

Californians and Education

April 2017

Time Trends – All Respondents

Methodology Note:

Findings for April 2017 are based on a survey of 1,705 California adult residents, with 65 percent interviewed on cell phones (1,109 interviews) and 35 percent interviewed on landline telephones (596 interviews). Live landline and cell phone interviews were conducted in English and Spanish according to the respondents' preferences. Interviews took an average of 17 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights April 2–11, 2017.

The sampling error for April 2017, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is ± 3.2 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,705 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.2 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. It is ± 5.5 for the 529 parents. 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.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this survey, please contact surveys@ppic.org

**PPIC Statewide Survey
Californians and Education - April 2017
All Adults - Time Trends**

Q1. Next, overall, do you approve or disapprove
of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job
as governor of California?

	approve	disapprove	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	49%	30%	21%	1687
Mar 2017	58%	25%	17%	1686
Jan 2017	62%	24%	13%	1688
Dec 2016	57%	24%	18%	1695
Oct 2016	55%	24%	21%	1692
Sep 2016	55%	28%	18%	1691
Jul 2016	54%	27%	20%	1686
May 2016	52%	28%	20%	1691
Apr 2016	54%	26%	19%	1689
Mar 2016	51%	29%	19%	1693
Jan 2016	58%	26%	16%	1693
Dec 2015	51%	29%	20%	1677
Sep 2015	52%	29%	19%	1693
Jul 2015	53%	27%	20%	1678
Jun 2015	52%	27%	21%	1681
Apr 2015	50%	27%	23%	1693
Mar 2015	55%	28%	17%	1686
Jan 2015	61%	23%	16%	1694
Dec 2014	54%	28%	18%	1683
Oct 2014	50%	28%	22%	1685
Sep 2014	51%	28%	21%	1679
Jul 2014	53%	28%	19%	1684
May 2014	50%	30%	20%	1680
Apr 2014	51%	26%	23%	1682
Mar 2014	49%	28%	23%	1679
Jan 2014	58%	26%	16%	1689
Dec 2013	47%	28%	25%	1688
Sep 2013	48%	31%	22%	1686
Jul 2013	48%	27%	26%	2090
May 2013	48%	31%	21%	1687
Apr 2013	46%	31%	22%	1687
Mar 2013	49%	31%	20%	1686
Jan 2013	51%	28%	21%	1696
Dec 2012	48%	35%	17%	1985
Oct 2012	42%	37%	21%	1993
Sep 2012	41%	36%	23%	1986
Aug 2012	42%	35%	23%	2461
May 2012	39%	36%	24%	1989
Apr 2012	43%	32%	25%	1983
Mar 2012	40%	33%	27%	1984
Jan 2012	46%	31%	23%	1987
Dec 2011	42%	30%	28%	1982
Nov 2011	44%	30%	26%	2476
Sep 2011	41%	28%	31%	1985
Jul 2011	42%	28%	29%	2481
Jun 2011	42%	24%	33%	1990
Apr 2011	40%	29%	31%	2479
Mar 2011	34%	24%	42%	1984
Feb 2011	34%	17%	49%	2470
Jan 2011	41%	19%	39%	1969

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey
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Q2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way
 that Governor Brown is handling the state's
 kindergarten through 12th grade public
 education system?

	approve	disapprove	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	41%	29%	30%	1683
Apr 2016	45%	30%	25%	1680
Apr 2015	41%	30%	29%	1682
Apr 2014	37%	34%	30%	1687
Apr 2013	32%	42%	26%	1687
Apr 2012	27%	43%	30%	1989
Apr 2011	24%	41%	34%	2482

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey
 Californians and Education - April 2017
 All Adults - Time Trends**

Q3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of
 the way that the California Legislature is
 handling its job?

	approve	disapprove	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	49%	36%	15%	1696
Mar 2017	51%	33%	16%	1685
Jan 2017	57%	30%	13%	1686
Dec 2016	49%	38%	13%	1697
Oct 2016	46%	33%	20%	1684
Sep 2016	47%	37%	16%	1690
Jul 2016	45%	40%	15%	1687
May 2016	43%	37%	20%	1690
Apr 2016	48%	38%	14%	1694
Mar 2016	44%	39%	18%	1692
Jan 2016	46%	39%	15%	1692
Dec 2015	41%	40%	19%	1678
Sep 2015	45%	38%	17%	1691
Jul 2015	39%	45%	16%	1688
Jun 2015	37%	43%	20%	1694
Apr 2015	42%	43%	15%	1695
Mar 2015	45%	39%	16%	1693
Jan 2015	49%	36%	15%	1689
Dec 2014	41%	42%	17%	1681
Oct 2014	41%	42%	17%	1686
Sep 2014	37%	42%	20%	1673
Jul 2014	38%	46%	16%	1683
May 2014	40%	44%	16%	1684
Apr 2014	40%	44%	17%	1693
Mar 2014	36%	45%	19%	1685
Jan 2014	42%	44%	14%	1698
Dec 2013	38%	43%	19%	1688
Sep 2013	38%	45%	17%	1693
Jul 2013	36%	45%	19%	2096
May 2013	35%	50%	16%	1697
Apr 2013	31%	53%	15%	1699
Mar 2013	34%	49%	17%	1689
Jan 2013	41%	42%	17%	1700
Dec 2012	34%	51%	15%	1992
Oct 2012	28%	55%	17%	1995
Sep 2012	30%	53%	17%	1989
Aug 2012	29%	54%	17%	2480
May 2012	25%	57%	18%	1990
Apr 2012	25%	58%	16%	1992
Mar 2012	25%	54%	21%	1989
Jan 2012	28%	56%	16%	1988
Dec 2011	25%	55%	20%	1987
Nov 2011	25%	55%	19%	2490
Sep 2011	26%	56%	18%	1998
Jul 2011	23%	59%	18%	2496
Jun 2011	23%	58%	19%	1998
Apr 2011	21%	60%	19%	2487
Mar 2011	24%	54%	21%	1982
Feb 2011	24%	52%	24%	2483
Jan 2011	26%	55%	19%	1990
Nov 2010	14%	72%	14%	2486
Oct 2010	16%	77%	7%	1989

**PPIC Statewide Survey
Californians and Education - April 2017
All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of
the way that the California Legislature is
handling its job?

	approve	disapprove	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Sep 2010	16%	75%	9%	1990
Jul 2010	15%	68%	17%	2487
May 2010	16%	72%	12%	1993
Apr 2010	16%	69%	14%	2493
Mar 2010	14%	72%	14%	1996
Jan 2010	18%	71%	11%	1989
Dec 2009	17%	70%	13%	2000
Nov 2009	18%	68%	15%	2491
Sep 2009	21%	68%	11%	1998
Jul 2009	17%	71%	11%	2484
May 2009	21%	65%	14%	1994
Apr 2009	23%	63%	14%	2493
Mar 2009	18%	68%	14%	1995
Feb 2009	21%	65%	14%	2494
Jan 2009	21%	67%	12%	1994
Nov 2008	24%	60%	16%	2482
Oct 2008	25%	63%	12%	1996
Sep 2008	21%	67%	11%	1990
Aug 2008	26%	63%	11%	1991
May 2008	26%	57%	17%	1991
Apr 2008	26%	58%	16%	2495
Mar 2008	30%	55%	15%	1988
Jan 2008	34%	53%	13%	1988
Dec 2007	41%	47%	12%	1992
Oct 2007	33%	50%	17%	2490
Sep 2007	34%	51%	15%	1988
Jun 2007	39%	40%	21%	1987
May 2007	37%	44%	19%	1994
Apr 2007	38%	44%	18%	2483
Mar 2007	41%	42%	17%	1989
Jan 2007	40%	44%	15%	2006
Oct 2006	30%	52%	18%	1993
Sep 2006	34%	50%	16%	1994
Aug 2006	31%	53%	16%	1995
May 2006	26%	54%	20%	1988
Mar 2006	25%	59%	16%	1988
Jan 2006	29%	57%	14%	2000
Jan 2006	24%	54%	22%	2481
Oct 2005	25%	56%	19%	1993
Sep 2005	32%	53%	15%	1992
Aug 2005	27%	56%	17%	1993
May 2005	26%	58%	16%	1992
Jan 2005	37%	50%	13%	1993
Oct 2004	43%	41%	16%	2005
Sep 2004	40%	46%	14%	1988
Aug 2004	42%	45%	13%	1990
Jun 2004	40%	44%	16%	2498
May 2004	40%	43%	17%	1986
Jan 2004	36%	45%	19%	1981
Aug 2003	28%	58%	14%	1979
Jun 2003	39%	44%	17%	1976
Feb 2003	36%	45%	19%	1967

**PPIC Statewide Survey
 Californians and Education - April 2017
 All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of
 the way that the California Legislature is
 handling its job?

	approve	disapprove	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Sep 2002	45%	36%	18%	1967
Jan 2002	49%	35%	16%	1942
Dec 2001	53%	29%	18%	1952
Jul 2001	45%	38%	18%	1966
Jan 2001	58%	27%	15%	1960
Sep 2000	56%	31%	12%	1980

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey
 Californians and Education - April 2017
 All Adults - Time Trends**

Q4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way
 that the California Legislature is handling the
 state's kindergarten through 12th grade public
 education system?

	approve	disapprove	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	42%	35%	23%	1683
Apr 2016	42%	39%	19%	1691
Apr 2015	35%	44%	21%	1690
Apr 2014	32%	45%	23%	1688
Apr 2013	31%	50%	20%	1691
Apr 2012	22%	56%	22%	1994
Apr 2011	18%	60%	22%	2478
Apr 2010	15%	67%	18%	2498
Apr 2009	18%	63%	20%	2495
Apr 2008	21%	61%	18%	2491
Apr 2007	29%	46%	25%	2482
Apr 2006	21%	55%	24%	2495

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey
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Q5. Next, how much, if anything, have you heard about the
 Common Core State Standards, a new set of English and math
 standards that the state began implementing in recent years?
 Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

	a lot	a little	nothing at all	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	24%	41%	34%	1%	1704
Apr 2016	25%	41%	33%	1%	1701
Apr 2015	20%	38%	41%	1%	1706
Apr 2014	19%	37%	43%	1%	1700

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q6. The Common Core State Standards are a single set of K-to-12 English language arts and math standards that most states, including California, have voluntarily adopted. From what you've read and heard, do you favor or oppose?

	favor	oppose	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	43%	35%	22%	1694
Apr 2016	43%	39%	18%	1695
Apr 2015	47%	31%	23%	1687

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q7. 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?

	A	B	C	D	F	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	22%	32%	24%	11%	7%	5%	1701
Apr 2016	20%	37%	27%	9%	4%	3%	1698
Apr 2015	15%	38%	28%	10%	4%	4%	1702
Apr 2014	14%	38%	30%	10%	5%	4%	1699
Apr 2013	16%	39%	27%	9%	5%	5%	1703
Apr 2012	17%	35%	27%	12%	4%	5%	1999
Apr 2011	17%	34%	31%	11%	4%	3%	2497
Apr 2010	19%	35%	26%	10%	4%	6%	2502
Apr 2009	19%	34%	28%	9%	4%	5%	2495
Apr 2008	18%	36%	27%	10%	4%	5%	2501
Apr 2007	16%	36%	28%	9%	4%	6%	2497
Apr 2006	19%	36%	27%	7%	4%	7%	2500
Apr 2005	17%	34%	27%	9%	4%	8%	2500
Oct 2002	14%	35%	31%	10%	4%	6%	1967
Aug 2000	12%	30%	30%	13%	8%	8%	1974

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q8. Are your local public schools doing an excellent, good, not so good, or poor job in preparing students for college?

	excellent	good	not so good	poor	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	14%	44%	20%	15%	8%	1700
Apr 2016	13%	48%	25%	9%	5%	1700
Apr 2015	11%	47%	25%	10%	7%	1699
Apr 2014	10%	43%	28%	12%	7%	1695
Apr 2013	12%	42%	28%	11%	7%	1700
Nov 2011	8%	36%	33%	18%	5%	2501
Apr 2011	5%	38%	35%	17%	5%	2491
Apr 2010	4%	37%	39%	14%	5%	2500
Apr 2009	4%	42%	36%	12%	5%	2495
Apr 2006	6%	36%	36%	17%	5%	2476

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey
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Q9. Are your local public schools doing an excellent, good, not so good, or poor job in preparing students for jobs and the workforce?

	excellent	good	not so good	poor	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	10%	36%	28%	18%	8%	1700
Apr 2016	10%	42%	29%	13%	6%	1698
Apr 2015	7%	41%	32%	12%	7%	1698
Apr 2014	6%	35%	35%	17%	8%	1697
Apr 2013	7%	37%	35%	14%	8%	1699
Apr 2011	4%	32%	38%	20%	6%	2490
Apr 2010	3%	28%	45%	19%	6%	2498
Apr 2009	3%	31%	43%	18%	5%	2492
Apr 2006	4%	30%	40%	20%	6%	2490

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q10. How about teacher quality? (Do you think this is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not really a problem for California's K-to-12 public schools today?)

	big problem	somewhat of a problem	not really a problem	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	25%	37%	33%	5%	1700
Apr 2016	30%	45%	22%	2%	1701
Apr 2013	28%	43%	25%	4%	1700
Apr 2011	44%	34%	19%	3%	2498
Apr 2010	36%	41%	21%	3%	2501
Apr 2009	29%	41%	25%	4%	2494
Apr 2008	28%	41%	26%	4%	2499
Apr 2007	28%	41%	26%	5%	2498
Apr 2006	27%	41%	26%	5%	2498

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q11. How about a shortage of teachers? (Do you think this is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not really a problem for California's K-to-12 public schools today?)

	big problem	somewhat of a problem	not really a problem	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	50%	27%	19%	4%	1703
Apr 2016	53%	28%	16%	3%	1703

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q12. Do you think the current level of state funding for your
 LOCAL public schools is more than enough, just enough, or not
 enough?

	more than enough	just enough	not enough	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	9%	21%	64%	6%	1701
Apr 2016	9%	26%	61%	4%	1701
Apr 2015	9%	25%	60%	5%	1703
Apr 2014	14%	29%	53%	4%	1699
Apr 2013	9%	24%	63%	5%	1703
Apr 2012	7%	26%	63%	4%	2004
Apr 2011	7%	31%	56%	6%	2499
Apr 2010	6%	26%	62%	6%	2503
Apr 2009	11%	32%	50%	7%	2498
Apr 2008	9%	33%	51%	6%	2499
Apr 2007	11%	33%	48%	8%	2495
Apr 2006	10%	32%	49%	9%	2498
Apr 2005	7%	32%	51%	10%	2498
Jan 2004	10%	22%	61%	6%	1524
Oct 2002	8%	21%	64%	7%	1960
Aug 2000	8%	23%	63%	6%	1971
Sep 1999	7%	20%	68%	5%	1999
Sep 1998	8%	20%	66%	7%	1994

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q13. To significantly improve the quality of California's K-to-12 public schools, which of the following statements do you agree with the MOST?

	use funds more wisely	increase state funding	use funds more wisely and increase funding	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	33%	14%	49%	3%	1702
Apr 2015	38%	9%	49%	4%	1695
Apr 2014	41%	10%	46%	3%	1697
Apr 2013	39%	9%	50%	3%	1693
Apr 2012	44%	9%	44%	3%	2003
Apr 2011	43%	13%	41%	3%	2487
Apr 2010	45%	8%	45%	3%	2488
Apr 2009	49%	6%	43%	2%	2489
Apr 2008	46%	8%	44%	2%	2499
Apr 2007	37%	11%	48%	3%	2490

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q14. If your LOCAL school district had a bond measure on the ballot to pay for school construction projects, would you vote yes or no?

	yes	no	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	68%	26%	6%	1701
Apr 2016	74%	24%	2%	1698
Apr 2015	65%	31%	3%	1697
Apr 2014	65%	29%	5%	1695
Apr 2013	65%	32%	3%	1701
Apr 2012	62%	32%	6%	2001
Apr 2011	60%	35%	6%	2500
Apr 2010	63%	33%	5%	2500
Apr 2009	60%	34%	5%	2494
Apr 2008	65%	30%	5%	2496
Apr 2007	66%	28%	6%	2495
Apr 2005	71%	23%	5%	2498
Jun 2004	72%	23%	5%	2498
Feb 2004	62%	28%	10%	1439
Oct 2002	74%	20%	6%	1962
Oct 2000	67%	23%	10%	1981
Feb 2000	70%	24%	6%	2026
Dec 1999	77%	18%	6%	1986

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q15. 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?

	yes	no	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	59%	38%	4%	1699
Apr 2016	62%	33%	5%	1701
Apr 2015	57%	39%	4%	1700
Apr 2014	57%	39%	3%	1696
Apr 2013	60%	37%	3%	1701
Apr 2012	60%	34%	6%	2002
Apr 2011	59%	36%	4%	2499
Apr 2010	57%	38%	5%	2493
Apr 2009	54%	41%	5%	2489

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q16. 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?

	good idea	bad idea	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	46%	43%	11%	1697
Apr 2016	53%	40%	7%	1695
Apr 2015	50%	42%	9%	1696
Apr 2014	49%	43%	8%	1699
Apr 2013	51%	42%	7%	1694
Jan 2013	57%	37%	6%	1700
Apr 2011	48%	47%	5%	2496
Apr 2009	45%	49%	6%	2489

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q20. Next, how much, if anything, have you heard about the Local Control Funding Formula, a policy enacted in recent years that changes the way K-to-12 public school districts are funded in California?

	a lot	a little	nothing at all	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	4%	24%	71%	1%	1705
Apr 2016	3%	27%	69%	0%	1702
Apr 2015	2%	22%	75%	1%	1705
Apr 2014	3%	24%	72%	1%	1702

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q21. The Local Control Funding Formula provides additional funding to districts that have more English language learners AND Lower-income students. In general, do you favor or oppose this policy?

	favor	oppose	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	65%	25%	10%	1696
Apr 2016	76%	19%	6%	1692
Apr 2015	70%	21%	10%	1697
Apr 2014	70%	23%	7%	1693

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q22. As the state implements the Local Control Funding Formula, how confident are you that local school districts which receive additional funding will spend that money on programs/support for English language learners AND Lower-income students?

	very confident	somewhat confident	not too confident	not at all confident	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	11%	42%	29%	16%	2%	1701
Apr 2016	15%	50%	22%	10%	3%	1701
Apr 2015	10%	46%	27%	15%	2%	1699

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q23. 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?

	improve a lot	improve somewhat	will NOT improve	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	21%	47%	24%	8%	1701
Apr 2016	28%	48%	18%	7%	1695
Apr 2015	19%	49%	25%	7%	1697
Apr 2014	16%	50%	25%	9%	1697

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q25. Do you favor or oppose providing parents with tax-funded vouchers to send their children to any public, private, or parochial school they choose?

	favor	oppose	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	60%	37%	4%	1702
May 1998	58%	36%	5%	2003

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q29. 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?

	should	should not	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	75%	21%	4%	1703
Apr 2016	76%	22%	2%	1698
Apr 2014	73%	24%	3%	1696

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey
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Q30. 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?

	very important	somewhat important	not too important	not at all important	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	69%	20%	5%	5%	1%	1704
Apr 2016	68%	21%	6%	3%	1%	1702
Apr 2014	66%	22%	7%	4%	1%	1700
May 2006	60%	23%	8%	7%	2%	1528
Mar 2006	62%	23%	8%	6%	2%	1481

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey
 Californians and Education - April 2017
 Parents Only - Time Trends**

Q31. Next, 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	a graduate degree after college	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2017	0%	4%	7%	34%	51%	3%	528
Apr 2016	0%	4%	11%	29%	51%	5%	507
Apr 2015	0%	6%	5%	36%	50%	3%	499
Apr 2014	0%	7%	7%	37%	46%	2%	505
Apr 2013	1%	9%	5%	37%	46%	2%	535
Dec 2012	2%	2%	6%	36%	51%	2%	587
Nov 2011	0%	3%	10%	38%	45%	3%	857
Nov 2010	0%	5%	5%	42%	46%	1%	883
Apr 2010	1%	5%	4%	41%	47%	3%	974
Nov 2009	0%	4%	3%	44%	45%	3%	907
Apr 2009	1%	6%	4%	43%	43%	3%	967
Nov 2008	1%	6%	4%	42%	46%	1%	980
Oct 2007	1%	4%	4%	43%	46%	2%	1025
Apr 2005	1%	6%	4%	47%	41%	2%	979

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding