California Public School Teachers and Their Views on College and Career Readiness

A survey conducted April 2015
Survey Methodology

• Online survey conducted April 1 – 20, 2015

• 1,000 interviews among California teachers who are members of the California Teacher Association
  – Margin of error +/- 3.1 percentage points at 95% confidence level
  – The sample was pulled randomly from a statewide list of California Teachers Association (CTA) members who are teachers
The principal goal of recent education reforms, including the California Common Core State Standards, is to ensure that all students graduate from high school prepared for college and careers. This means that students should be prepared both to succeed in college, or in other career options such as apprenticeships, vocational or technical training programs, enlisting in the military, or entering the job market, without taking remedial or developmental courses.

Do you support setting a goal of college and career readiness for California's public school students?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>95 Total Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Support</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat Support</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Not Support</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Very Strong Support for College and Career Readiness
Nearly All High School Teachers Consider Themselves Knowledgeable of How to Prepare Students for College/Careers

(IF HIGH SCHOOL) How knowledgeable do you consider yourself about what should be done to prepare students for college and careers?

98 Total Knowledgeable

- Very Knowledgeable: 55
- Somewhat Knowledgeable: 44
- Not Knowledgeable: 2

GBA Strategies – College and Career Readiness Survey Findings
Graduating with Critical Thinking Skills is the Most Important Way to Assess Students are Prepared for College

In defining college and career readiness, how do you think we should assess whether a student is adequately prepared for college and other postsecondary training? Please choose three items from the list below that you think are the most important.

Student graduates with critical thinking skills necessary to succeed in post-secondary options
- 78% Top 3 Most Important

Ability to complete college, vocational or certificate courses without first taking remedial/developmental courses
- 62% Top 3 Most Important

Student has participated in a career-oriented program that offers work experience, e.g. linked learning programs, internships.
- 59% Top 3 Most Important

Student graduates with independent study skills
- 50% Top 3 Most Important

Pass the A-G courses required to enter the University of California or California State University
- 41% Top 3 Most Important

Score at a proficient level on the new Smarter Balanced assessments.
- 8% Top 3 Most Important
Teachers Say Graduating from High School Prepared For College and Careers is a Somewhat Realistic Goal for their Students

In your opinion, how realistic is the goal of ensuring that students in your school graduate from high school prepared for college and careers?

- **76 Total Realistic**
- **46** Very Realistic
- **30** Somewhat Realistic
- **23** Not Very Realistic + Not Realistic At All
Goal is Less Realistic as they Get Closer to Graduation…

In your opinion, how realistic is the goal of ensuring that students in your school graduate from high school prepared for college and careers?

Realistic Goal by Grade Level

- **Pre-K through Kindergarten**:
  - Very Realistic: 42
  - Somewhat Realistic: 21
  - Not Very Realistic + Not Realistic At All: 10

- **Elementary**:
  - Very Realistic: 33
  - Somewhat Realistic: 27
  - Not Very Realistic + Not Realistic At All: 24

- **Jr. High / Middle School**:
  - Very Realistic: 49
  - Somewhat Realistic: 27
  - Not Very Realistic + Not Realistic At All: 24

- **High School**:
  - Very Realistic: 48
  - Somewhat Realistic: 25
  - Not Very Realistic + Not Realistic At All: 26

Total percentages:
- 87 Total Realistic
- 78 Total Realistic
- 76 Total Realistic
- 74 Total Realistic
Anticipation for College and Career Readiness is Less Realistic in Higher Poverty Schools

College/Career Readiness a Realistic Goal by Free And Reduced Meal Percentage

- Under 25% Free and Reduced Meals: 29 Very Realistic, 58 Somewhat Realistic, 13 Not Very Realistic + Not Realistic At All
- 25 to 50% Free and Reduced Meals: 45 Very Realistic, 38 Somewhat Realistic, 17 Not Very Realistic + Not Realistic At All
- 50 to 75% Free and Reduced Meals: 48 Very Realistic, 29 Somewhat Realistic, 22 Not Very Realistic + Not Realistic At All
- Over 75% Free and Reduced Meals: 50 Very Realistic, 20 Somewhat Realistic, 30 Not Very Realistic + Not Realistic At All
Does your school district have clearly defined standards for what constitutes college and career readiness for students?

- Yes, has clearly defined standards: 30
- Yes, has standards, but not clearly defined: 35
- Standards are under development: 16
- No standards: 8
- Don't know: 11
Teachers Feel they Have Had Limited Amount of Training on College Readiness and Less on Career Readiness

Over the past two years or so, have you received any training or professional development on strategies for preparing students for college?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 100
High School Teachers: 100

Over the past two years or so, have you received any training or professional development on strategies for preparing students for other career options such as job training programs, military, internships, or employment directly in the workforce?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 100
High School Teachers: 100
## Career-Linked Programs and Career-Technical Courses are the Top Needed Resources to Ensure Preparation for Colleges/Careers

Which 3 of the following resources does your school or school district most need to ensure students are better prepared for college and careers? Of the 3 following resources you stated your school or school district most needs to ensure students are better prepared for college and careers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Most Needed</th>
<th>2nd Most Needed</th>
<th>3rd Most Needed</th>
<th>Top 3 Most Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career academies, linked learning programs or other programs that link the high school curriculum with a specific career pathway</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More high school career-technical courses</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More school counselors focusing on helping students make choices about colleges, or alternatives to college</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More professional development for school employees on what college and career readiness means and how to achieve it</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More resources in the classroom.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More access to classes that students need in order to get into college, including A-G classes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More information to offer students about their financial aid options for postsecondary education and/or training</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More written or online materials to help students learn about and select colleges and/or other programs that can prepare them for careers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More availability of Advanced Placement (AP) courses</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GBA Strategies – College and Career Readiness Survey Findings

Figure 10
Teachers Who Work in High Schools Emphasize the Need for Career Technical Programs

Top Resources Needed by Grade Level

- Pre-K to Kindergarten: Linked Learning Programs (57), Career Technical Programs (37), More School Counselors (51), More Professional Development (41)
- Elementary: Linked Learning Programs (56), Career Technical Programs (43), More School Counselors (47), More Professional Development (42)
- Middle School/Junior High: Linked Learning Programs (61), Career Technical Programs (55), More School Counselors (49), More Professional Development (40)
- High School: Linked Learning Programs (54), Career Technical Programs (75), More School Counselors (46), More Professional Development (35)
Most Teachers Support Common Core, but with Reservations

Thinking about Common Core State Standards, on balance, would you say you...

- Support Common Core
- Support Common Core with Reservations
- Do Not Support Common Core
- Unsure

Overall:
- Support Common Core: 48%
- Support Common Core with Reservations: 31%
- Do Not Support Common Core: 12%
- Unsure: 8%

Pre-K to Kindergarten:
- Support Common Core: 58%
- Support Common Core with Reservations: 20%
- Do Not Support Common Core: 11%
- Unsure: 10%

Elementary:
- Support Common Core: 53%
- Support Common Core with Reservations: 30%
- Do Not Support Common Core: 9%
- Unsure: 7%

Middle School/Junior High:
- Support Common Core: 43%
- Support Common Core with Reservations: 35%
- Do Not Support Common Core: 16%
- Unsure: 7%

High School:
- Support Common Core: 43%
- Support Common Core with Reservations: 33%
- Do Not Support Common Core: 14%
- Unsure: 10%
Members Express High Satisfaction with Jobs; Non-Classroom Members Very Satisfied

Generally speaking, how satisfied are you overall with your job?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Classroom Teachers</th>
<th>Non-Classroom Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>73 Total</td>
<td>72 Total</td>
<td>80 Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43 Very Satisfied</td>
<td>45 Fairly Satisfied</td>
<td>35 Very Satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Total</td>
<td>28 Total</td>
<td>20 Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Very Satisfied</td>
<td>27 Fairly Satisfied</td>
<td>45 Very Satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Fairly Satisfied</td>
<td>19 Just Somewhat Satisfied</td>
<td>8 Not that Satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Just Somewhat Satisfied</td>
<td>9 Not that Satisfied</td>
<td>12 Not that Satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Not that Satisfied</td>
<td>8 Not that Satisfied</td>
<td>12 Not that Satisfied</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: In our experience with previous research, this means they like teaching – not that they feel good about their working conditions.*