ± 4.7 percent; for the 944 primary likely voters, it is ± 5.1 percent; for the 398 public school parents, it is $\pm 7.1\%$. 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, likely voters, and public school parents, but sample sizes for these less populated areas are not large enough to report separately.

We present specific results for non-Hispanic whites and also for Latinos, who account for about a third 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 14 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, likely voters, and public school parents, 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 by their responses to voter registration survey questions, previous election participation, and current interest in politics.

Results for questions 37, 37a, and 38 are based on primary likely voters. In addition to criteria used to determine likely voters, we used responses to questions on following news about the candidates for the gubernatorial election and intention to vote in the June primary as criteria to identify primary likely voters. For the gubernatorial primary (question 37), the candidate list was based on news coverage, campaign publicity, and the Secretary of State’s certified list of candidates. In addition, respondents could name candidates who were not on our list.

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 national surveys by Gallup and 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 8–15, 2014

**1,702 California Adult Residents:
English, Spanish**

MARGIN OF ERROR $\pm 3.8\%$ AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE
PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

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

51% approve
26 disapprove
23 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?

37% approve
34 disapprove
30 don't know

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

40% approve
44 disapprove
17 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?

32% approve
45 disapprove
23 don't know

Next,

[rotate questions 5 and 5a]

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?

50% big problem
31 somewhat of a problem
15 not much of a problem
4 don't know

- 5a. How much of a problem is the overall state budget situation for California's K–12 public schools today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?

55% big problem
26 somewhat of a problem
11 not much of a problem
8 don't know

6. To significantly improve the quality of California's K–12 public schools, which of the following statements do you agree with the most? ***[rotate responses 1 and 2]*** (1) We need to use existing state funds more wisely, ***[or]*** (2) We need to increase the amount of state funding, ***[or]*** (3) We need to use existing state funds more wisely and increase the amount of state funding.

41% use funds more wisely
10 increase state funding
46 use funds more wisely and increase funding
3 don't know

Next,

[rotate questions 7 to 9]

7. 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?

57% very concerned
 28 somewhat concerned
 8 not too concerned
 6 not at all concerned
 1 don't know

8. How concerned are you that English language learners in California's schools today score lower on standardized tests than other students? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about this issue?

51% very concerned
 29 somewhat concerned
 12 not too concerned
 7 not at all concerned
 2 don't know

9. 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?

59% very concerned
 27 somewhat concerned
 9 not too concerned
 5 not at all concerned
 1 don't know

On another topic,

[rotate questions 10 and 11]

10. Where do you think California currently ranks in per pupil spending for K–12 public schools? Compared to other states, is California's spending near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?

11% near the top
 15 above average
 27 average
 26 below average
 13 near the bottom
 9 don't know

11. Where do you think California currently ranks in student test scores for K–12 public schools? Compared to other states, are California's student test scores near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?

2% near the top
 8 above average
 39 average
 32 below average
 14 near the bottom
 5 don't know

Next,

[rotate questions 12 and 13]

12. How important to you is it that your local public schools prepare students for college? Is this very important, somewhat important, or not too important to you?

81% very important
 15 somewhat important
 3 not too important
 1 don't know

13. How important to you is it that your local public schools include career technical or vocational education as part of the curriculum? Is this very important, somewhat important, or not too important to you?

- 73% very important
- 21 somewhat important
- 5 not too important
- don't know

[rotate questions 14 and 15 in same order as questions 12 and 13]

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

- 10% excellent
- 43 good
- 28 not so good
- 12 poor
- 7 don't know

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

- 6% excellent
- 35 good
- 35 not so good
- 17 poor
- 8 don't know

16. 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 to roll out this school year? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

- 19% a lot
- 37 a little
- 43 nothing at all
- 1 don't know

17. 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?

- 69% favor
- 22 oppose
- 10 don't know

17a. 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?

- 65% favor
- 27 oppose
- 8 don't know

18. 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?

- 49% more competitive
- 14 less competitive
- 26 have no effect
- 11 don't know

[rotate questions 19 and 19a]

19. 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?

- 17% very confident
- 49 somewhat confident
- 21 not too confident
- 10 not at all confident
- 4 don't know

19a. 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
- 48 somewhat confident
- 19 not too confident
- 11 not at all confident
- 5 don't know

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

- 37% very concerned
- 38 somewhat concerned
- 13 not too concerned
- 8 not at all concerned
- 3 don't know

21. 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?

- 14% A
- 38 B
- 30 C
- 10 D
- 5 F
- 4 don't know

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

- 14% more than enough
- 29 just enough
- 53 not enough
- 4 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?

- 65% yes
- 29 no
- 5 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?

- 57% yes
- 39 no
- 3 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?

- 49% good idea
- 43 bad idea
- 8 don't know

Changing topics...

26. Do you think that school districts in lower-income areas of the state have the same amount of resources—including good teachers and classroom materials—as school districts in wealthier areas, or not?

- 15% yes, have the same amount of resources
- 79 no, do not have the same amount of resources
- 5 don't know

27. 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
- 24 a little
- 72 nothing at all
- 1 don't know

28. 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?

- 70% favor
- 23 oppose
- 7 don't know

29. As the state implements the Local Control Funding Formula, how confident are you that local school districts will use this money wisely? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

- 7% very confident
- 46 somewhat confident
- 30 not too confident
- 16 not at all confident
- 2 don't know

30. As the state implements the Local Control Funding Formula, do you think the academic achievement of *[rotate in same order as q28]* [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?)*

- 16% improve a lot
- 50 improve somewhat
- 25 will not improve
- 9 don't know

31. The Local Control Funding Formula 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—very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

- 77% very important
- 18 somewhat important
- 3 not too important
- 2 not at all important
- don't know

32. 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?

- 73% should
- 24 should not
- 3 don't know

33. 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?

- 66% very important
- 22 somewhat important
- 7 not too important
- 4 not at all important
- 1 don't know

34. How concerned are you that children in lower-income areas may not be able to go to preschool—very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

- 55% very concerned
- 26 somewhat concerned
- 13 not too concerned
- 6 not at all concerned
- 1 don't know

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

- 66% yes *[ask q35a]*
- 34 no *[skip to q36b]*

35a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?

- 44% Democrat *[ask q36]*
- 28 Republican *[ask q36a]*
- 6 another party *(specify) [skip to q37]*
- 22 independent *[skip to q36b]*

36. Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or not a very strong Democrat?

- 54% strong
- 43 not very strong
- 2 don't know

[skip to q37]

36a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- 48% strong
- 49 not very strong
- 3 don't know

[skip to q37]

36b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

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

[questions 37, 37a, and 38 reported for primary likely voters]

37. **[primary likely voters only]** As you may know, California now has a top-two primary system in which voters can cast ballots for any candidate, regardless of party, and the two candidates receiving the most votes—regardless of party—will advance to the general election. If the June primary for governor were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for? (**rotate names and then ask:** or someone else)

- 46% Jerry Brown, a Democrat
- 9 Tim Donnelly, a Republican
- 3 Andrew Blount, a Republican
- 2 Neel Kashkari, a Republican
- 2 someone else (*specify*)
- 38 don't know

37a. **[primary likely voters only]** How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2014 governor's election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

- 11% very closely
- 27 fairly closely
- 37 not too closely
- 25 not at all closely
- 1 don't know

38. **[primary likely voters only]** In thinking about the upcoming California governor's election in November, how important to you are the candidates' positions on K–12 public education—very important, somewhat important, or not too important?

- 58% very important
- 35 somewhat important
- 7 not too important
- 1 don't know

39. Next, would you consider yourself to be politically:

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

- 11% very liberal
- 18 somewhat liberal
- 29 middle-of-the-road
- 26 somewhat conservative
- 14 very conservative
- 3 don't know

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

- 17% great deal
- 35 fair amount
- 37 only a little
- 10 none
- 1 don't know

[d1 to d4a: demographic questions]

D4b.**[public school 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
- 8% high school graduate
- 8 two-year community college graduate or career technical training
- 39 four-year college graduate
- 42 a graduate degree after college
- 2 don't know

D4c.**[public school parents only]** California's new school funding law, the Local Control Funding Formula requires school districts to seek input from parents in developing their accountability plans for how to allocate resources. Has your child's school or school district provided you with information about how to become involved, or not?

- 52% yes
- 45 no
- 4 don't know

D4d.**[public school parents only]** How interested are you in becoming involved with your child's school or school district as the accountability plan is developed—very interested, somewhat interested, or not too interested?

- 53% very interested
- 38 somewhat interested
- 8 not too interested
- don't know

D4e.**[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, ask:** Was this information adequate in helping you understand how Common Core will affect your child or do you feel you need more information?)

- 37% yes, information was adequate
- 16 yes, but need more information
- 43 no, was not provided with any information
- 4 don't know

[d5 to d17: demographic questions]

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PPIC

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INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

The Public Policy Institute of California is dedicated to informing and improving public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research on major economic, social, and political issues. The institute's goal is to raise public awareness and to give elected representatives and other decision makers a more informed basis for developing policies and programs.

The institute's research focuses on the underlying forces shaping California's future, cutting across a wide range of public policy concerns, including economic development, education, environment and resources, governance, population, public finance, and social and health policy.

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Mark Baldassare is President and CEO of PPIC.
Donna Lucas is Chair of the Board of Directors.

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