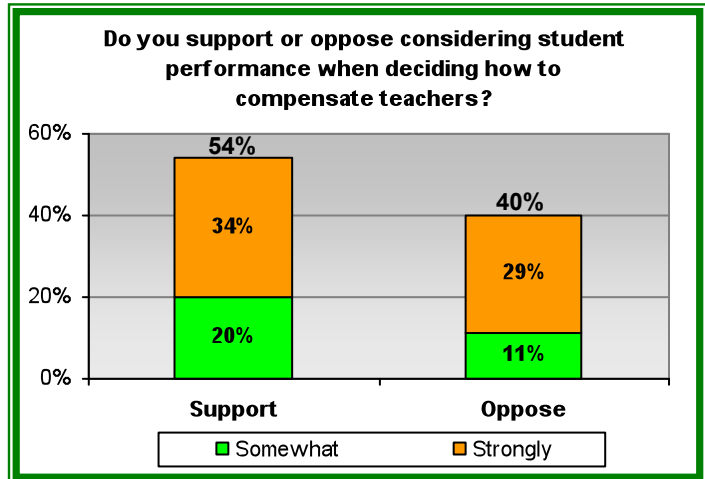




California Poll: Golden State Residents Seek Nexus Between Student Achievement and Teacher Paychecks

For most working Americans, the amount of money they take home each year is directly correlated with their on-the-job performance—results reap rewards. In a recent statewide poll, Californians believe teachers' salaries should be determined by the same standards.

More than half of all respondents (54%) surveyed supported “considering student performance when deciding how to compensate teachers. Under this plan, a teacher whose students actually perform well would receive a higher salary and additional financial rewards.” More than one-third (34%) endorsed this notion with notable intensity. Still, four-in-ten (40%) Californians opposed this notion, 29% of them “strongly.”



- Non-parents were 6-points more likely than their child-rearing counterparts to favor performance-based pay for teachers (58%-52%). Single parents, who comprise 27% of the overall survey sample, were particularly enthusiastic in their endorsement of a plan to link teachers' pay to student achievement, with a whopping 62% of them giving it the greenlight.
- ***Across the broader demographic spectrum***, groups more likely than most to support this method of teacher compensation included men, low-income households (less than \$30,000 annually), all minority groups: Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, 18-34 year olds, those with less than a high school education or some college experience, white collar workers, blue-collar workers, students, registered Republicans (men in particular), those not registered to vote, and self-identified conservatives.
- Groups more likely than average to oppose linking teacher pay to student performance included Whites, women, 35-44 year olds, junior seniors (those aged 55-64), college graduates, executives, registered Democrats (especially female Dems) and Independents, and self-identified liberals.
- Californians, who supported the measure 54%-40% overall, are a slightly tougher audience than Americans as a whole, 59% of whom were in favor and 34% against.

The statewide telephone survey of 700 adults in California was conducted January 5-11, 2005 by **the polling company™, inc.** for the **Center for Education Reform**. The margin of error for the survey is $\pm 3.7\%$ at a 95% confidence interval.