

To: Interested parties

From: GBA Strategies

Date: September 23, 2015

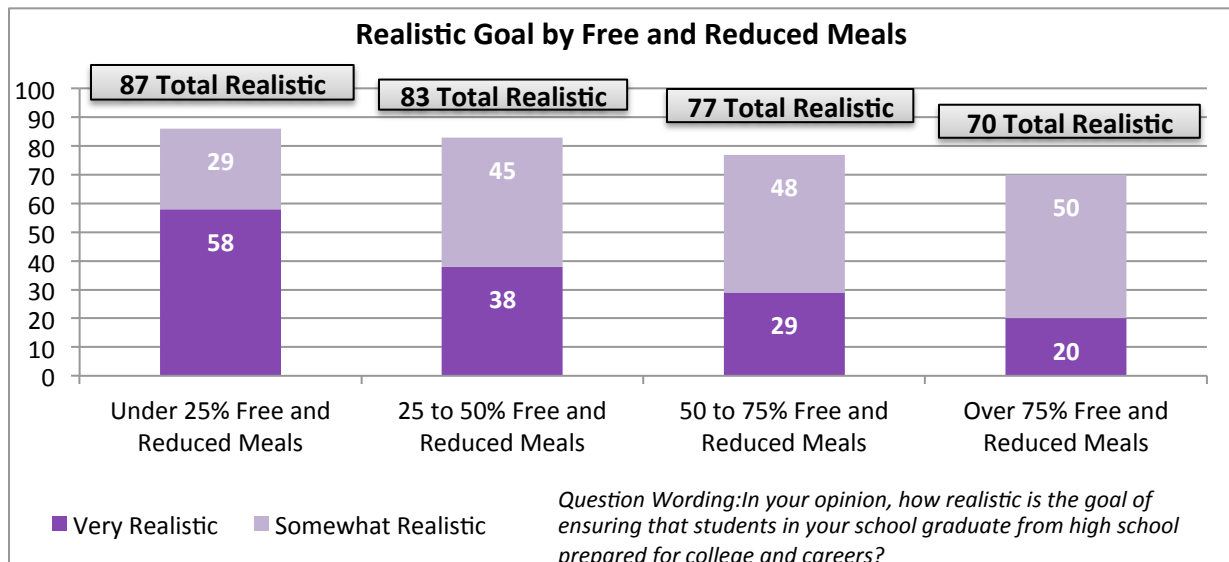
CA Teacher Survey on College & Career Readiness: Analysis

A new survey shows that California teachers believe developing critical thinking skills, rather than scoring at a proficient level on standardized tests aligned with Common Core, is the most important way to assess whether students are prepared for success in college and careers. The online survey of a random sample of 1,000 California teachers was conducted by GBA Strategies on behalf of EdSource in partnership with the California Teachers Association.

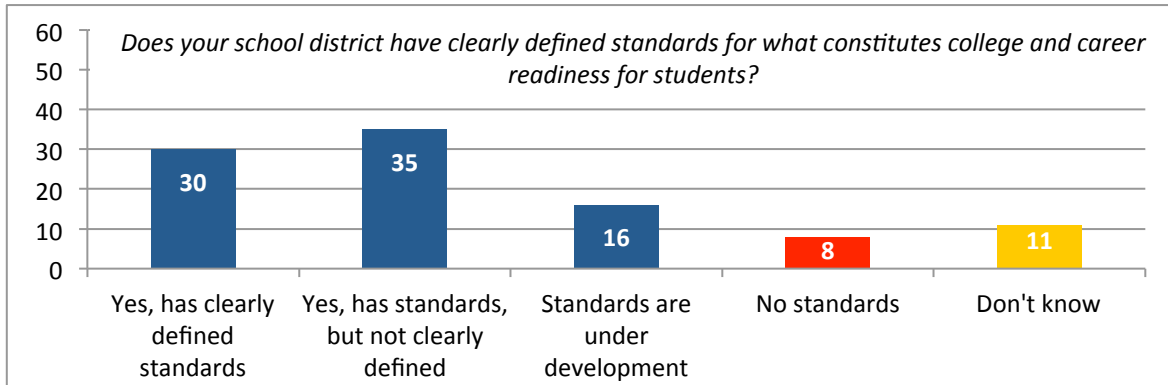
The following are key findings from the survey:

Key Survey Findings

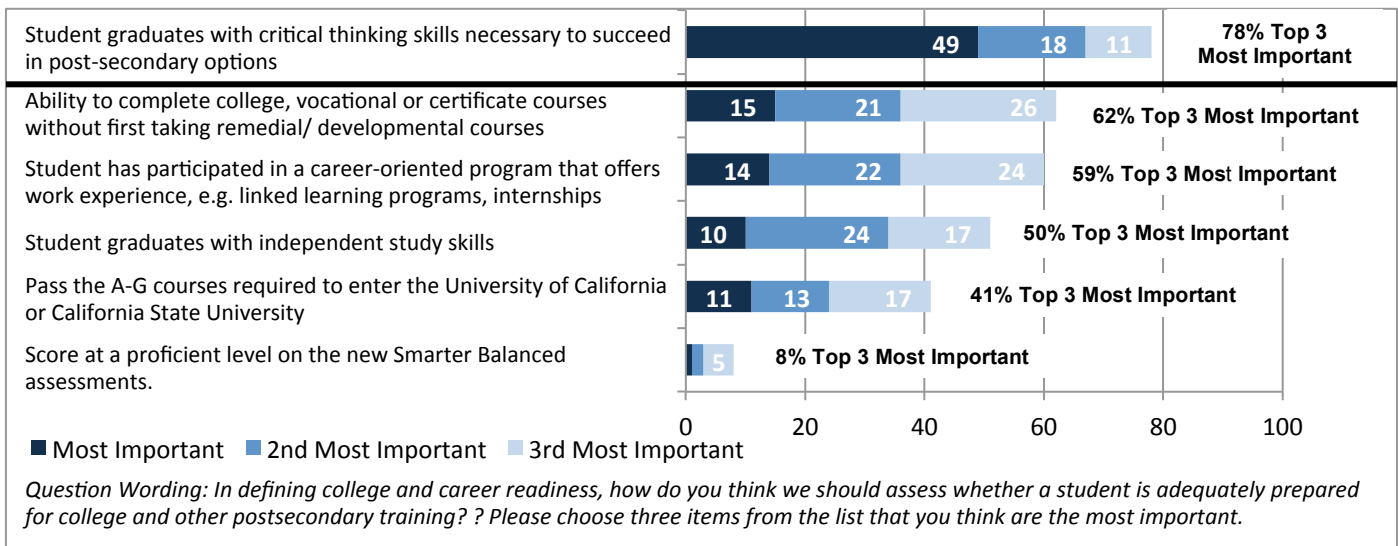
- California teachers nearly unanimously support the goal of college and career readiness.** Ninety-five percent of teachers support setting a goal of college and career readiness for California public school students.
- More than three-quarters of teachers view the goal of college and career readiness as very or somewhat realistic in their schools.** Thirty percent say the goal of ensuring that students in their schools graduate from high school prepared for college and careers is very realistic and another 46 percent say it's somewhat realistic. As the following chart highlights, teachers in schools with a higher percentage of students receiving free and reduced meals are less confident in the feasibility of achieving this goal.



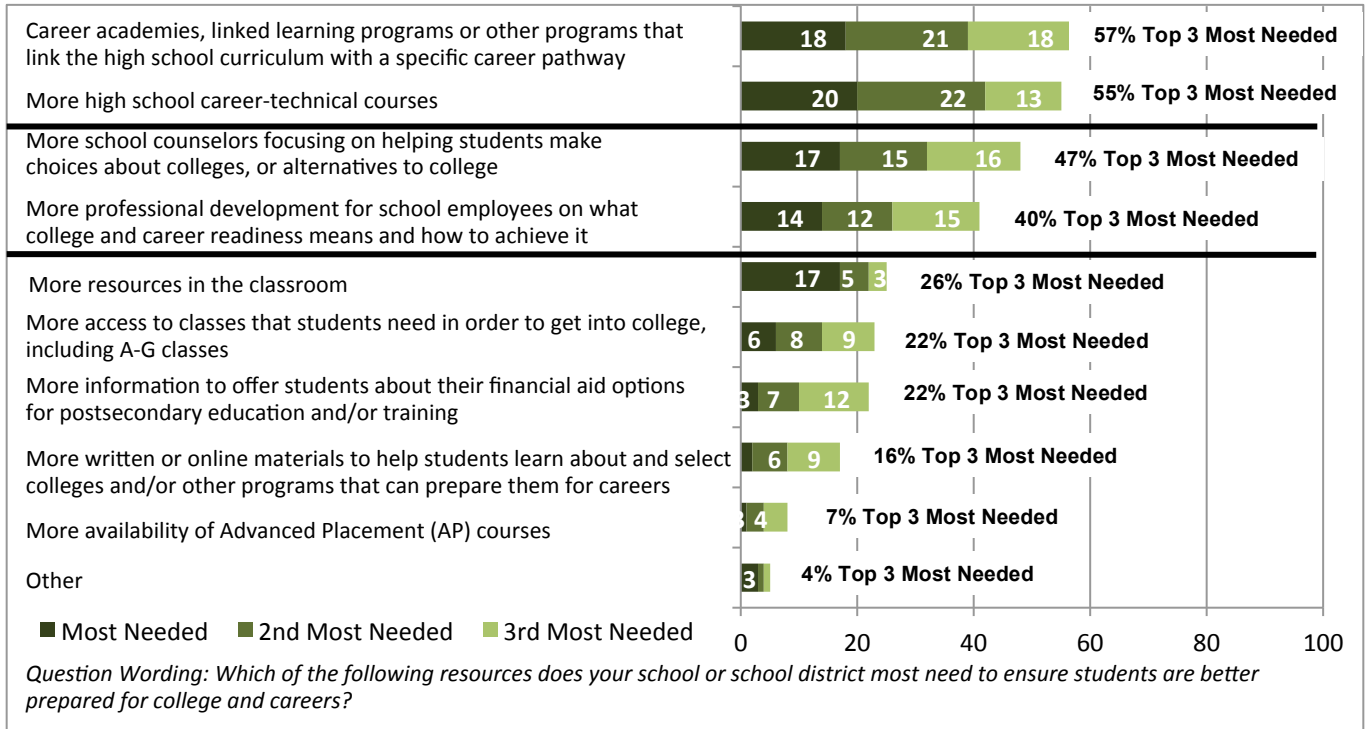
- Most teachers say their school districts have standards for what constitutes college and career readiness for students, but fewer than one-third feel the standards are clearly defined.** Sixty-five percent of teachers say their school districts have standards and another 16 percent say the standards are currently under development, but only 30 percent feel the standards are clearly defined.



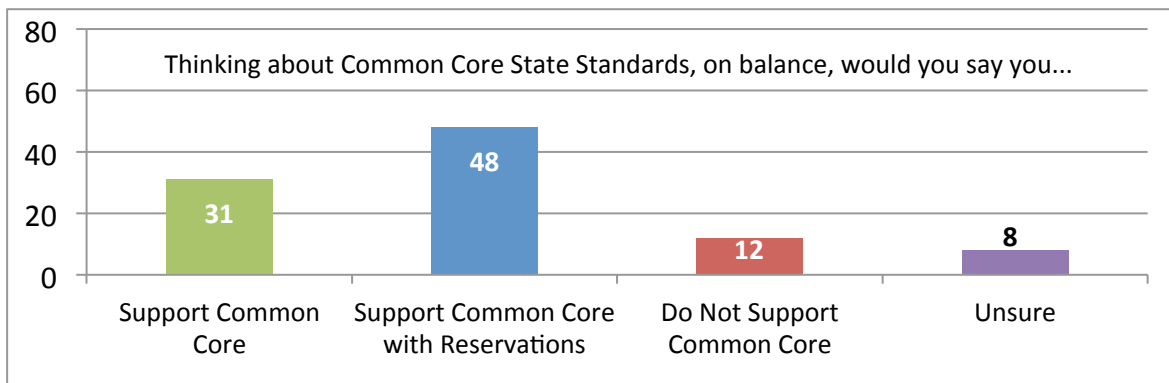
- Few high school teachers have received recent training for non-college career options.** While 43 percent of high school teachers have received training or professional development over the past two years on preparing students for college, only 14 percent have received training or professional development over the same time period for preparing students for other career options, such as job training, military internships, or employment directly in the workforce. That said, 98 percent of high school teachers consider themselves very or somewhat knowledgeable (55 percent very knowledgeable) about what should be done to prepare students for college and careers.
- Members point to students graduating with critical thinking skills as the most important way to assess whether students are prepared for success in college and careers.** Seventy-eight percent point to critical thinking skills as one of the three most important ways to assess whether a student is adequately prepared for college and other postsecondary training. Only 8 percent point to scoring at a proficient level on the new Smarter Balanced assessments as one of the three most important ways to assess college and career readiness.



- Teachers note career academies and linked learning programs, career technical choices, more school counselors and more professional development as important resources their schools need to better prepare students for college and careers.** High school teachers particularly point to career technical programs with 75 percent citing it as one of the three most important areas where more resources are needed for career and college preparedness, while teachers under 30 years old are most likely to point to linked learning programs (68 percent).



- A plurality of teachers support Common Core, but with reservations. Only 12 percent of teachers do not support Common Core.**



Methodology

GBA Strategies conducted the survey of 1,000 California teachers online. The survey was conducted April 1st-20th, 2015. The survey results carry a margin of error +/-3.1 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence interval. The sample was pulled randomly from a statewide list of California Teachers Association (CTA) members who are teachers.