

**Californians' Attitudes Toward  
Education and School Vouchers**

**September 1993**

**POLICY ANALYSIS FOR CALIFORNIA EDUCATION (PACE)  
3659 Tolman Hall  
School of Education  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA 94707  
(510) 642-7223 (tel)  
(510) 642-9148 (fax)**

## **I. BACKGROUND**

To help Californians and policymakers gain a better understanding of what the public thinks about education and school vouchers, PACE earlier this month conducted a poll of more than 1,400 adult Californians (including an oversample of more than 500 African-Americans, Hispanics, and Asians).

The poll provides a comprehensive snapshot of public opinion that can help voters, parents, taxpayers, educators, and policymakers understand more about potential new directions for improving education. Conducted for PACE by Penn & Schoen Associates from September 4-18, the poll attempts to understand the landscape for change in education policy among the general public. PACE explored what Californians want in their schools, their readiness to change and willingness to move in new directions, and underlying attitudes toward education and vouchers that could affect future policy decisions. The poll examines:

- where education stands as a public priority;
- satisfaction with public and private schools;
- attitudes toward vouchers in general and Proposition 174 in particular;
- public acceptance of possible trade-offs Proposition 174 could trigger;
- differences and similarities of Californians by race, socio-economic status, religion, region, etc.

PACE is an independent, non-partisan think tank based at the University of California-Berkeley and Stanford. PACE seeks to help the public and decisionmakers understand more about the implications of public policy actions in order to better inform their decisionmaking.

## II. MAJOR FINDINGS

### 1. Education is a High Priority in California and the Public Believes Schools Must Be Overhauled

- Californians rate education just below the economy and crime as the most important problem facing the state.
- Californians express substantial dissatisfaction with public schools:
  - ◊ Virtually all citizens (87 percent) believe public schools should be changed and a majority of Californians (61 percent) would like to see a major overhaul. Some 72 percent of African-Americans would like to see a major overhaul compared with 58 percent of Hispanics, 57 percent of Asians and 63 percent of whites.
  - ◊ Nearly three-fourths ( 73 percent) believe California student achievement ranks somewhere in the middle or at the bottom among the 50 states. Only 13 percent of citizens believe California students perform at the same level as the highest achieving students nationwide.
  - ◊ Seven in ten (71 percent) Californians believe private and parochial schools are better than public schools, and 39 percent say private and parochial schools are much better than public schools. These views are shared in roughly the same percentages among all racial and ethnic groups.
  - ◊ A solid majority of Californians (63 percent) grade their local private/ parochial school "A" or "B" compared to only 34 percent who would give high marks to public schools. Meanwhile 21 percent would give public schools a "D" or "F" grade compared with only 2 percent who would give low marks to private schools.
  - ◊ African-Americans are more likely to give their local public schools low marks than are other racial and ethnic groups. Twenty-two percent of whites would give their schools a "D" or "F" compared to some 29 percent of African-Americans, 18 percent of Hispanics, and 13 percent of Asians.
- What does the public want from their public schools? They want a safe learning environment for their children, high quality teaching and curricula, smaller class sizes, and more instruction focused on "values."
- To make schools better, more than one half (56 percent) of Californians would be willing to spend more money for teacher training and nearly half (43 percent) would be willing to spend more for smaller classes. But few Californians would be willing to pay more for a longer school year (10 percent). A majority of Californians (53 percent) say they do not believe teachers are paid enough.

## **2. The Public is Receptive to Vouchers as a Concept**

- **By a margin of two to one, Californians support the concept of school vouchers. Sixty-three percent of Californians are in favor of the concept, while 33 percent oppose the idea.**
- **If given an option between a state policy that guarantees a choice only among all public schools or among both public and private schools, three-fourths (75 percent) of Californians prefer a school choice plan that includes private schools.**
- **Support for the voucher concept cuts across demographic, ideological and political lines. Certain groups support or oppose the concept with greater intensity than others. For example:**
  - ◊ **Republicans are more likely to support the concept (70 percent) than are independents (59 percent) or Democrats (57 percent). Self-described conservatives support the voucher concept (71 percent) more than self-described liberals (53 percent).**
  - ◊ **Support is greatest among Californians in an age group likely to have children living at home. About seven in ten (70 percent) 25- to 34-year-olds strongly favor a voucher system. Better than two-thirds (68 percent) of those 35 to 49 years old, and 53 percent of 50 to 64-year olds favor vouchers.**
  - ◊ **Senior citizens are split on the voucher concept (47 to 45 percent)**
  - ◊ **African-Americans (32 percent) and Hispanics (28 percent) are more likely to oppose the concept than are Asians (26 percent).**
- **Most Californians (59 percent) say vouchers will expand options for children. However, about one in three (32 percent) say vouchers will primarily help those who already have children in private school. This question strongly divides those favorable to vouchers from those who are not. Around three quarters of those who favor vouchers say such a system will give children choices they do not now have. Sixty-five percent of those who strongly oppose vouchers say it principally helps those with children in private schools. (NOTE: The fact that the public believes the plan provides options does not mean they believe this will result in a dramatic turnaround for disadvantaged students. Some 42 percent of Californians believe the underprivileged will benefit least from vouchers.)**
- **Despite their support for the concept, Californians have reservations about vouchers. A majority (51 percent) believe a voucher plan would mean students who need additional help will be left behind. Also, better than six in ten (62 percent) of Californians believe the initiative will raise the cost of education. More than half (54 percent) say vouchers will not save the state money. In addition, a majority of Californians (54 percent) agree or strongly agree that a voucher plan would allow many religious or belief groups to open schools dedicated to their teachings.**

- The majority of Californians do not believe that a voucher plan would lead to discrimination in admissions or jeopardize the separation of church and state by providing state funds to parochial or religious schools. The public also rejects the notion that school vouchers would free public schools from the current dominance of special interest groups or reduce public school bureaucracy.

### **3. Californians Are Strong Minded About What They Want in a Voucher Plan**

- Californians believe that if the state helps finance private schools, those schools should be required to meet state regulations. For example:
  - ◊ The vast majority (87 percent) believe that under a voucher plan, private schools should be required to meet state academic, fiscal, and safety requirements.
  - ◊ More than 8 out of 10 Californians (82 percent) believe that under a voucher plan, both public and private schools should be required to provide additional support for students with special needs.
  - ◊ Nearly three-fourths (74 percent) say voucher schools should be required to publish test scores.
  - ◊ A majority (60 percent) say if a voucher plan is adopted, voucher schools should be required to hire certified teachers.
  - ◊ Two-thirds (67 percent) want the state to "cap" the amount of tuition participating private schools can charge.
- A majority of Californians (55 percent) say a voucher plan should be tested in a few school districts before full state-wide implementation. Some Californians (25 percent) believe it should be implemented only in areas where schools are failing. Californians believe parents (70 percent)--not taxpayers--should be responsible for providing extra costs for transportation. The public is somewhat divided on the fairest way to ensure access to voucher schools--whether to allow schools to set their own admissions standards (35 percent), or offer spaces on a lottery (28 percent) or first come first served basis (21 percent).
- Californians do not want to see public school funding reduced if a voucher system is adopted. Fifty-six percent say they would oppose a voucher system if public school funding is reduced. Those who are somewhat favorable to a school voucher system oppose it if public school funding is cut (55 percent to 33 percent).
- Nearly two-thirds of parents (64 percent) say they would choose to send their child to the same school if the voucher initiative is approved. All racial and ethnic groups expressed roughly the same tendency to keep their children at the same school. However, of those parents who would keep their child enrolled in the same school, one in four (23 percent) would change schools if a voucher covered the full cost of tuition at private school. And 16 percent of those who say they would not change schools would send their child to a different school if the state picked up the tab for transportation.

### III. METHODOLOGY

The attached results are from a poll of California residents taken September 4-18, 1993 by Penn & Schoen Associates, Inc., a national survey research firm based in Washington, D.C. and New York. Altogether the polling firm interviewed 1404 California residents, including an oversample of Hispanic, Asian, and African-American Interviews.

Respondents for the survey of 902 Californians as a whole were selected using a random-digit dial (RDD) procedure that ensures that every adult Californian over the age of 18 in a telephone household has a theoretically equal chance of being chosen to participate. Respondents for the oversample of Hispanics, Asians, and African-Americans were also selected using a random-digit dial (RDD) procedure. Telephone exchanges that were identified as having a high incidence of minorities were random-digit dialed while conducting the survey of California as a whole.

All interviews were conducted from our Computer-Aided Telephone Interviewing facilities in New York City. The overall results of the Primary survey are representative of the responses of all Californians to plus or minus 3.3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The oversample results of Hispanics, Asians, and African-Americans only have an overall margin of error of 3.8% at the 95% confidence level.

# PACE

## Policy Analysis for California Education

### Attitudes of Californians Towards Education and Vouchers

**1. WHAT DO YOU SAY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM FACING CALIFORNIA THAT YOU WOULD LIKE THE STATE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT?**

Budget Deficit.....	5
Recession.....	3
Cut Taxes.....	4
Government Spending.....	1
Healthcare.....	2
Race Relations.....	0
Homelessness.....	1
Jobs.....	17
Economic Development.....	4
Housing.....	1
Improve Roads.....	0
Environment.....	2
Education.....	11
School Vouchers.....	1
Poverty.....	1
Reduce Welfare.....	1
Crime.....	17
Drugs.....	3
Abortion.....	0
AIDS.....	0
Politicians.....	1
Illegal Aliens.....	6
Other.....	16
Don't Know.....	2

**2. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ISSUES SHOULD BE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN CALIFORNIA?**

Education.....	40
Health Care.....	12
Economy.....	39
Environment.....	8
Don't Know.....	1

**3. WHICH COMES CLOSER TO YOUR VIEW? THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA:**

Provide Quality Education.....	9
With Minor Changes.....	26
A Major Overhaul.....	61
Don't know.....	4

**4. (THOSE WHO WANT CHANGE ONLY) WHY DO YOU FEEL THIS WAY?**

Quality Teaching.....	25
Class Size.....	14
Student Safety.....	5
Values/Religion.....	4
Parental Involvement.....	9
Discipline.....	12
Technology.....	2
Choice of Schools.....	2
Funding/Tuition.....	13
Job Preparation.....	5
College Preparation.....	4
Bureaucracy.....	9
Bilingual Education.....	2
Other.....	35

**5. WHICH COMES CLOSER TO YOUR VIEW? THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION PROVIDED BY PRIVATE/PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS IN CALIFORNIA:**

No Different.....	9
Better Than Public.....	39
Somewhat Better.....	32
Somewhat Worse.....	4
Much Worse.....	1
Don't Know.....	15

**6. (THOSE WHO THINK PRIVATE SCHOOLS ARE BETTER ONLY) WHY DO YOU FEEL THIS WAY?**

Quality Teaching.....	19
Class Size.....	17
Student Safety.....	2
Values/Religion.....	5
Parental Involvement.....	6
Discipline.....	17
Technology.....	1
Choice of Schools.....	1
Funding/Tuition.....	7
Job Preparation.....	4
College Preparation.....	4
Bureaucracy.....	2
Bilingual Education.....	0
Other.....	24

**7. WHERE DO YOU GET MOST OF YOUR INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOLS IN CALIFORNIA?**

News Media.....	41
Children.....	18
Friends.....	16
Educators.....	15
Other.....	9
Don't Know.....	0

**8. WHAT DO YOU THINK CALIFORNIA NOW SPENDS ANNUALLY ON AVERAGE PER STUDENT IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS?**

< \$1,000/Pupil.....	8
\$1k - 2k.....	7
\$2k - 3k.....	8
\$3k - 4k.....	6
\$4k - 5k.....	7
\$5,000 +.....	13
Don't Know.....	51

**9. HOW DOES CALIFORNIA COMPARE WITH OTHER STATES ON THE AMOUNT OF MONEY SPENT ON PUBLIC EDUCATION?**

Among the Top.....	23
In the Middle.....	32
In the Bottom.....	20
Don't Know.....	24

**10. HOW DOES CALIFORNIA COMPARE WITH OTHER STATES IN TERMS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT?**

Among the Top.....	13
In the Middle.....	46
In the Bottom.....	27
Don't Know.....	15

**11. HOW MUCH DO YOU BELIEVE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE PAID ANNUALLY, ON AVERAGE?**

< \$20k.....	5
\$20k - \$30k.....	35
\$30k - \$40k.....	36
\$40k - \$50k.....	6
\$50,000 +.....	2
Don't Know.....	17

**12. IS THIS FIGURE TOO LOW, TOO HIGH, OR ABOUT RIGHT?**

Too Low.....	53
Too High.....	4
About Right.....	29
Don't Know.....	14

**13. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MAJOR SOURCE OF REVENUE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN CALIFORNIA?**

Lottery Funds.....	6
Property Tax.....	45
Income/Sales Tax.....	30
Federal Grants.....	9
Don't Know.....	9

**14. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE AVERAGE YEARLY TUITION IS FOR PAROCHIAL AND OTHER RELIGIOUS-AFFILIATE SCHOOLS IN CALIFORNIA**

< \$1,000/Pupil.....	4
\$1k - 2k.....	15
\$2k - 3k.....	14
\$3k - 4k.....	7
\$4k - 5k.....	4
\$5,000 +.....	19
Don't Know.....	37

**15. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE AVERAGE YEARLY TUITION IS FOR PRIVATE, INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN CALIFORNIA?**

< \$1,000/Pupil.....	3
\$1k - 2k.....	10
\$2k - 3k.....	9
\$3k - 4k.....	9
\$4k - 5k.....	19
\$5,000 +.....	11
Don't Know.....	39

**16. CHILDREN ARE OFTEN GIVEN THE GRADES A, B, C, D, AND F FOR FAIL TO DENOTE THE QUALITY OF THEIR WORK. WHAT GRADE WOULD YOU GIVE THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE YOU LIVE -- A, B, C, D, OR F FOR FAIL?**

A.....	5
B.....	29
C.....	39
D.....	16
Fail.....	5
Don't Know.....	5

**17. WHAT GRADE WOULD YOU GIVE THE PRIVATE/ PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE YOU LIVE -- A, B, C, D, OR FAIL?**

A.....	17
B.....	46
C.....	11
D.....	2
Fail.....	0
Don't Know.....	24

**18. TUITION COST. IS THAT A VERY IMPORTANT, SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT, NOT VERY IMPORTANT, OR NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT FACTOR IN CHOOSING WHERE TO ENROLL YOUR CHILD?**

Very Important.....	45
Somewhat.....	38
Not Very.....	9
Not at All.....	4
Don't Know.....	3

**19. CLOSE TO YOUR HOME**

Very Important.....	48
Somewhat.....	38
Not Very.....	12
Not at All.....	3
Don't Know.....	1

**20. THE SCHOOL IS SAFE**

Very Important.....	93
Somewhat.....	5
Not Very.....	1
Not at All.....	0
Don't Know.....	0

**21. RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND OF STUDENTS ARE SIMILAR TO MY CHILD'S**

Very Important.....	13
Somewhat.....	24
Not Very.....	34
Not at All.....	28
Don't Know.....	1

**22. CLASS SIZE**

Very Important.....	71
Somewhat.....	23
Not Very.....	4
Not at All.....	1
Don't Know.....	1

**23. CURRICULUM OR THE COURSES OFFERED**

Very Important.....	85
Somewhat.....	12
Not Very.....	2
Not at All.....	0
Don't Know.....	1

**24. LEVEL OF TEACHER TRAINING OR LICENSING**

Very Important.....	82
Somewhat.....	15
Not Very.....	2
Not at All.....	0
Don't Know.....	1

**25. TEST SCORES OF STUDENTS WHO GO THERE**

Very Important.....	48
Somewhat.....	36
Not Very.....	11
Not at All.....	4
Don't Know.....	2

**26. SCHOOL HAS A GOOD REPUTATION**

Very Important.....	64
Somewhat.....	29
Not Very.....	6
Not at All.....	1
Don't Know.....	1

**27. VALUES THE SCHOOL TEACHES**

Very Important.....	80
Somewhat.....	15
Not Very.....	2
Not at All.....	1
Don't Know.....	1

**28. THE STUDENT POPULATION IS DIVERSE -- MANY DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS**

Very Important.....	37
Somewhat.....	30
Not Very.....	20
Not at All.....	12
Don't Know.....	1

**29. DISCIPLINE**

Very Important.....	74
Somewhat.....	21
Not Very.....	4
Not at All.....	1
Don't Know.....	1

**30. PARENTS INVOLVED IN DECISION-MAKING**

Very Important.....	72
Somewhat.....	22
Not Very.....	4
Not at All.....	1
Don't Know.....	1

**31. OF THE FACTORS WE JUST READ IN CHOOSING A SCHOOL, WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT?**

Tuition.....	2
Close to Home.....	3
School Safety.....	18
Homogeneous Students.....	2
Class Size.....	4
Curriculum.....	21
Teacher Training.....	20
Test Scores.....	2
Reputation.....	7
Teacher Values.....	8
Discipline.....	6
Decision Making.....	4
Don't Know.....	4

**32. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PAY MORE FOR?**

Smaller Classes.....	43
Year Round Child Care.....	10
A Longer School Year.....	10
Better Teacher Training.....	56
None of Them.....	7

**33. UNDER A VOUCHER SYSTEM, PARENTS WITH SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN RECEIVE A CREDIT OR VOUCHER FROM THE STATE. THEY CAN EITHER SEND THEIR CHILD TO ANY PUBLIC SCHOOL OR USE THE VOUCHER TO HELP PAY FOR THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION AT A PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL SCHOOL OF THEIR CHOICE.**

Strongly Favor.....	3
Somewhat Favor.....	3
Somewhat Oppose.....	1
Strongly Oppose.....	2
Don't Know.....	2

**34. IF CALIFORNIA HAD A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN HOW MUCH FUNDING PER STUDENT SHOULD THE STATE PROVIDE TO SEND A CHILD TO THE SCHOOL OF THEIR PARENTS CHOICE?**

< 1/4.....	1
About 1/3.....	1
About 1/2.....	2
About 3/4.....	2
All.....	2
No Funding.....	1
Don't Know.....	1

**35. IF A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN MEANS PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING WILL BE REDUCED, DOES THAT MEAN YOU ARE MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN OR MORE LIKELY TO OPPOSE A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN?**

Support.....	3
Oppose.....	3
Don't Know.....	1

**36. THE SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN WILL MAKE MOST PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS MORE EFFECTIVE.**

Strongly Agree.....	2
Somewhat Agree.....	3
Somewhat Disagree.....	1
Strongly Disagree.....	2
Don't Know.....	2

**37. A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN WILL JEOPARDIZE THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE BY PROVIDING STATE FUNDS TO PAROCHIAL/RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS.**

Strongly Agree.....	1
Somewhat Agree.....	1
Somewhat Disagree.....	2
Strongly Disagree.....	2
Don't Know.....	2

**38. A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN WILL REDUCE THE BUREAUCRACY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

Strongly Agree.....	2
Somewhat Agree.....	8
Somewhat Disagree.....	2
Strongly Disagree.....	2
Don't Know.....	2

**39. A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN WILL MEAN DISCRIMINATION IN ADMISSIONS AGAINST SOME STUDENTS.**

Strongly Agree.....	2
Somewhat Agree.....	2
Somewhat Disagree.....	2
Strongly Disagree.....	2
Don't Know.....	7



**40. A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR PARENTS WITH LOW INCOMES TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

Strongly Agree .....32  
Somewhat Agree .....33  
Somewhat Disagree .....14  
Strongly Disagree .....17  
Don't Know .....5

**41. A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN WILL MEAN SOME STUDENTS WHO NEED ADDITIONAL HELP WILL BE LEFT BEHIND AS BETTER STUDENTS GO ELSEWHERE.**

Strongly Agree .....29  
Somewhat Agree .....22  
Somewhat Disagree .....21  
Strongly Disagree .....22  
Don't Know .....6

**42. A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN WILL INCREASE THE OVERALL COSTS OF EDUCATION.**

Strongly Agree .....32  
Somewhat Agree .....30  
Somewhat Disagree .....15  
Strongly Disagree .....15  
Don't Know .....8

**43. A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN WILL FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM THE CURRENT DOMINANCE OF SPECIAL INTERESTS**

Strongly Agree .....18  
Somewhat Agree .....23  
Somewhat Disagree .....24  
Strongly Disagree .....22  
Don't Know .....13

**44. A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN WILL LEAD MANY RELIGIOUS OR BELIEF GROUPS, PERHAPS EVEN CULTS, TO OPEN SCHOOLS DEDICATED TO THEIR TEACHINGS.**

Strongly Agree .....28  
Somewhat Agree .....26  
Somewhat Disagree .....18  
Strongly Disagree .....21  
Don't Know .....8

**45. A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN WILL SAVE TAXPAYER MONEY.**

Strongly Agree .....16  
Somewhat Agree .....19  
Somewhat Disagree .....24  
Strongly Disagree .....30  
Don't Know .....11

**46. THERE IS A PROPOSED CALIFORNIA STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON THE BALLOT TO ENABLE PARENTS TO CHOOSE A CHILD'S SCHOOL BY PROVIDING A VOUCHER FOR EVERY SCHOOL AGE CHILD. THE AMOUNT OF THE VOUCHER WOULD BE EQUAL TO AT LEAST 60% OF THE AMOUNT SPENT PER PUPIL IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

Strongly Agree .....28  
Somewhat Agree .....28  
Somewhat Disagree .....13  
Strongly Disagree .....26  
Don't Know .....5

**47. IF A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN IS ADOPTED, SOME STUDENTS MAY TRAVEL FARTHER TO GET TO SCHOOLS OUTSIDE THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS. WHO DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION COSTS?**

Parents .....70  
Taxpayers .....11  
Taxpayers, but Only for Poor Students .....6  
Other .....9  
Don't Know .....3

**48. IF A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN IS ADOPTED, SHOULD STUDENTS IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS WHO ARE DISABLED OR HAVE OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS GET ADDITIONAL HELP?**

Yes .....82  
No .....14  
Don't Know .....4

**49. CURRENTLY PRIVATE SCHOOLS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO HIRE TEACHERS WHO ARE CERTIFIED BY THE STATE. PUBLIC SCHOOLS MUST. IF A VOUCHER PLAN IS ADOPTED, DO YOU THINK:**

Hire Certified .....60  
Hire Not Certified .....7  
Certification Rules Stay .....28  
Don't Know .....4

**50. IF A VOUCHER PLAN IS ADOPTED, SHOULD THE STATE REQUIRE ALL SCHOOLS TO PUBLICIZE THEIR TEST SCORES TO HELP PARENTS CHOOSE SCHOOLS?**

Yes .....74  
No .....21  
Don't Know .....5

**51. PUBLIC SCHOOLS MUST CURRENTLY COMPLY WITH MANY STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS THAT PRIVATE SCHOOLS DO NOT. IF A VOUCHER PLAN PASSES, SHOULD PUBLIC SCHOOLS BE DEREGULATED TO MAKE THEM MORE LIKE PRIVATE SCHOOLS?**

Yes .....38  
No .....52  
Don't Know .....10

**52. IF A VOUCHER PLAN PASSES, SHOULD PRIVATE SCHOOLS BE REQUIRED TO MEET STATE ACADEMIC, FISCAL, AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS?**

Yes .....87  
No .....11  
Don't Know .....2

**53. IF A VOUCHER PLAN IS ADOPTED, THERE MAY NOT BE ENOUGH ROOM FOR STUDENTS TO ATTEND CERTAIN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS. WHAT IS THE fairest way to provide access to schools that has more students than spaces?**

Lottery .....28  
First Come, First Serve .....21  
Preferred States .....6  
Own Admissions .....35  
Don't Know .....10

**54. SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT A VOUCHER SYSTEM WILL PRIMARILY HELP THOSE WHO ALREADY HAVE CHILDREN IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS. OTHER PEOPLE SAY THAT A VOUCHER SYSTEM WILL GIVE CHOICES TO THOSE WHO DO NOT NOW HAVE THEM. WHICH COMES CLOSER TO YOUR VIEW?**

Children Helped .....32  
Voucher Choice .....59  
Don't Know .....10

**55. WHO DO YOU THINK WOULD BENEFIT LEAST FROM A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN — UNDERPRIVILEGED, MIDDLE CLASS, OR UPPER CLASS CHILDREN?**

Underprivileged .....42  
Middle Class .....16  
Upper Class .....30  
All Children .....4  
No Children .....2  
Don't Know .....6

**56. IF A VOUCHER PLAN IS APPROVED, SHOULD IT BE:**

Tested First .....55  
Effect All Over .....15  
Failing Areas .....25  
Don't Know .....5

**57. IF A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN IS ADOPTED, SHOULD THERE BE A MAXIMUM SET ON THE AMOUNT OF TUITION WHICH PARTICIPATING PRIVATE SCHOOLS CAN CHARGE?**

Yes .....67  
No .....26  
Don't Know .....6

**58. ARE YOU A PARENT?**

Yes .....69  
No .....31

**59. IF YES: WHAT ARE THE AGES OF YOUR CHILDREN?**

0 - 5 Years Old .....15  
6 - 10 Years Old .....17  
11 - 16 Years Old .....16  
16 - 18 Years Old .....9  
19 or Older .....34

**60. IF YES: DO (OR DID) YOUR CHILDREN GO TO PUBLIC OR PRIVATE/PAROCHIAL SCHOOL?**

Public .....66  
Private/Parochial .....12  
Both .....13  
Neither .....1  
Neither .....7  
Don't know .....1

**61. PARENTS ONLY: UNDER A SCHOOL CHOICE VOUCHER SYSTEM, DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD CHOOSE A DIFFERENT SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILDREN OR WOULD YOU STILL GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL?**

Same .....64  
Different .....28  
Don't Know .....9

**62. PARENTS ONLY: IF STILL GO TO SAME SCHOOL: IF THE STATE PAID FOR TRANSPORTATION TO YOUR SCHOOL OF CHOICE, WOULD YOU BELIKELY TO CHANGE TO ANOTHER SCHOOL?**

Yes .....16  
No .....81  
Don't Know .....3

**63. PARENTS ONLY: IF STILL GO TO SAME SCHOOL: IF THE VOUCHER AMOUNT COVERED THE FULL COST OF TUITION AT A PRIVATE SCHOOL, WOULD YOU BELIKELY TO CHANGE TO ANOTHER SCHOOL?**

Yes .....23  
No .....69  
Don't Know .....8

**64. WOULD YOU PREFER A STATE PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES PARENTS WITH CHOICE ONLY AMONG PUBLIC SCHOOLS OR A PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES PARENTS WITH CHOICE AMONG PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS?**

Public Only .....19  
Public and Private .....75  
Don't Know .....6

**65. TAXPAYER SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS HISTORICALLY HAS BEEN JUSTIFIED AS CONTRIBUTING TO A COMMON CULTURE. PUBLIC FUNDING OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS THROUGH THE USE OF VOUCHERS WILL:**

Improve It .....25  
Harm It .....17  
Have No Effect .....43  
Don't Know .....14

*Continued on the next page*

**66. ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE IN CALIFORNIA?**

Yes.....88  
No.....11  
Don't Know.....1

**67. HAVE YOU VOTED IN A RECENT SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION?**

Yes.....51  
No.....46  
Don't Know.....3

**68. WHAT IS THE LAST LEVEL OF SCHOOL YOU COMPLETED?**

Some High School.....6  
High School Graduate.....24  
Some College.....28  
College Grad.....29  
Post Graduate.....12  
Don't Know.....1

**69. DID YOU/DO YOU ATTEND PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SCHOOL?**

Public.....75  
Private.....9  
Both.....15  
Don't Know.....2

**70. WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION?**

High Level Pro.....9  
Mid Level Professor.....15  
Executive.....7  
Sales.....7  
Other White Collar.....8  
Skilled Labor.....10  
Semi/Unskilled.....5  
Student.....6  
Housewife.....9  
Retired.....14  
Farming.....0  
Teacher.....3  
Other.....7  
Don't Know.....1

**71. ARE YOU, OR ANY MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD, A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE? (IF YES:) IS THIS PERSON A MEMBER OF A UNION OR NOT?**

Not Public Employee.....75  
Union.....12  
Not Union.....12  
Don't Know.....1

**72. DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF DEMOCRATIC, INDEPENDENT, OR REPUBLICAN?**

Democratic.....43  
Independent.....15  
Republican.....37  
Don't Know.....5

**73. DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE LIBERAL, MODERATE, OR CONSERVATIVE?**

Liberal.....32  
Moderate.....26  
Conservative.....38  
Don't Know.....3

**74. WHAT IS YOUR RELIGION?**

Protestant.....38  
Catholic.....28  
Jewish.....2  
Mormon/L.D.S.....2  
Other.....14  
None.....12  
Don't Know.....3

**75. ARE YOU A BORN-AGAIN OR EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN?**

Yes.....26  
No.....69  
Don't Know.....4

**76. WHAT IS YOUR AGE?**

18-24.....12  
25-34.....23  
35-49.....32  
50-64.....18  
65+.....14  
Don't Know.....1

**77. DO YOU LIVE IN AN URBAN, SUBURBAN, OR RURAL AREA?**

Urban.....33  
Suburban.....46  
Rural.....18  
Don't Know.....4

**78. IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE OUR STATISTICS ARE ACCURATE, COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME YOUR RACE? WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS:**

Hispanic.....13  
Black.....7  
White.....68  
Asian.....8  
American Indian.....1  
Other.....1  
Don't Know.....1

**79. FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY, WE NEED TO KNOW YOUR TOTAL FAMILY INCOME FOR 1992. WILL YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES BEST REPRESENTS YOUR TOTAL FAMILY INCOME?**

< \$10k.....6  
\$10 - \$20k.....11  
\$20 - \$50k.....41  
\$50 - \$75k.....18  
\$75 - \$100k.....8  
\$100k +.....6  
Don't Know.....10

**80. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN CALIFORNIA?**

< 2 yrs.....2  
2 - 5.....4  
5 - 8.....4  
8 - 10.....2  
10 - 25.....21  
25 yrs +.....39  
All My Life.....28

**81. SEX**

Male.....48  
Female.....52

**82. MEDIA MARKET**

Eur/Med/Chic.....2  
Scrm/Stck/Rno.....10  
San Fran.....20  
Salins/Montry.....2  
Bakersfield.....8  
Barb/Mar/SLO.....2  
L.A.....48  
S.Diego/Yuma.....9

# PACE

## Policy Analysis for California Education

### Attitudes of Specific Groups Towards Education and Vouchers

#### THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN CALIFORNIA:

	Education	Health Care	Economy	Environment	Don't Know
<b>VOUCHER SYSTEM</b>					
Strongly Favor	39	11	43	6	1
Somewhat Favor	37	10	40	12	1
Somewhat Oppose	41	16	37	5	1
Strongly Oppose	43	15	34	7	1
<b>AGE</b>					
18 - 24	53	7	27	14	0
25 - 34	50	11	32	5	2
35 - 49	37	11	42	10	1
50 - 64	31	13	48	8	1
65 +	32	21	41	4	2
<b>AREA</b>					
Eur/Med/Chic	19	22	39	21	0
Scrm/Stck/Rno	52	10	30	7	1
San Fran	38	12	42	7	1
Salins/Montry	43	23	23	7	4
Bakersfield	39	14	36	7	4
Barb/Mar/SLO	55	2	22	21	0
L.A.	41	10	39	8	1
S.Diego/Yuma	29	17	46	6	3
<b>INCOME</b>					
<\$10k	48	22	2	8	0
\$10 - \$20k	41	18	29	9	3
\$20 - \$50k	38	13	39	9	2
\$50 - \$75k	46	7	40	7	0
\$75 - \$100k	40	10	41	7	2
\$100k +	24	4	64	8	0
<b>*RACE</b>					
Hispanic	50	15	25	9	2
African-American	55	14	27	3	2
White	37	12	42	8	1
Asian	37	12	39	10	2
<b>SEX</b>					
Male	35	9	43	11	2
Female	45	15	35	5	1

#### THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA:

	Provides An Equal Education	Needs Minor Changes	Needs A Major Overhaul	Don't Know
<b>VOUCHER SYSTEM</b>				
Strongly Favor	8	18	70	4
Somewhat Favor	8	31	59	3
Somewhat Oppose	11	30	54	5
Strongly Oppose	10	31	56	3
<b>AGE</b>				
18 - 24	14	38	46	1
25 - 34	8	33	54	5
35 - 49	11	27	58	3
50 - 64	4	17	76	3
65 +	7	16	70	7
<b>AREA</b>				
Eur/Med/Chic	12	22	66	0
Scrm/Stck/Rno	11	26	61	2
San Fran	12	27	57	4
Salins/Montry	9	20	63	8
Bakersfield	6	30	57	7
Barb/Mar/SLO	5	31	64	0
L.A.	8	25	64	3
S.Diego/Yuma	8	32	55	5
<b>INCOME</b>				
<\$10k	19	17	58	7
\$10 - \$20k	9	26	63	2
\$20 - \$50k	7	26	64	3
\$50 - \$75k	8	31	56	4
\$75 - \$100k	8	28	62	2
\$100k +	7	25	66	2
<b>*RACE</b>				
Hispanic	12	26	58	3
African-American	7	18	72	3
White	8	26	63	3
Asian	11	24	57	7
<b>SEX</b>				
Male	10	25	62	2
Female	8	27	60	5

# PACE

## Policy Analysis for California Education

### Attitudes of Specific Groups Towards Education and Vouchers

#### THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION PROVIDED BY PRIVATE/PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS IN CALIFORNIA

VOUCHER SYSTEM	No Different	Better than Public	Somewhat Better	Somewhat Worse	Much Worse	Don't Know
Strongly Favor	5	61	25	1	1	7
Somewhat Favor	8	35	41	3	0	12
Somewhat Oppose	10	21	33	7	2	28
Strongly Oppose	15	24	29	8	4	21
<b>AGE</b>						
18 - 24	8	30	37	5	2	17
25 - 34	11	40	34	3	2	11
35 - 49	9	39	31	4	2	16
50 - 64	7	47	28	5	1	13
65 +	12	37	32	2	1	16
<b>AREA</b>						
Eur/Med/Chic	11	41	27	3	5	14
Scrm/Stck/Rno	13	41	30	0	0	17
San Fran	8	39	32	4	1	17
Salins/Montry	0	31	38	11	4	16
Bakersfield	8	32	35	7	3	16
Barb/Mar/SLO	7	42	31	0	12	7
L.A.	9	41	31	4	1	13
S.Diego/Yuma	11	37	34	4	0	14
<b>INCOME</b>						
<\$10K	10	44	20	10	2	13
\$10 - \$20k	8	46	26	5	1	14
\$20 - \$50k	9	36	34	4	1	17
\$50 - \$75k	12	37	32	5	3	12
\$75 - \$100k	8	43	33	1	1	13
\$100k +	9	43	33	2	0	13
<b>*RACE</b>						
Hispanic	11	42	31	5	0	11
African-American	15	43	30	3	2	7
White	8	39	34	3	1	15
Asian	16	39	29	3	1	12
<b>SEX</b>						
Male	8	37	34	4	2	14
Female	10	41	30	4	0	15

#### IF A SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN MEANS PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING WILL BE REDUCED:

VOUCHER SYSTEM	Support	Oppose	Don't Know
Strongly Favor	61	30	9
Somewhat Favor	33	55	12
Somewhat Oppose	20	75	5
Strongly Oppose	10	86	4
<b>AGE</b>			
18 - 24	35	62	3
25 - 34	36	59	6
35 - 49	37	53	10
50 - 64	31	55	14
65 +	33	55	12
<b>AREA</b>			
Eur/Med/Chic	36	59	5
Scrm/Stck/Rno	38	52	9
San Fran	30	58	12
Salins/Montry	39	52	9
Bakersfield	32	62	5
Barb/Mar/SLO	47	41	12
L.A.	38	54	8
S.Diego/Yuma	27	61	12
<b>INCOME</b>			
<\$10K	29	55	16
\$10 - \$20k	43	48	9
\$20 - \$50k	35	57	8
\$50 - \$75k	31	59	11
\$75 - \$100k	34	59	7
\$100k +	47	50	3
<b>*RACE</b>			
Hispanic	37	57	6
African-American	41	53	7
White	35	55	10
Asian	36	57	7
<b>SEX</b>			
Male	37	55	8
Female	33	57	11



# Policy Analysis for California Education

## Attitudes of Specific Groups Towards Education and Vouchers

### GRADES GIVEN TO CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>FAIL</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
<b>VOUCHER SYSTEM</b>						
Strongly favor	4	25	37	23	6	5
Somewhat favor	4	37	40	11	4	3
Somewhat oppose	7	27	46	14	3	4
Strongly oppose	9	26	38	15	5	7
<b>AGE</b>						
18 - 24	2	36	42	13	3	3
25 - 34	6	31	36	18	2	7
35 - 49	8	32	37	16	5	1
50 - 64	4	25	42	16	7	7
65 +	3	22	43	15	6	10
<b>INCOME</b>						
<\$10K	3	27	47	4	8	12
\$10 - \$20k	3	28	44	14	4	7
\$20 - \$50k	7	27	40	17	4	5
\$50 - \$75k	6	34	37	18	4	1
\$75 - \$100k	3	32	39	19	4	3
\$100k +	4	37	35	13	9	2
<b>*RACE</b>						
Hispanic	6	33	40	13	5	3
African-American	5	20	41	21	8	6
White	5	29	39	17	5	4
Asian	3	40	39	12	1	5
<b>SEX</b>						
Male	4	28	42	18	4	4
Female	6	30	37	15	6	6

### 2. GRADES GIVEN TO CALIFORNIA PRIVATE/PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS:

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>FAIL</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
<b>VOUCHER SYSTEM</b>						
Strongly favor	24	49	8	1	0	17
Somewhat favor	16	53	11	2	0	18
Somewhat oppose	10	29	17	2	0	42
Strongly oppose	10	40	13	6	1	30
<b>AGE</b>						
18 - 24	12	56	10	2	0	19
25 - 34	15	45	10	2	0	27
35 - 49	19	45	12	3	0	21
50 - 64	21	42	8	2	0	26
65 +	11	46	12	1	0	29
<b>INCOME</b>						
<\$10K	4	42	20	2	0	31
\$10 - \$20k	20	35	12	3	0	30
\$20 - \$50k	15	47	9	2	0	27
\$50 - \$75k	16	53	13	2	1	14
\$75 - \$100k	22	52	4	4	0	18
\$100k +	27	41	9	4	0	18
<b>*RACE</b>						
Hispanic	17	49	13	3	0	17
African-American	16	52	13	4	1	16
White	16	45	10	2	0	26
Asian	17	50	7	2	0	24
<b>SEX</b>						
Male	13	51	11	3	0	22
Female	20	41	11	2	0	26

# PACE

## Policy Analysis for California Education

### Attitudes of Specific Groups Towards Education and Vouchers

#### THOSE WHO WOULD BENEFIT LEAST FROM A SCHOOL VOUCHER SYSTEM

	<u>Under-privileged</u>	<u>Middle Class</u>	<u>Upper Class</u>	<u>All Children</u>	<u>No Children</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
<b>VOUCHER SYSTEM</b>						
Strongly Favor	29	15	38	10	3	5
Somewhat Favor	37	18	36	1	0	8
Somewhat Oppose	53	20	22	1	1	3
Strongly Oppose	64	12	13	4	3	4
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>						
Liberal	48	11	32	2	1	5
Moderate	42	17	30	4	2	4
Conservative	35	18	29	6	2	9
<b>AREA</b>						
Eur/Medf/Chic	50	5	33	5	7	0
Scrm/Stck/Rno	39	14	34	7	0	7
San Fran	50	9	28	3	1	8
Salins/Montry	48	0	47	0	0	4
Bakersfield	45	15	22	7	3	7
Barb/Mar/SLO	47	14	17	7	7	7
L.A.	38	20	30	5	2	6
S.Diego/Yuma	37	19	37	2	1	4
<b>INCOME</b>						
<\$10K	40	19	30	6	1	3
\$10 - \$20k	46	17	24	6	1	7
\$20 - \$50k	41	16	31	4	3	6
\$50 - \$75k	43	20	28	4	1	4
\$75 - \$100k	39	5	41	5	0	10
\$100k +	47	12	24	1	4	11
<b>*RACE</b>						
Hispanic	37	21	29	4	2	6
African-American	45	11	34	4	1	6
White	41	16	30	5	2	7
Asian	38	22	33	2	0	5
<b>SEX</b>						
Male	40	17	32	4	2	6
Female	43	15	28	5	2	7

#### UNDER A SCHOOL CHOICE VOUCHER SYSTEM, PARENTS WOULD:

	<u>Keep the Same School</u>	<u>Choose A Different School</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
<b>VOUCHER SYSTEM</b>			
Strongly Favor	54	41	5
Somewhat Favor	61	28	12
Somewhat Oppose	80	12	8
Strongly Oppose	75	16	10
<b>PARTY</b>			
Democratic	63	28	9
Independent	68	23	9
Republican	66	27	7
<b>AREA</b>			
Eur/Medf/Chic	66	24	10
Scrm/Stck/Rno	62	33	5
San Fran	70	22	7
Salins/Montry	43	46	10
Bakersfield	71	23	6
Barb/Mar/SLO	66	20	14
L.A.	63	27	10
S.Diego/Yuma	54	36	10
<b>INCOME</b>			
<\$10K	62	21	16
\$10 - \$20k	70	22	8
\$20 - \$50k	61	31	8
\$50 - \$75k	70	26	4
\$75 - \$100k	56	31	13
\$100k +	69	31	0
<b>*RACE</b>			
Hispanic	58	34	8
African-American	63	27	10
White	65	26	8
Asian	57	28	15
<b>SEX</b>			
Male	66	25	9
Female	62	30	9

# PACE

## Policy Analysis for California Education

### Attitudes of Specific Groups Towards Education and Vouchers

#### CALIFORNIA ATTITUDES TOWARDS SCHOOL VOUCHERS AS A CONCEPT:

	<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>		<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
<b>MINOR/MAJOR CHANGES</b>						<b>AGE</b>					
Provide Quality Education	30	27	16	23	4	18 - 24	20	46	16	13	6
With Minor Changes	22	36	14	23	5	25 - 34	31	39	12	14	4
A Major Overhaul	36	29	11	18	5	35 - 49	37	31	10	17	5
<b>REGISTERED TO VOTE</b>						50 - 64	35	18	16	28	4
Yes	32	29	13	21	4	65 +	24	21	15	32	7
No	30	41	12	9	8	<b>REGION</b>					
<b>VOTE IN SCHOOL ELECTIONS</b>						Urban	31	31	12	19	7
Yes	31	24	13	27	5	Suburban	32	32	12	22	2
No	32	38	13	12	5	Rural	32	28	15	18	7
<b>PUBLIC EMPLOYEE/UNION</b>						<b>AREA</b>					
Not public Employee	33	32	12	18	5	Eur/Med/Chic	53	25	0	23	0
Union	27	29	12	30	2	Scrm/Stck/Rno	31	37	13	16	3
Not union	29	27	17	23	4	San Fran	29	30	11	26	4
<b>PARTY</b>						Salins/Montry	23	16	18	38	4
Democratic	28	29	13	26	3	Bakersfield	27	32	22	15	3
Independent	27	32	11	23	8	Barb/Mar/SLO	35	24	7	26	7
Republican	37	33	13	12	5	L.A.	33	30	13	18	6
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>						S.Diego/Yuma	31	33	11	18	7
Liberal	23	30	15	25	6	<b>INCOME</b>					
Moderate	30	31	13	25	2	<\$10K	31	24	11	22	13
Conservative	39	32	12	13	5	\$10 - \$20k	29	41	14	13	2
<b>RELIGION</b>						\$20 - \$50k	31	30	13	22	5
Protestant	35	27	15	19	4	\$50 - \$75k	29	33	16	19	4
Catholic	35	33	9	20	4	\$75 - \$100k	32	35	9	18	5
<b>BORN AGAIN</b>						\$100k +	43	25	9	19	4
Yes	41	28	13	16	3	<b>*RACE</b>					
No	28	33	12	21	6	Hispanic	30	38	10	18	5
						African-American	34	30	10	22	4
						White	33	27	14	21	5
						Asian	33	33	13	13	8
						<b>SEX</b>					
						Male	32	34	12	16	5
						Female	31	27	13	23	5