

REL West Educational Needs Assessment Survey

California County Superintendent Survey

Under a contract with the U.S. Department of Education, WestEd, a non-profit research, development, and service agency headquartered in San Francisco, is conducting this survey to determine the needs of educators in the western region.

Developed for teachers, school and district administrators, and school board members in the western states (Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah), the survey is designed to yield valuable information about school practitioner needs and priorities as they relate to issues of school improvement, educating English learners, quality of teaching, teacher workforce, assessment, student readiness to learn, and secondary school reform.

As an educator or policymaker, your views are critical in shaping research that will then inform the development of policies, programs, and services in these areas—both for WestEd and for education policymakers throughout the region. So, please do take the time to respond.

Completing the survey will take about 20 minutes.

Responses to this survey will be used only for statistical purposes. The reports prepared from this survey will summarize findings across the sample and will not associate responses with a specific school, district, county, or individual. We will not provide information that identifies you or your school, district, or county to anyone outside the survey team, except as required by law.

If you should have questions about this survey, please contact Emily Rosenthal at Berkeley Policy Associates (the organization administering this survey for WestEd) at 1-800-XXX-XXXX.

For information about WestEd and our programs and services, log on to our website at www.WestEd.org. To learn more about the U.S. Department of Education's Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Program, under which WestEd heads the REL West and is conducting this survey, please visit <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/>.

Thank you, in advance, for responding to this survey.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is xxxx-xxxx. The time required to complete this information collection is **estimated to average 20 minutes** per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to: Rafael Valdivieso, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Room 506E, Washington, D.C. 20208.

Your cooperation in completing this survey will help to make the results of this study comprehensive, reliable, and timely. The information collected will be presented as aggregate statistics only, with no individually identifying information.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY

Please read each question and click on the box for the response choice (see examples 1 and 2) that best represents your position. Select only one response (unless otherwise specified) for each statement or question.

Example 1:

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

- | | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly Agree | Don't Know |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. In my county, we currently need to do more to improve secondary education. | | | | | |

Example 2:

To improve secondary education, how critical is the need in your school to . . .

- | | Not at all critical | A little critical | Rather critical | Extremely critical |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2. strengthen curriculum content? | | | | |

Respondent Information

1. In which county do you serve as County Superintendent?

[Dropdown list of California counties]

2. Does your county offer all grades K-12?

Yes, grades K-12 → *Skip to question 4 (automatic)*

No, grades 1-12 only → *Skip to question 4*

No, my county also offers prekindergarten (PK-12) → *Skip to question 4*

No, my county offers another combination of grades → *Check grades offered in next question*

3. Which of the following grades does your county currently offer? *Mark all that apply.*

Prekindergarten

Kindergarten

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

5th

6th

7th

8th

9th

10th

11th

12th

My county is ungraded

School Improvement

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

- | | Strongly
disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly
Agree | Don't Know |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 4. School improvement is a critical issue for my county (whether or not enough is being done to address it). | | | | | |
| 5. In my county we currently need to do more related to school improvement. | | | | | |

To improve your schools, how critical is the need to provide support for . . .

- | | Not at all
critical | A little
critical | Rather
critical | Extremely
critical |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6. data-driven decision-making? | | | | |
| 7. information on school improvement models? | | | | |
| 8. teacher professional development? | | | | |
| 9. administrator professional development/leadership training? | | | | |
| 10. aligning goals across grades and schools? | | | | |
| 11. math and reading interventions? | | | | |
| 12. school restructuring? | | | | |
| 13. parent involvement? | | | | |
| 14. school safety? | | | | |
| 15. school finance? | | | | |
| 16. physical school building maintenance? | | | | |

17. Is there another critical need related to school improvement in your county?

No → *Skip to question 19*
Yes

18. Please list this other critical need related to school improvement in your county.

English Learners

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

- | | Strongly
disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly
Agree | Don't know |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 19. Educating English learners is a critical issue in my county (whether or not enough is being done to address it). | | | | | |
| 20. In my county we need to do more to address concerns about educating English learners. | | | | | |

To better address the issue of educating English learners, how critical is the need in your county for . . .

- | | Not at all
critical | A little
critical | Rather
critical | Extremely
critical |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 21. effective instructional strategies for teaching English learners? | | | | |
| 22. effective instructional materials appropriate for English learners? | | | | |
| 23. clear academic standards to guide instruction for English learners? | | | | |
| 24. curriculum to specifically guide instruction for English learners? | | | | |
| 25. clear communication about rules and procedures for re-classifying or re-designating English learners? | | | | |

26. Is there another critical need related to the instruction of English learners in your county?

No → *Skip to question 28*
Yes

27. Please list this other critical need related to the instruction of English learners in your county.

Quality of Teaching

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

- | | Strongly
disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly
Agree | Don't Know |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 28. Improving the quality of teaching is a critical issue in my county (whether or not enough is being done to address it). | | | | | |
| 29. In my county we need to do more to improve the quality of teaching. | | | | | |

To improve the quality of teaching, how critical is the need in your county for effective strategies for ...

- | | Not at all
critical | A little
critical | Rather
critical | Extremely
critical |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 30. teaching gifted and talented students? | | | | |
| 31. teaching students with special needs? | | | | |
| 32. teaching mathematics? | | | | |
| 33. teaching language arts? | | | | |
| 34. teaching science? | | | | |
| 35. teaching social studies? | | | | |
| 36. teaching foreign language? | | | | |
| 37. managing classrooms? | | | | |
| 38. Is there another critical need related to the quality of teaching in your county? | | | | |

No → *Skip to question 40*

Yes

39. Please list this other critical need related to the quality of teaching in your county.

Teacher Workforce issues

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

- | | Strongly
disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly
Agree | Don't Know |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 40. Recruiting and retaining good teachers is a critical issue in my county (whether or not enough is being done to address it). | | | | | |
| 41. In my county we need to do more to recruit and retain good teachers. | | | | | |

To better address the recruitment and retention of good teachers, how critical is the need in your county for . . .

- | | Not at all
critical | A little
critical | Rather
critical | Extremely
critical |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 42. good candidates entering the teaching profession? | | | | |
| 43. assigning good teachers where they are most needed? | | | | |
| 44. mentoring and other support for new teachers? | | | | |
| 45. rewarding good teachers with incentives? | | | | |
| 46. professional development for teachers? | | | | |
| 47. support for complying with No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requirements for highly qualified teachers? | | | | |

48. Is there another critical need related to teacher workforce issues in your county?

No → *Skip to question 50*
Yes

49. Please list this other critical need related to teacher workforce issues in your county.

Assessment

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

- | | Strongly
disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly
Agree | Don't Know |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 50. Student assessment is a critical issue in my county (whether or not enough is being done to address it). | | | | | |
| 51. In my county we need to do more to address concerns about assessment. | | | | | |

To better address assessment, how critical in your county is the need for . . .

- | | Not at all
critical | A little
critical | Rather
critical | Extremely
critical |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 52. aligning assessments with standards? | | | | |
| 53. better assessment accommodations or alternative assessments for English learners? | | | | |
| 54. better assessment accommodations for students with special needs? | | | | |
| 55. improving classroom assessment to guide instruction? | | | | |
| 56. interpreting, communicating, and using standardized assessment results? | | | | |

57. Is there another critical need related to assessment in your county?

No → *Skip to question 59*
Yes

58. Please list this other critical need related to assessment in your county.

Readiness to Learn

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

- | | Strongly
disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly
Agree | Don't Know |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 59. Students coming to school unprepared to learn is a critical issue in my county (whether or not enough is being done to address it). | | | | | |
| 60. In my county we need to do more to address the issue of students not being ready to learn. | | | | | |

To better address students' preparation for school and learning, how critical is the need for strategies to address . . .

- | | Not at all
critical | A little
critical | Rather
critical | Extremely
critical |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 61. students' cognitive skill development (e.g., academic skills, grade-level specific skills)? | | | | |
| 62. students' social-emotional development? | | | | |
| 63. student health (e.g., immunizations, nutrition, sleep)? | | | | |
| 64. parent involvement (e.g., role of parents in education)? | | | | |
| 65. students' work habits (e.g., bring homework assignments in when due, knowing when tests will be given, following instructions)? | | | | |

66. Is there another critical need related to students' preparation for school and learning in your county?

No → *Skip to question 68*

Yes

67. Please list this other critical need related to students' preparation for school and learning in your county.

→ *If Elementary county superintendent will automatically skip to question 80*

Secondary Reform

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

- | | Strongly
disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly
Agree | Don't Know |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 68. Improving secondary education is a critical issue in my county (whether or not enough is being done to address it). | | | | | |
| 69. In my county we currently need to do more to improve secondary education. | | | | | |

To improve secondary education, how critical is the need in your county to . . .

- | | Not at all
critical | A little
critical | Rather
critical | Extremely
critical |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 70. strengthen curriculum content? | | | | |
| 71. increase academic requirements for graduation? | | | | |
| 72. implement structural changes (e.g., reduce school size, change length of school day)? | | | | |
| 73. strengthen career technical education? | | | | |
| 74. increase postsecondary access and success? | | | | |
| 75. reduce dropouts and truancy? | | | | |
| 76. provide additional support to students to pass high school graduation tests? | | | | |
| 77. provide effective remediation materials and strategies? | | | | |

78. Is there another critical need related to secondary school reform in your county?

No → *Skip to question 80*
Yes

79. Please list this other critical need related to secondary school reform in your county.

OPEN-ENDED QUESTION

80. Do you have any additional comments?

Contact information (Optional)

Please provide the following information so that we may contact you if we have further questions.

81. Name of person completing survey _____

82. Telephone ____ - ____ - _____

83. Email _____

Thank you for completing this survey!