

Focus on Quality

Californians' Views on Teachers and Teaching

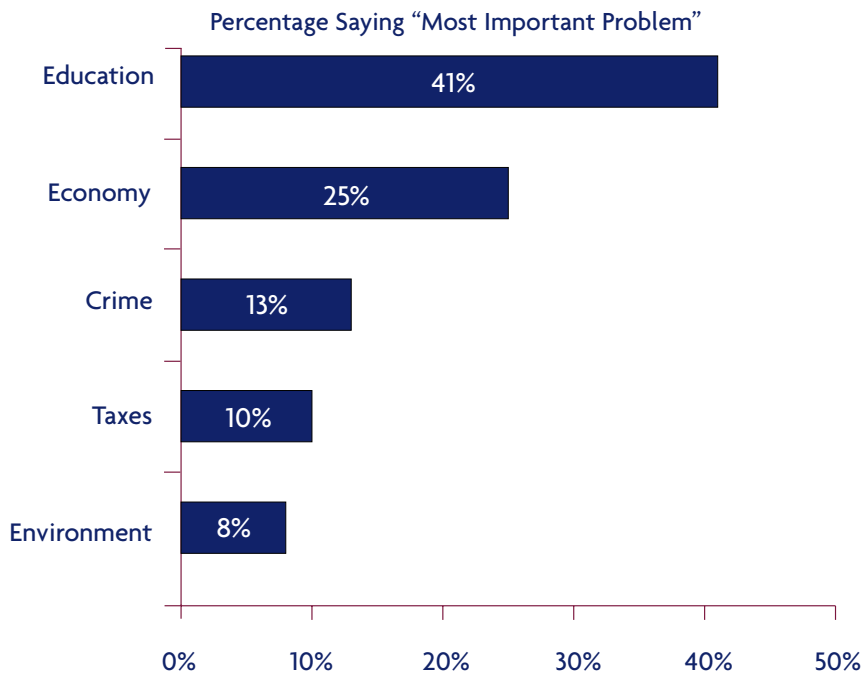
The Center for the Future
of Teaching and Learning

Research Conducted by
Belden Russonello & Stewart

2003

Education Is Top Issue in California

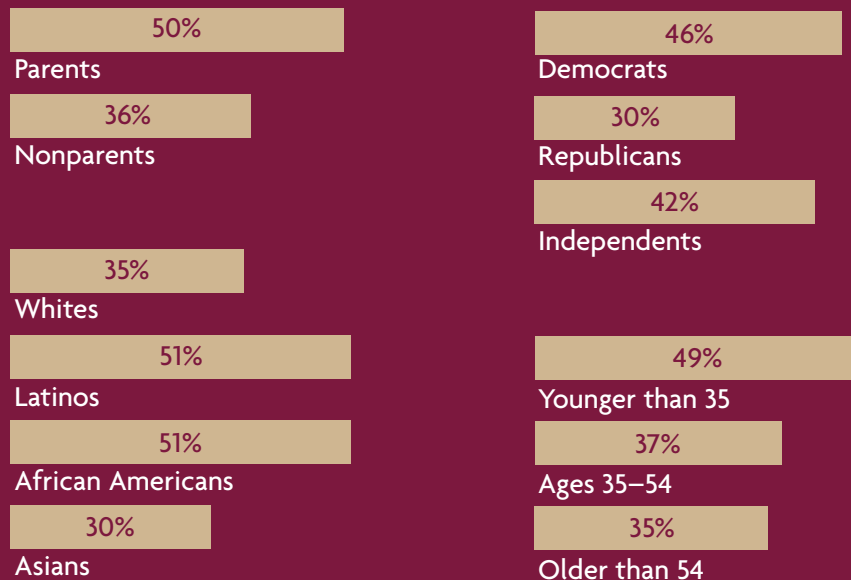
“Which one of the following issues, in your opinion, is the most important issue for the state government in California to address right now?”



A Closer Look

Across the state, 41 percent of Californians say education is the top problem the state should address. But there are differences among Californians.

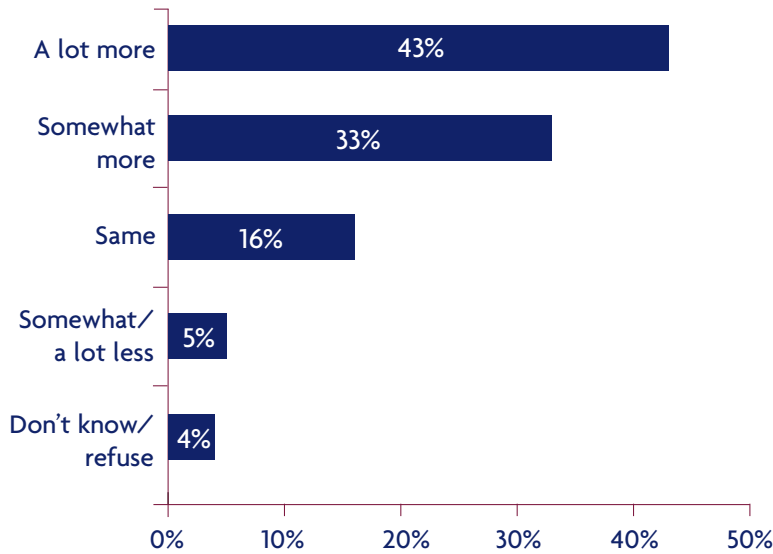
Percentage saying education is most important issue:



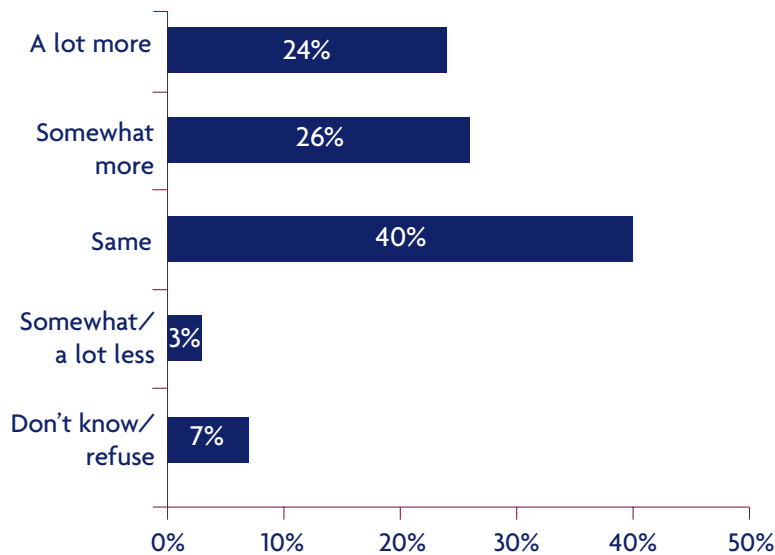
A Closer Look

Californians Believe State Should Invest More in Education

"In your opinion, should California be spending a lot more, somewhat more, the same, somewhat less or much less on public education than it does now?"

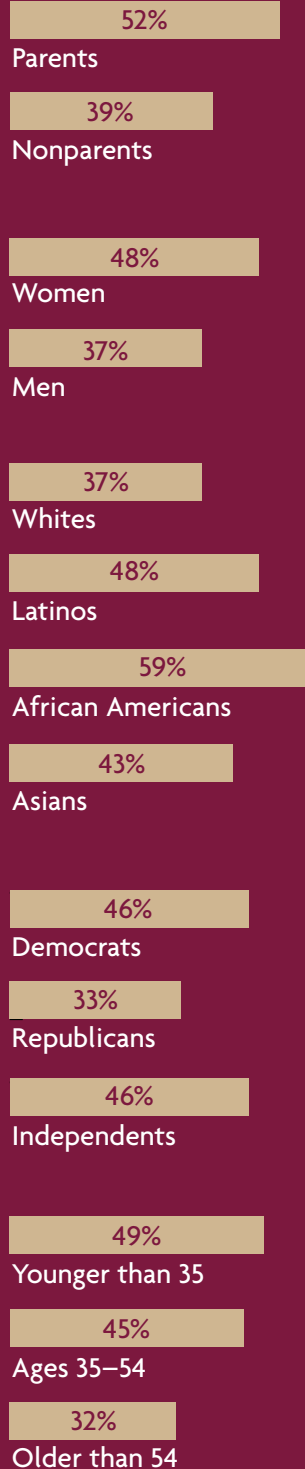


"Do you believe that California should spend more, less or about the same per student as other states spend on public education? Is that a lot or somewhat more/less?"



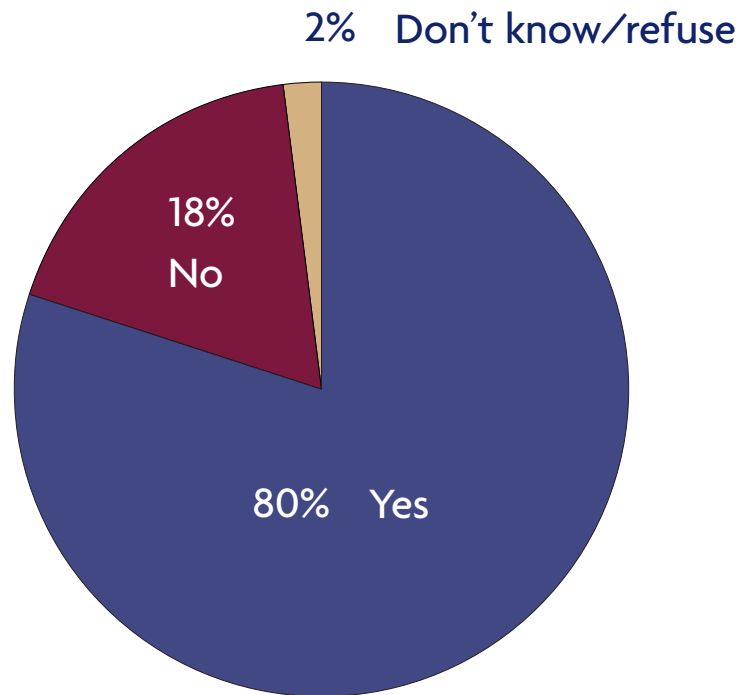
Across the state, 43 percent of Californians say the state should spend a lot more on public education. But there are differences among Californians.

Percentage saying state should spend a lot more:



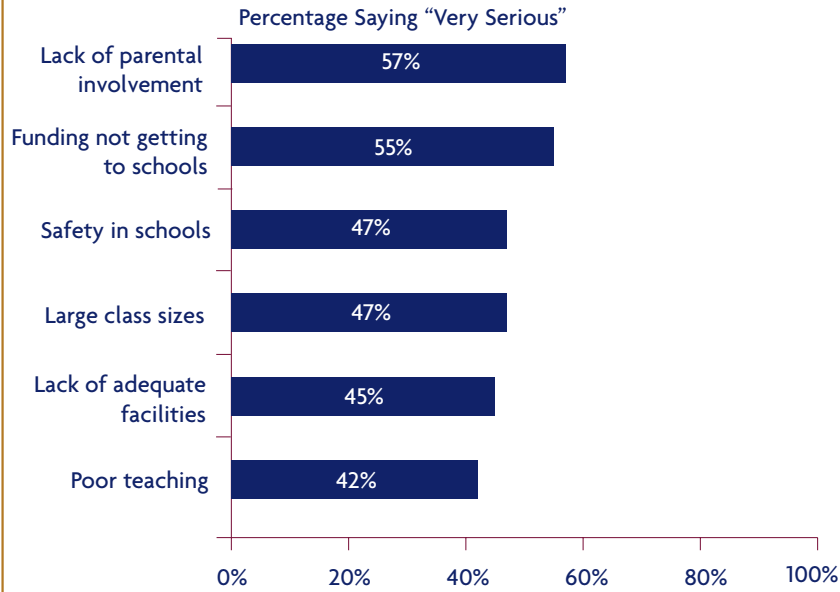
Californians Want All Students To Meet Same Standards

“In your opinion, should all students be required to meet the same set of academic standards regardless of whether they are planning to go to college?”



Lack of Parental Involvement Ranked Most Serious Problem for Education

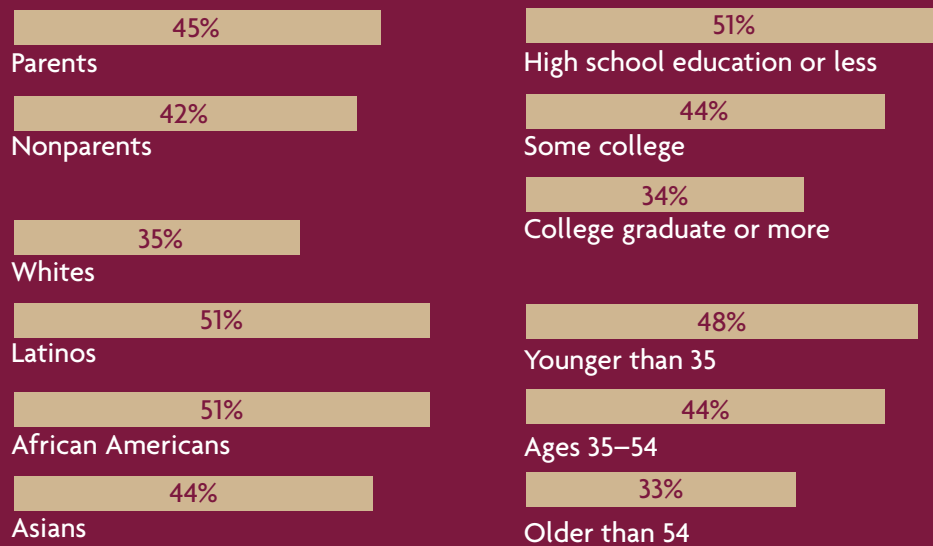
“How serious of a problem would you say each of the following is for public education in California?”



A Closer Look

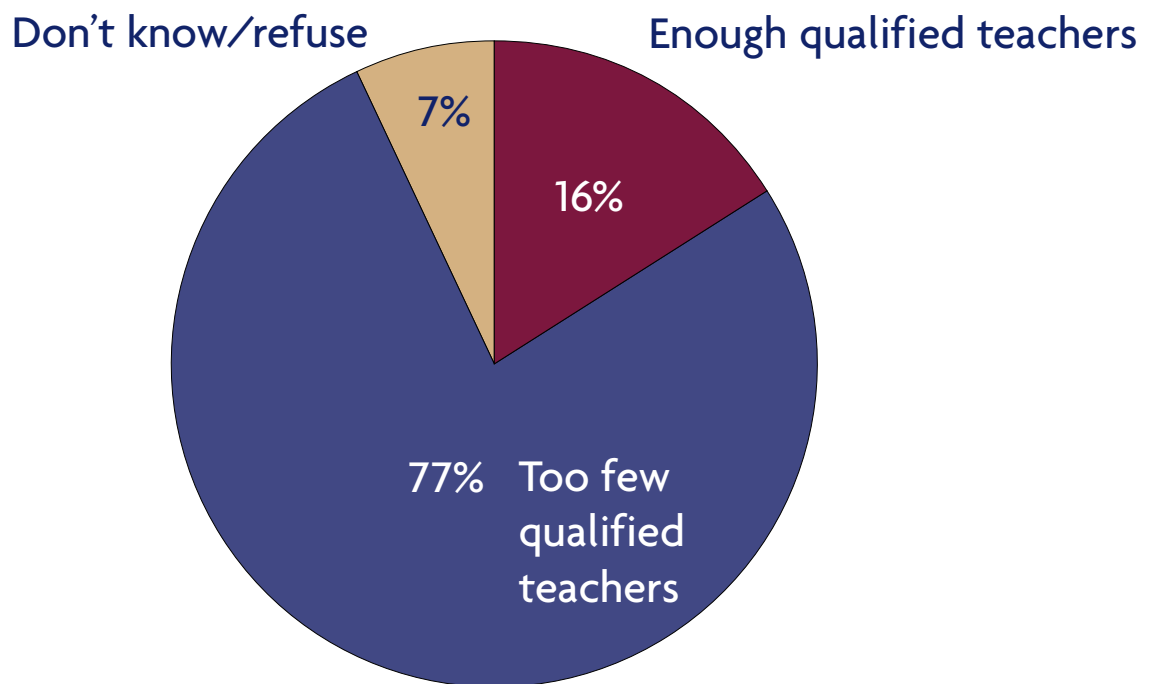
Across the state, 42 percent of Californians say that poor teaching is a very serious problem. But there are differences among Californians.

Percentage saying poor teaching is a very serious problem:



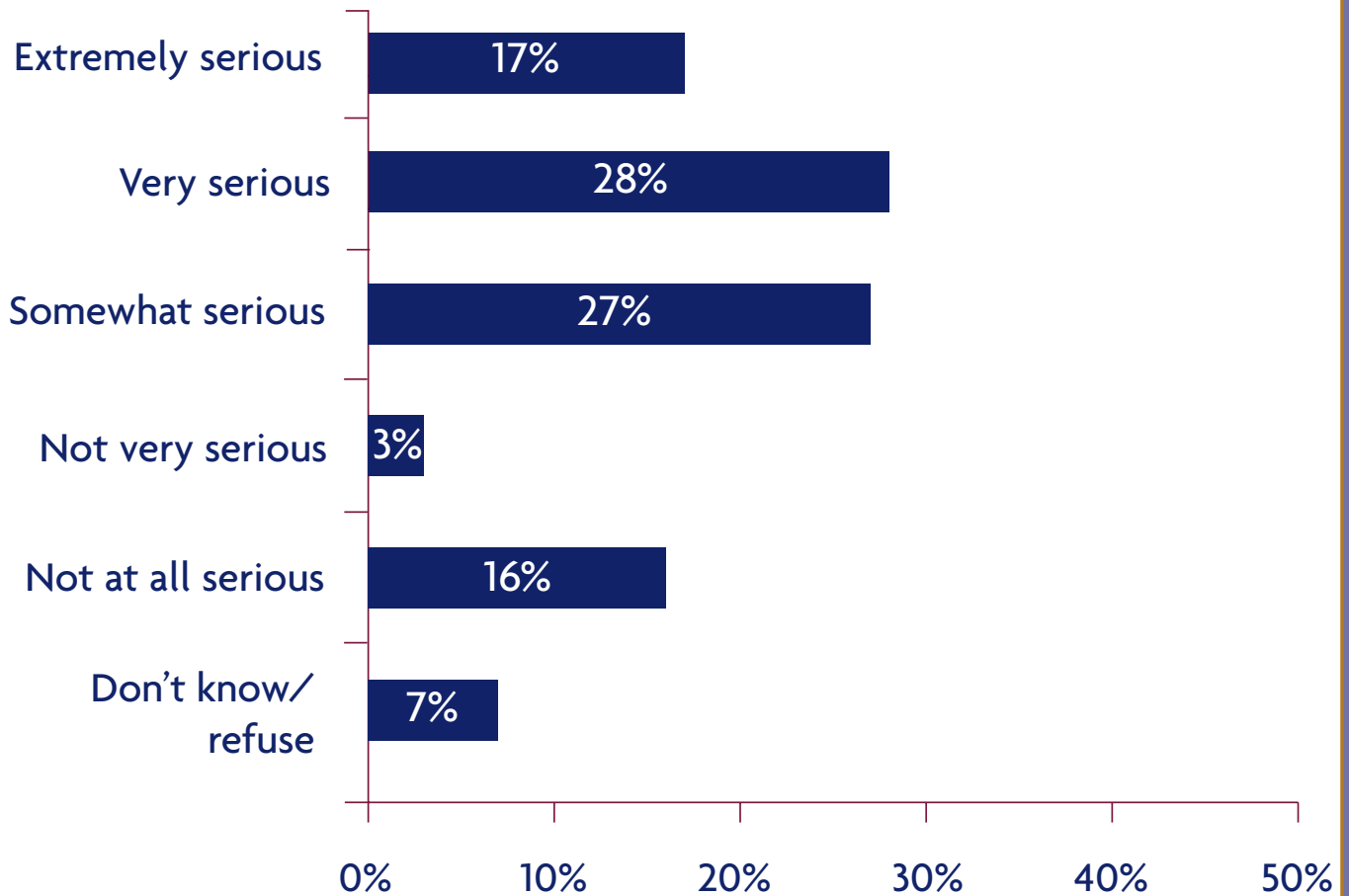
Californians Know There Are Too Few Qualified Teachers ...

“As far as you know, do the public schools in California have enough qualified teachers for the teaching jobs or too few qualified teachers?”



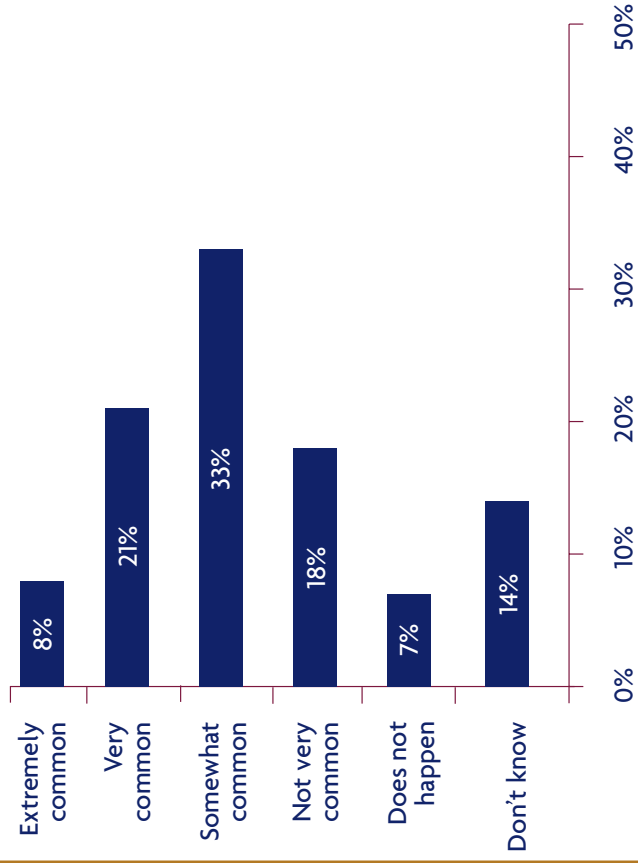
... That It's a Serious Problem ...

“How serious would you say the teacher shortage in California is?”

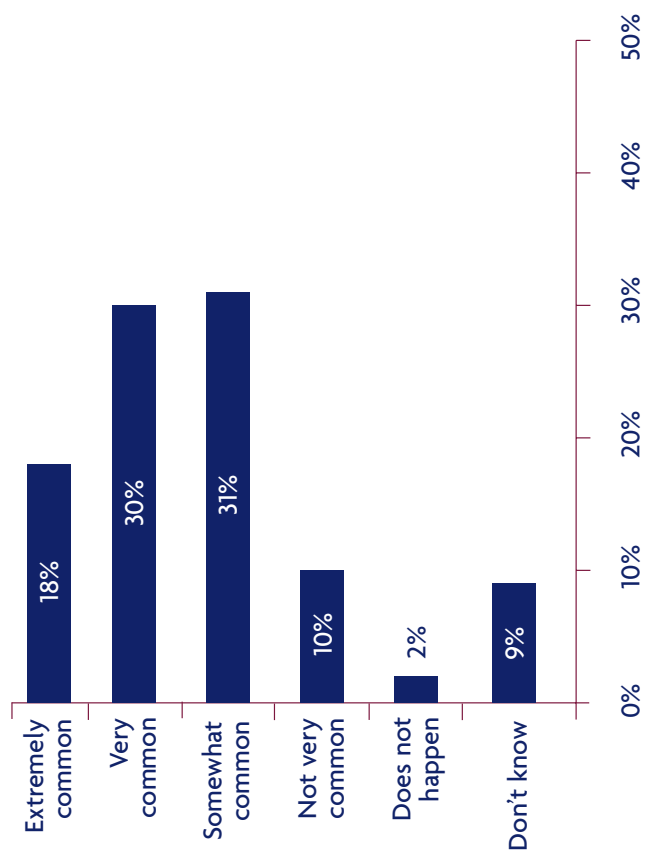


... And That Many Classrooms Have Underqualified Teachers

“How common do you think it is for the public schools in your community to hire teachers who have not obtained their credentials?”

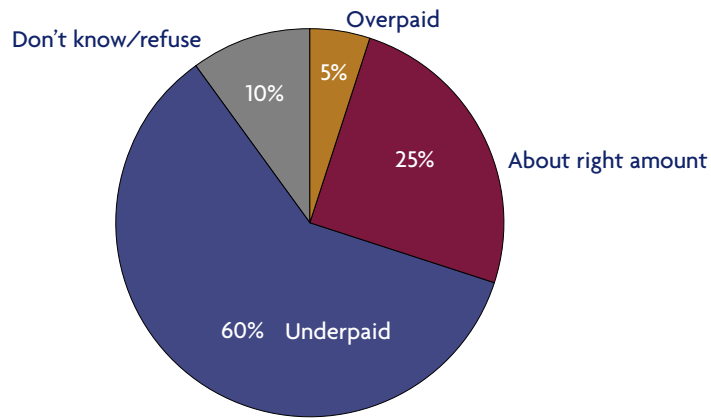


“How common do you think it is that public school teachers in California are teaching subjects for which they are not trained?”



Teachers Not Paid Enough

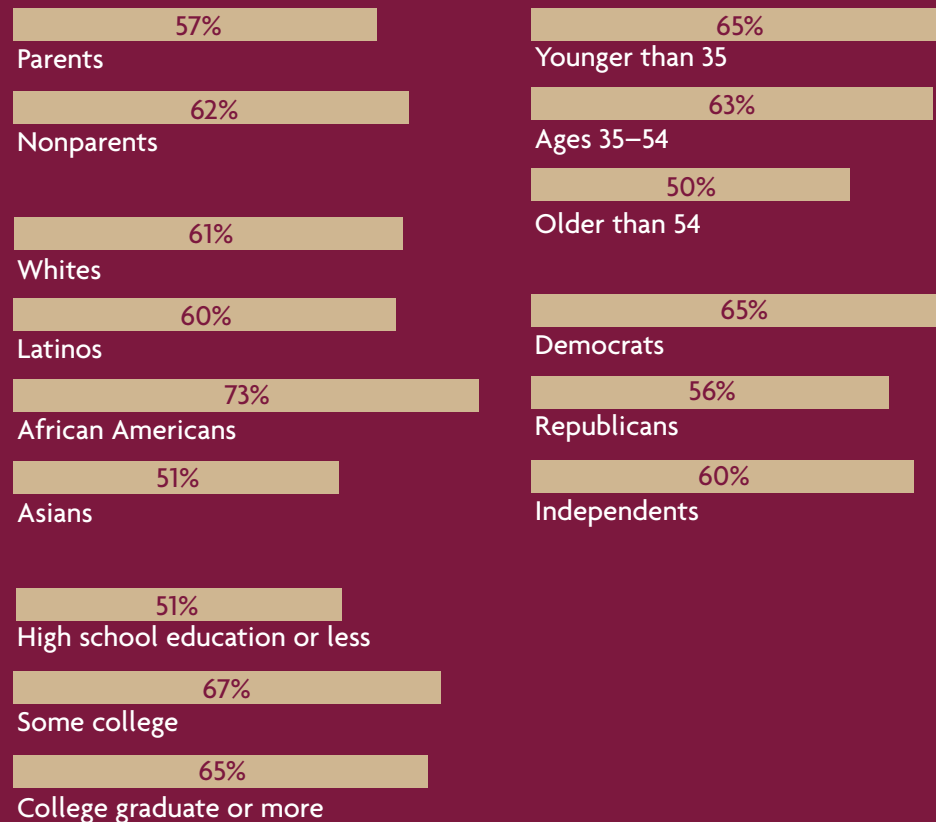
“In your view, are public school teachers in California underpaid, overpaid or paid about the right amount?”



A Closer Look

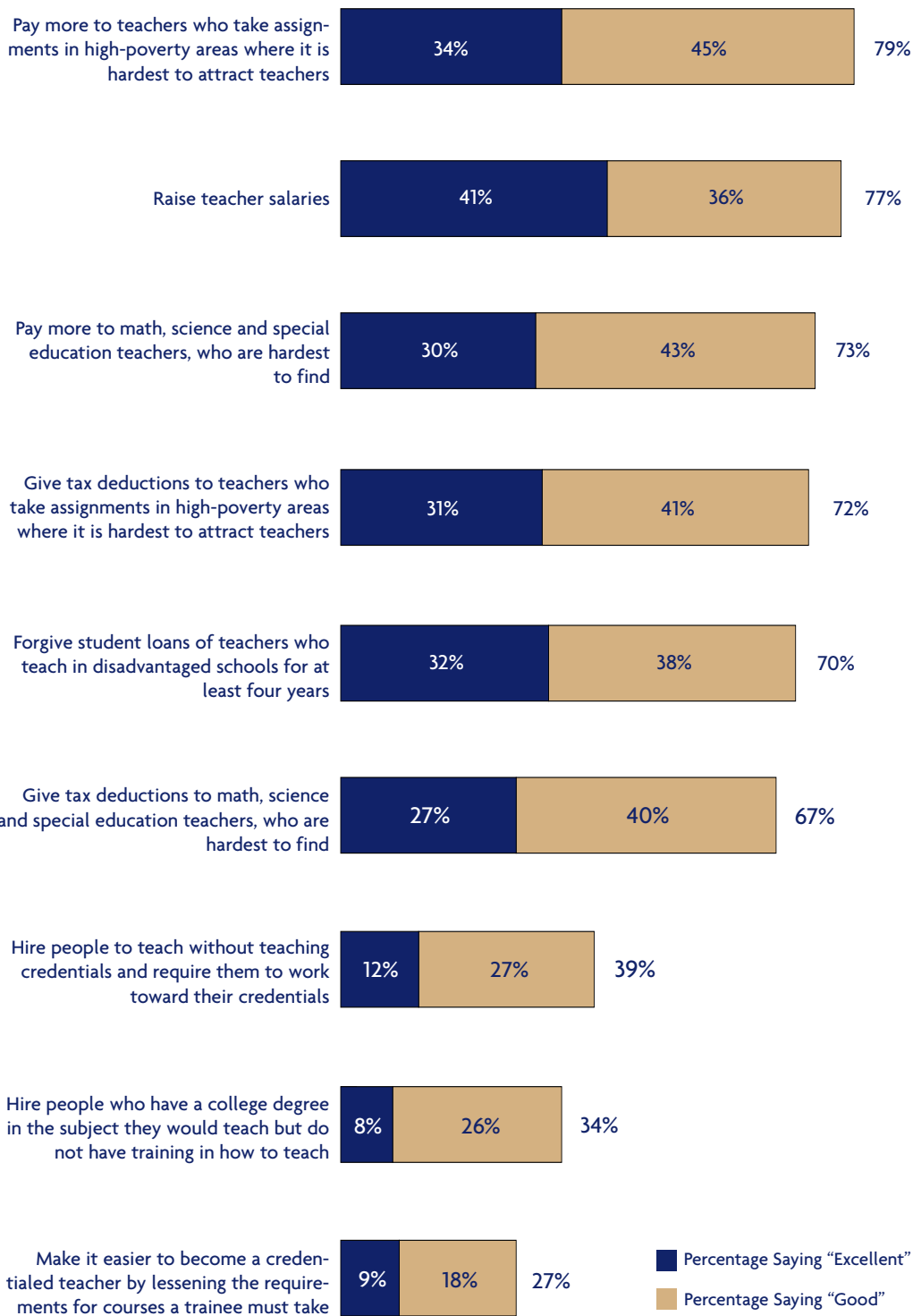
Across the state, 60 percent of Californians say that public school teachers are underpaid. But there are differences among Californians.

Percentage saying teachers are underpaid:



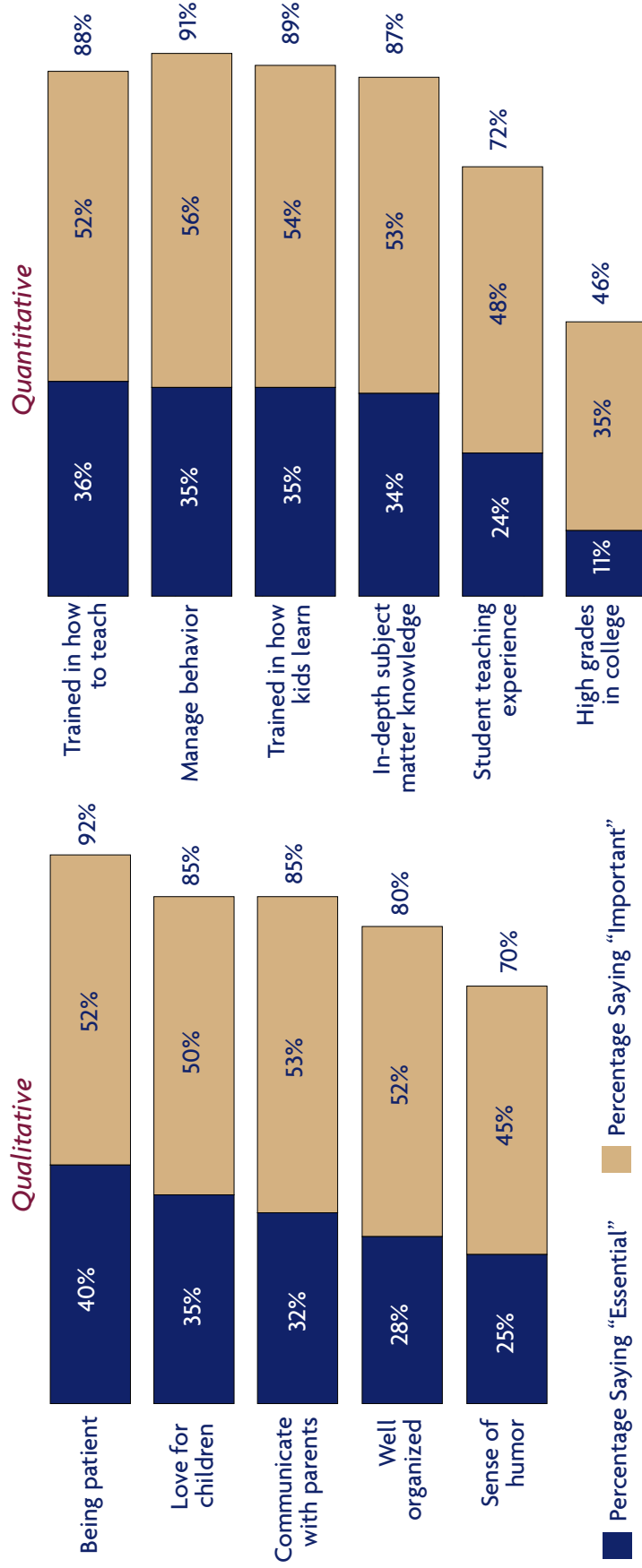
Ranking of “Solutions” to Teacher Shortages

“Here are some ways that have been suggested to increase the number of public school teachers in areas where there is a shortage. Please tell me whether you think each of these is an excellent idea, good, just okay, poor or very poor idea for attracting more people to teach.”



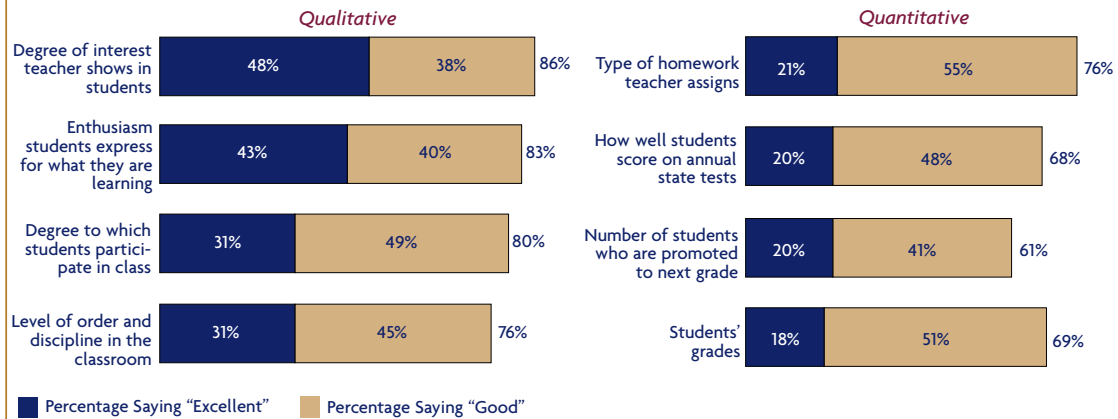
Mix of Teacher Characteristics Important to Californians ...

“Here is a list of characteristics that a teacher might or might not have. Please tell me if you think each quality is essential, very important, somewhat, not very or not at all important for a teacher to be successful.”



... But They Think Teachers Should Be Evaluated Qualitatively

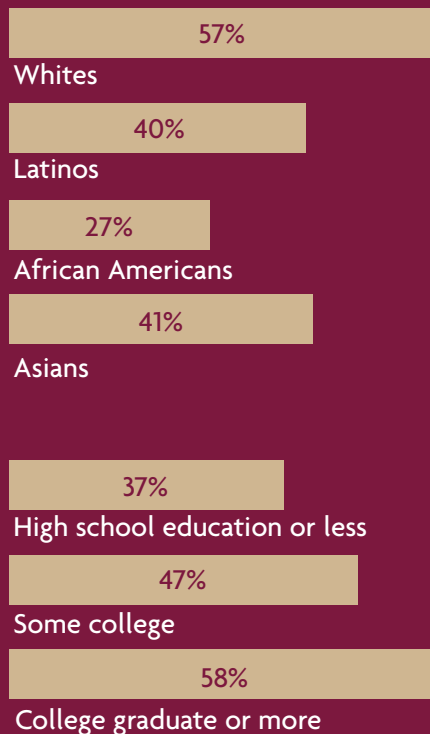
"If you were trying to evaluate the job performance of a teacher, how good an indicator would each of the following be?"



A Closer Look

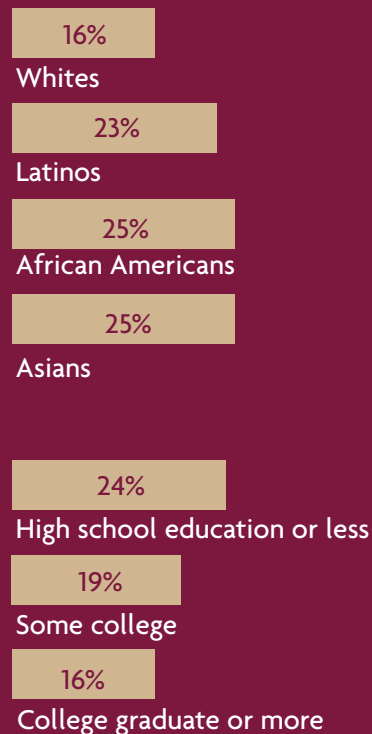
Across the state, 48 percent of Californians say it is an excellent idea to evaluate teachers on the degree of interest a teacher shows in his or her students. But there are differences among Californians.

Percentage saying it is an excellent idea:



Across the state, only 20 percent of Californians say it is an excellent idea to evaluate teachers based on how their students perform on annual state tests. But there are differences among Californians.

Percentage saying it is an excellent idea:



Equal Resources Tops List of Ways To Improve Schools

“Here is a list of ideas for improving California’s public schools. Please tell me how effective each idea would be in improving the quality of education. Use a 10-point scale where 10 means the idea would make public schools a great deal better, and one means it would do nothing to improve California’s schools.”

