

PACE/USC Rossier School of Education Poll 2014
MFour/Tulchin Research
Sample: 1005 California Voters
Fielding June 19-22, 2014
Margin of Error = +/- 3.5%
FINAL TOPLINE

1. First, are you registered to vote in the state of California?

Yes 100

2. Are you, or is anyone living in your household, employed by a market research company, a newspaper, magazine, television or radio station, a political party or by a candidate for political office?

No 100

3. Generally speaking, would you say the state of California is on the right track, or would you say things are off on the wrong track?

	Total	Parents
Right track	35%	29%
Wrong track	47%	54%
Unsure	19%	17%

4. Thinking about the challenges facing California as a state, please select the THREE most important issues facing the state. [RANDOMIZE]

	Total (%)	Parent (%)
Jobs/Economy	50%	52%
Water/lack of water/ drought	46%	35%
State budget finances/spending	31%	38%
Taxes	22%	23%
State debt/pension obligations	20%	21%
Health care	21%	25%
Immigration/illegal immigration	31%	28%
Transportation/infrastructure	12%	8%
Education	37%	45%
Crime/prisons	13%	10%
Environment	7%	7%
Special interest money/influence/campaign donations	9%	6%
Other	2%	2%
Unsure	-	1%

"Parents" column denotes parents with school children.

Not all questions will equal 100 due to rounding and/or multiple selection options.

Rotation and randomization orders have been omitted from the topline.

Next you are going to read the names of some elected leaders. Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of how that person is handling his or her job. If you've never heard of that person, you can indicate that as well.

5. President Barack Obama

	Stg Aprv	Sm Aprv	Sm Dis	Stg Dis	Neither/Opin	Approve	Disapprove
All Voters	20%	33%	16%	30%	2%	53%	46%
Parents	18%	33%	14%	33%	2%	51%	47%

6. Governor Jerry Brown

	Stg Aprv	Sm Aprv	Sm Dis	Stg Dis	Neither/Opin	Approve	Disapprove
All Voters	21%	38%	19%	14%	8%	59%	33%
Parents	16%	39%	20%	16%	9%	54%	37%

7. Next, would you say you approve or disapprove of how President Barack Obama is handling education in the U.S.?

	Stg Aprv	Sm Aprv	Sm Dis	Stg Dis	Neither	Approve	Disapprove
All Voters	12%	33%	23%	20%	13%	45%	43%
Parents	11%	31%	26%	25%	8%	42%	50%

8. Would you say you approve or disapprove of how Governor Jerry Brown is handling education in California?

	Stg Aprv	Sm Aprv	Sm Dis	Stg Dis	Neither	Approve	Disapprove
All Voters	11%	35%	25%	13%	17%	45%	38%
Parents	7%	36%	26%	18%	14%	42%	44%

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CANDIDATE TESTS

9. Californians will go to the polls in November to vote on a number of statewide offices and issues. If the election for Governor were held today between the following two candidates, who would you be more likely to support:

	Total	Parents
Governor Jerry Brown, a Democrat	50%	42%
Businessman Neel Kashkari a Republican	26%	30%
Can't say right now	24%	28%

10. If the election for California Superintendent of Public Instruction were held today between the following two candidates, who would you be more likely to support:

	Total	Parents
Tom Torlakson, California Schools Superintendent	27%	25%
Marshall Tuck, Educator/Schools' Executive	16%	16%
Can't say right now	57%	59%

You are now going to watch some television spots produced by the two candidates and then we will ask you how you feel. [Note: Spots and Q11 and 12 we fielded to English Language respondents only]



11. Were you able to see the video (n=961) YES 100%

12. After having watched these two spots, if the election for California Superintendent of Public Instruction were held today between the following two candidates, who would you be more likely to support: (n=961)

	Total	Parents
Tom Torlakson, California Schools Superintendent	38%	35%
Marshall Tuck, Educator/Schools' Executive	36%	40%
Can't say right now	27%	25%

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[SECTION: GRADING SCHOOLS]

13. Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D and F to rate the quality of their work at school. Suppose the California public schools were graded in the same manner.

(13A) In the past few years, what grade would you give California public schools? (n=498)

	Total	Parent
GPA	1.52 GPA (C-/D+)	1.63 GPA (C-/D+)
A	1%	2%
B	11%	13%
C	38%	40%
D	28%	28%
F / FAIL	15%	12%
Don't know	6%	5%

(13B) In the past few years, what grade would you give your local public schools? (n=507)

	Total	Parent
GPA	2.03 GPA (C)	2.05 GPA (C)
A	8%	7%
B	22%	30%
C	34%	31%
D	17%	19%
F / FAIL	9%	10%
Don't know	10%	3%

14. (14A) In the past few years, would you say California public schools have gotten better, worse or have stayed about the same? (n=493)

	Total	Parent
Gotten better	11%	16%
Gotten worse	48%	50%
Stayed the same	33%	30%
Don't know	8%	5%

(14B) In the past few years, would you say your local public schools have gotten better, worse or have stayed about the same?

	Total	Parent
Gotten better	21%	24%
Gotten worse	34%	36%
Stayed the same	35%	36%
Don't know	10%	4%

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[SECTION: RATING INDEX]

How would you rate the job California's public schools do in the following areas? Please score each area from 0-10, where 10 is a perfect score and the state does an excellent job, 0 is the worst score and means the state is doing a terrible job, and 5 means the state is doing a mediocre job.

	MEAN			
	2014 Total	2014 Parents	2013 Total	2012 Total
15. Providing adequate funding for local schools, students and classrooms	5.3	5.1	3.7	4.2
16. Ensuring every student has a quality teacher	5.4	5.4	4.1	4.1
17. Not spending too much money on bureaucracy	5.0	4.8	3.3	3.4
18. Holding principals, teachers and parents accountable for student performance	5.4	5.4	4.1	4.3
19. Teaching students the basics of reading, writing and math	6.2	6.5	5.1	5.0
20. Offering music, art, drama, sports and other extracurricular activities	5.2	5.1	3.7	4.1
21. Preparing students for a four-year university	5.9	5.8	4.1	4.3
22. Preparing students for good paying jobs	5.3	5.4	4.0	4.0
23. Offering career technical and vocational education to students who need an alternative to a four-year university	5.9	5.8	4.1	3.9
24. Providing parents with a choice of public schools to send their child	5.8	5.7	3.7	4.2

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[EDUCATION SPENDING]

25. Do you think California public schools currently have the money needed to provide students with a quality education, or do you think the state should be spending more on schools?

	Total	Parent
California public schools have enough money	23%	19%
The state of California should be spending more on schools	64%	70%
Unsure	13%	11%

26. In the past year, would you say California public schools have more money to spend in the classroom than they have in recent years, less money or about the same amount of money?

	Total	Parent
Much more money	7%	7%
A little more money	22%	19%
More Money	29%	25%
About the same	24%	26%
Less Money	34%	42%
A little less money	21%	26%
A lot less money	13%	16%
Unsure	12%	7%

27. Approximately what percentage of California's state budget will be spent on K-12 education this year? [OPEN END]

	Total	Parent
MEAN PERCENTAGE	28%	26%

28. Compared with other states, how much do you think California spends per pupil?

	Total	Parent
Much more than other states	12%	11%
A little more than other states	15%	14%
About the same	12%	12%
A little less than other states	27%	31%
Much less than other states	18%	20%
Don't know	16%	12%

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[CURRICULUM AND COMMON CORE]

29. California public schools require students to complete a variety of courses before they graduate from high school. Please read the list of subjects below and indicate what percentage of a student's time in school should be dedicated to each subject. [Apportionment]

	Total	Parent
Math and English	28%	28%
Social Studies, history and civics	16%	15%
Science and Technology	21%	20%
Music and Art	10%	11%
Physical Education	10%	11%
Vocational Education	12%	12%
Other	3%	3%

30. Based on what you know, would you say California Public School students spend:

	Total	Parent
Too much time preparing for and taking standardized tests	41%	44%
The right amount of time preparing for and taking standardized tests	17%	21%
Not enough time preparing for and taking standardized tests	27%	28%
Don't know	15%	8%

31. California has recently adopted the Common Core State Standards for California schools. How much do you know about the Common Core State Standards?

	2014 Total	2014 Parent	2013 Total
I know a very good deal	12%	17%	6%
I know a little bit	35%	41%	23%
I don't know much	26%	25%	31%
I don't know anything	27%	17%	40%

32. [EXCLUDE Q31: "I don't know anything"] Based on what you know about Common Core, do you have a positive or negative impression? (n=736 for total/263 for parents)

	Total	Parent
Very positive	6%	5%
Somewhat positive	32%	32%
Somewhat negative	30%	30%
Very negative	14%	14%
Don't know	18%	19%

"Parents" column denotes parents with school children.

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33. Here is a pair of statements about whether or not California should implement the Common Core State Standards. Please read the following and indicate which statement you agree with most:

	Total	Parent
California is right to implement the Common Core State Standards because they provide a clear, consistent understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. These standards have been adopted by California and 45 other states.	32%	32%
California should not implement the Common Core State Standards because they represent a Washington D.C.-based, one-size-fits-all approach that increases our reliance on standardized testing and does not take account of regional and classroom realities. Many states that have adopted the Common Core Standards are now re-evaluating their decision.	41%	45%
Can't say/don't know	27%	23%

[LOCAL CONTROL]

34. In the past six months, have you heard or read anything about a policy called the Local Control Funding Formula, which changes to the way California K-12 public schools are funded?

	Total	Parent
I have heard or read a good deal about it	4%	5%
I have heard or read a little bit about it	20%	23%
I have not heard or read much about it	31%	33%
I have never heard or read about it	45%	39%

35. [Q34: Heard a good deal/a little bit] Based on what you know, do you have a positive or negative impression of the Local Control Funding Formula approach? (n=248)

	Total
Very positive	8%
Somewhat positive	39%
Somewhat negative	27%
Very negative	3%
Not sure/Don't know	23%

36. Here is a pair of statements about the “Local Control Funding Formula” plan, which sets standards for how school districts spend education dollars and prioritizes funding for school districts with more high-needs students, such as English language learners and low-income students. Please indicate which statement you agree with most:

	Total	Parent
The Local Control Funding Formula plan is a good idea because all California public school districts will get more money than they received last year, parents will have more say in how school district money is spent and school districts with the highest concentrations of high-needs students will get additional funds to spend as they need.	40%	38%
The Local Control Funding Formula is a bad idea because it allows the state to take local tax money from local school districts and give it to a select few school districts around the state. California education dollars should be shared equally and we shouldn't be raiding funding from some districts to disproportionality benefit others.	31%	33%
Can't say/refuse	30%	30%

“Parents” column denotes parents with school children.

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37. The new Local Control Funding Formula policy requires that school districts work with parents to determine the allocation of district education resources and accountability standards. Do you approve or disapprove of this approach?

	Total	Parent
Strongly approve	16%	18%
Somewhat approve	48%	46%
Approve	64%	64%
Disapprove	19%	20%
Somewhat disapprove	15%	14%
Strongly disapprove	4%	6%
Don't know	16%	16%

38. [Q34: Heard a good deal/a little bit] Have you been invited to, made aware of or participated in a planning meeting or event related to how schools should spend Local Control Funding Formula money? (n=248)

	Total
Yes, and I have attended a meeting	8%
Yes, but I have not attended a meeting	17%
No	70%
Not sure/Don't know	5%

"Parents" column denotes parents with school children.

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[TENURE]

39. Overall, do you think California teachers' unions have a positive, negative or not much impact on the quality of education in California K-12 schools?

	Total	Parent
Very positive	6%	4%
Somewhat positive	25%	23%
Somewhat negative	27%	27%
Very negative	22%	23%
Not much impact	7%	9%
Don't know	13%	13%

40. California schools currently operate under a "Last in, First Out" policy, meaning layoffs are dictated by seniority and the most recently hired teachers are always laid off first. Please read the following two statements and indicate which one you agree with most:

	Total	Parent
We should keep the Last in, First Out policy because the policy creates job stability that enables school districts to attract and retain quality teachers, despite low pay and difficult working conditions.	17%	20%
We should do away with the Last In, First Out policy because it hurts students by requiring school administrators to lay off talented young teachers before low-performing senior teachers when staff reductions are needed.	68%	66%
Can't say/refuse	15%	14%

41. California Public schoolteachers who receive a positive recommendation from supervisors are currently awarded "tenure" after eighteen months in the classroom. Teachers without tenure can be terminated for any reason. Tenured teachers can only be terminated for just cause, and they are entitled to due process protections that give them the right to contest the case against them. Which of the two positions do you agree with most:

	Total	Parent
We should keep tenure for public school teachers because it protects them from being fired based on personal or political reasons, prevents schools from firing more experienced teachers to hire younger, less-expensive teachers, and allows teachers freedom to teach potentially controversial topics without fear of reprisal.	25%	22%
Public school teachers should not receive tenure because the policy makes it extremely difficult to fire poorly performing teachers, so that many California school children, particularly those in economically challenged school districts get stuck with poor teachers year after year.	61%	65%
Can't say/refuse	14%	13%

"Parents" column denotes parents with school children.

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42. Have you recently heard or read about a court case (Vergara vs California) in which a judge ruled California's teacher tenure rules violate the state constitution?

	Total	Parent
I have heard or read a good deal about it	10%	9%
I have heard or read a little bit about it	32%	32%
I have not heard or read much about it	21%	22%
I have never heard or read about it	37%	37%

43. [Q42: Heard a good deal/a little bit only] Based on what you know, do you agree or disagree with the judge's finding that California's teacher tenure rules violate the state constitution? (n=423 total/132 parent)

	Total	Parent
I agree with the judge's finding that California's teacher tenure rules violate the state constitution	62%	67%
I disagree with the judge's finding	23%	18%
Don't know/can't say	15%	16%

44. California public school teachers are currently awarded tenure after 18 months in the classroom. Which of the following do you agree with most:

	Total	Parent
Two years is too long for teachers to wait for tenure	4%	5%
Two years is the right amount of time for tenure	17%	13%
Two years is too soon for a teacher to earn tenure	38%	41%
Public school teachers should not receive tenure at all	35%	35%
Refuse	6%	7%

"Parents" column denotes parents with school children.

Not all questions will equal 100 due to rounding and/or multiple selection options.

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[CHARTER SCHOOL]

45. How would you describe your general understanding of what charter schools in California do and how they operate?

	Total	Parent
I have a very good understanding	12%	16%
I have a somewhat good understanding	36%	37%
I know a little	33%	30%
I really don't know much at all	20%	17%

46. To the best of your knowledge, do students who attend charter schools perform better, about the same or worse on standardized tests than students who attend traditional public schools?

	Total	Parent
Charter school students perform better	45%	44%
Charter school students perform the same	23%	27%
Charter school students perform worse	4%	5%
Unsure	28%	25%

47. To the best of your knowledge, can charter schools charge for tuition?

	Total	Parent
Yes	21%	20%
No	37%	43%
Don't know	42%	37%

48. To the best of your knowledge, when there are more applicants to a charter school than there are spaces available, how do charter schools decide which students to enroll?

	Total	Parent
Charter schools can select the students they prefer	20%	17%
Charter schools must hold a lottery	33%	40%
Don't know	47%	43%

"Parents" column denotes parents with school children.

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49. As you may know, charter schools are public schools that have been freed from some of the rules and regulations of other public schools in exchange for greater accountability for student performance. Students attend these schools by choice. Teachers are credentialed though they may not be members of a teacher’s union, and the school must meet performance goals and objectives or else the school could get shut down. Based on this description do you believe California should increase or decrease the number of public charter schools?

	Total	Parent
Greatly increase	22%	24%
Somewhat increase	35%	39%
Keep the same	19%	17%
Somewhat decrease	5%	3%
Greatly decrease	6%	6%
Don’t know	14%	12%

[PRE K]

50. Would you support or oppose using public funds to make pre-school education available to California 4 year olds who come from low-income families for free?

	Total	Parent
Strongly support	31%	36%
Somewhat support	31%	28%
SUPPORT	62%	64%
OPPOSE	29%	28%
Somewhat oppose	15%	15%
Strongly oppose	14%	13%
Unsure	9%	8%

51. [Q50: OPPOSE ONLY] Which of these is closer to your view: (n=288)

	Total
The state should provide pre-school education for all 4 year olds, not just those from low-income families.	21%
The state should not be involved in the education of very young children, which is the responsibility of families.	65%
Both	10%
Neither	5%

52. Would you support or oppose a small tax increase in order to fund pre-school education for 4 year olds who come from low-income homes?

	Total	Parent
Strongly support	17%	19%
Somewhat support	24%	25%
SUPPORT	41%	44%
OPPOSE	49%	48%
Somewhat oppose	19%	17%
Strongly oppose	30%	31%
Unsure	10%	7%

"Parents" column denotes parents with school children.

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[EDUCATION POLICY PARTICIPATION]

53. How often do you vote in school board elections?

	Total	Parent
Always	39%	35%
Sometimes	38%	45%
Never	23%	20%

54. Can you name a member of your school board?

	Total	Parent
Yes, definitely	20%	31%
I think so, but am not totally sure	30%	32%
No	50%	38%

55. How do you obtain information about what is happening with local schools? [SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]

	Total	Parent
Attend school board meetings	11%	19%
Visit the school or district website	25%	46%
Receive school or district newsletter	30%	56%
From family or friends who work for the school or the school district	35%	42%
Through discussions with neighbors, friends and family	39%	44%
From my children	18%	41%
Through the local newspaper, radio or TV news	58%	48%
Through social media	19%	22%
Another way	8%	5%
None of these [Mutually Exclusive]	10%	4%

56. Do you do any of the following? [SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]

	Total	Parent
You or your spouse serve on a school board	1%	3%
You or your spouse work at a public school or district central/regional office	8%	11%
Attend school board and/or other education related meetings	11%	21%
Attend school activities, such as sporting, cultural or musical events	33%	61%
Vote in school board elections	38%	40%
Member of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)	11%	26%
Contribute money to schools (through fundraisers)	31%	48%
Volunteer at public schools	18 %	37%
None of these [Mutually Exclusive]	37%	17%

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[SECTION: DEMOGRAPHICS]

Now I would like to ask you a few final questions just for statistical purposes...

57. What is your current party registration?

	Total
Republican	32%
Democratic	46%
Independent/No Party Preference	22%

58. How would you describe your political ideology?

	Total
Conservative	26%
Moderate/Independent	39%
Liberal	29%
Something else	3%
Unsure	3%

59. Are you male or female?

	Total
Male	48%
Female	52%

60. Which of the following categories reflects your age?

	Total
18 to 29	11%
30 to 39	13%
40 to 49	22%
50 to 64	28%
65 and older	26%

61. What best describes your racial or ethnic heritage?

	Total
White/Non-Hispanic	67%
Latino/Hispanic	17%
Black/African American	6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	8%
Other	1%
Unsure	-

"Parents" column denotes parents with school children.

Not all questions will equal 100 due to rounding and/or multiple selection options.

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62. Are you a teacher? If you are not a teacher, please respond with whether anyone in your family is a teacher?

	Total
Yes, self	6%
Yes, family member	13%
Yes, both	3%
No	78%
Unsure	1%

63. Are you or your spouse or partner a current or retired member of a public or private labor union?

	Total
Yes, public employee union	14%
Yes, private employee union	6%
Yes, both public employee union and private employee union	1%
No	77%
Unsure	2%

64. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

	Total
1st - 11th grade	2%
High school graduate	10%
Non-college post H.S./Technical School	4%
Some college/Two-year college/Associate's degree	34%
Four-year college graduate/Bachelor's degree	29%
Post-graduate school	21%

65. Do you have children?

	Total	Parent
Yes	65%	100%
No	35%	0%

66. [Q65: Yes only] How many children do you have?

	Total
1	25%
2	40%
3	19%
4	11%
5	3%
Greater than 5	3%

67. [Q65: Yes only] Do you have children currently in school in California?

	Total
Yes	49%
No	51%

68. [Q67: Yes only] What type of school do your children attend?

	Total
Public school	78%
Public charter school	6%
Private or parochial school	11%
Home schooled	4%

69. What area do you live in?

	Total
Los Angeles County	26%
Orange County	10%
Inland Empire	8%
San Diego County	10%
Central Valley	16%
Central Coast	3%
Bay Area	23%
Northern/Sierra	3%