

What Voters Think about Excellent Schools Now's Agenda for Improving Education in Washington

Highlights from a Statewide Survey

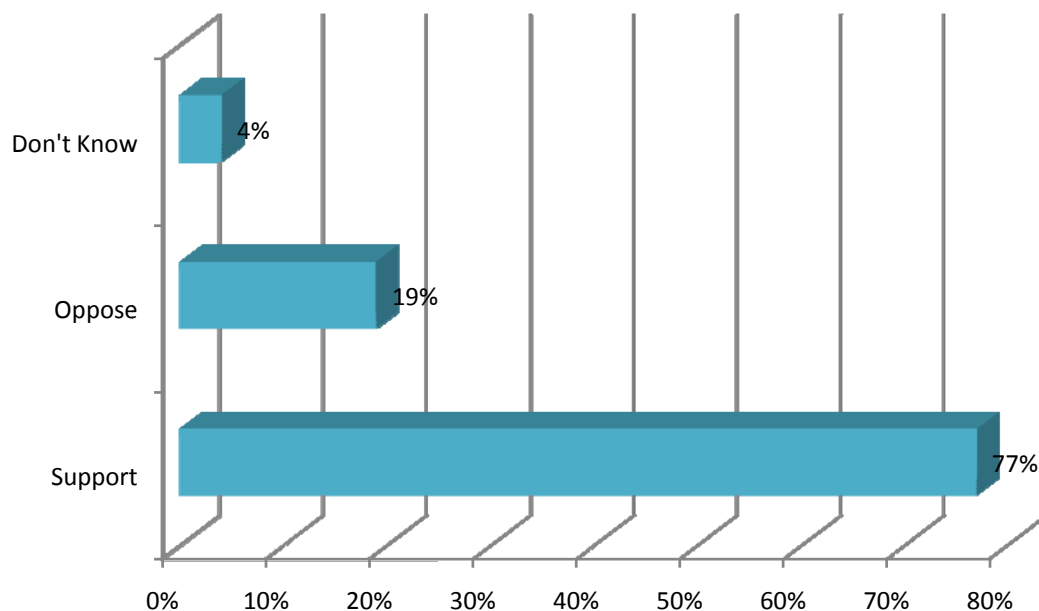
In January 2011, in order to determine where the public stands on key education reform issues, Partnership for Learning and the Excellent Schools Now Coalition polled 500 Washington voters.

The results are clear. Washington voters support making sure ***each and every*** student is taught by an excellent teacher, attends a high-performing school led by an excellent principal, and is able to graduate prepared to succeed in college and work.

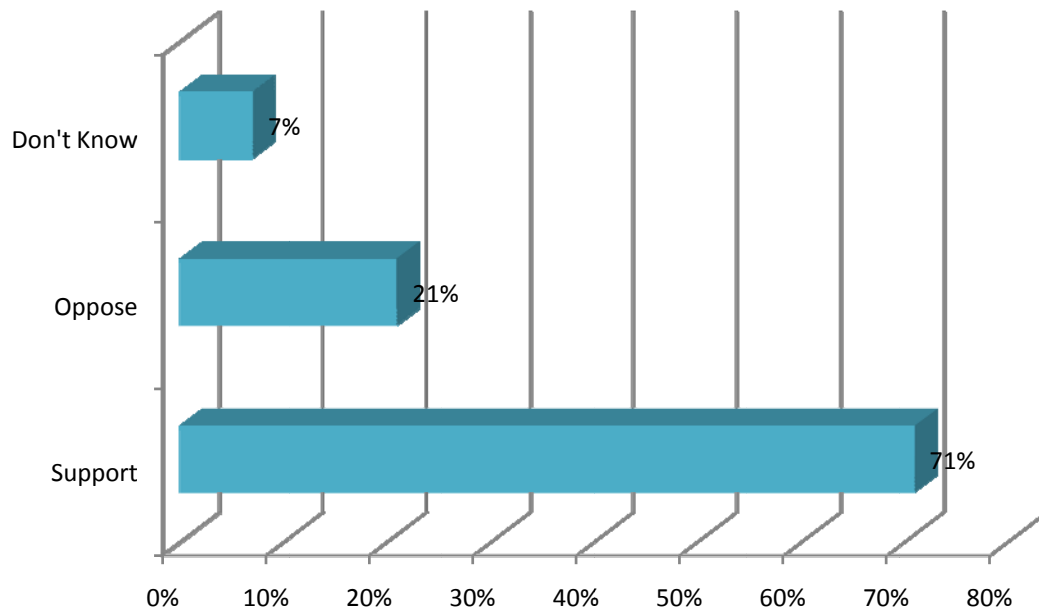
Key Findings

Graduation Requirements

The legislature should maintain the requirement that students must pass the state math and science assessment to graduate, beginning with the class of 2013.

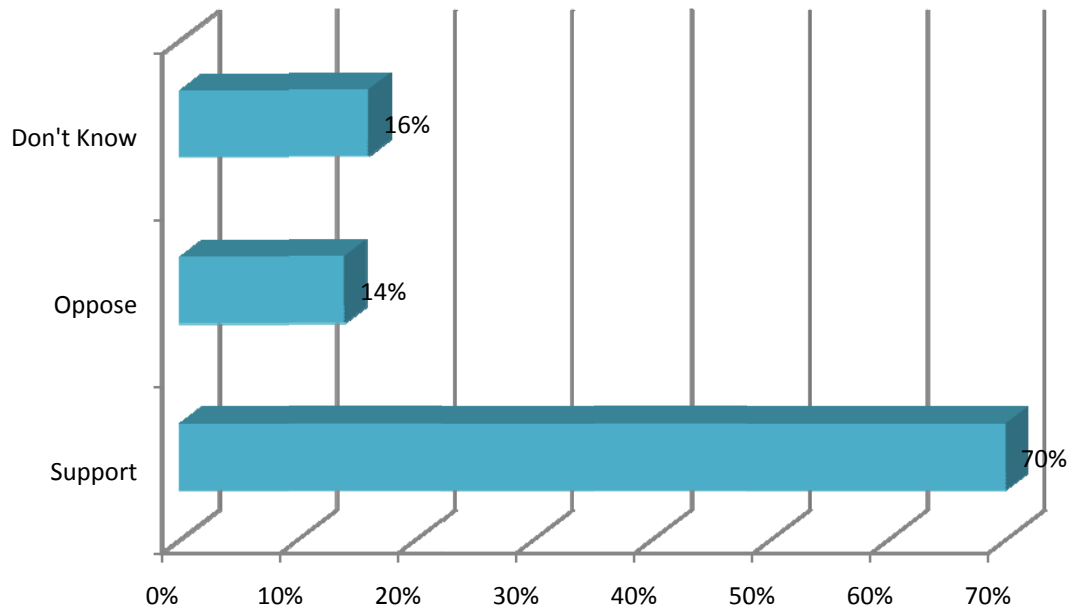


The legislature should adopt and fund the State Board of Education's New College and Work Ready 24 Credit Diploma proposal within the existing budget to align high school graduation requirements in Washington to minimum college entry requirements, starting with the class of 2016.



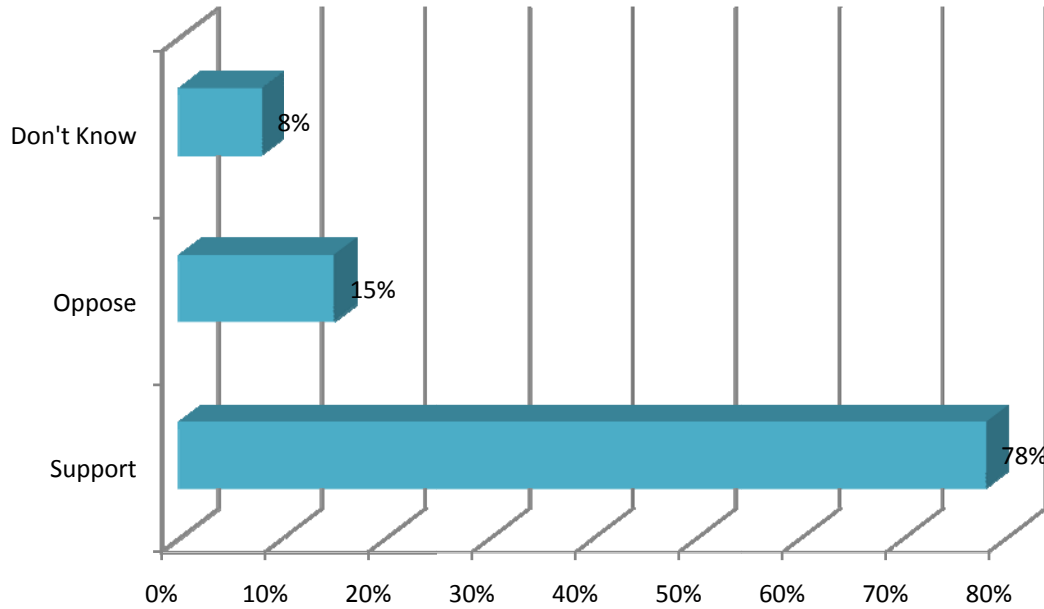
Common Core Standards

The legislature should adopt the Common Core standards in math and English language arts designed by the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers, and adopted in 42 states and territories.

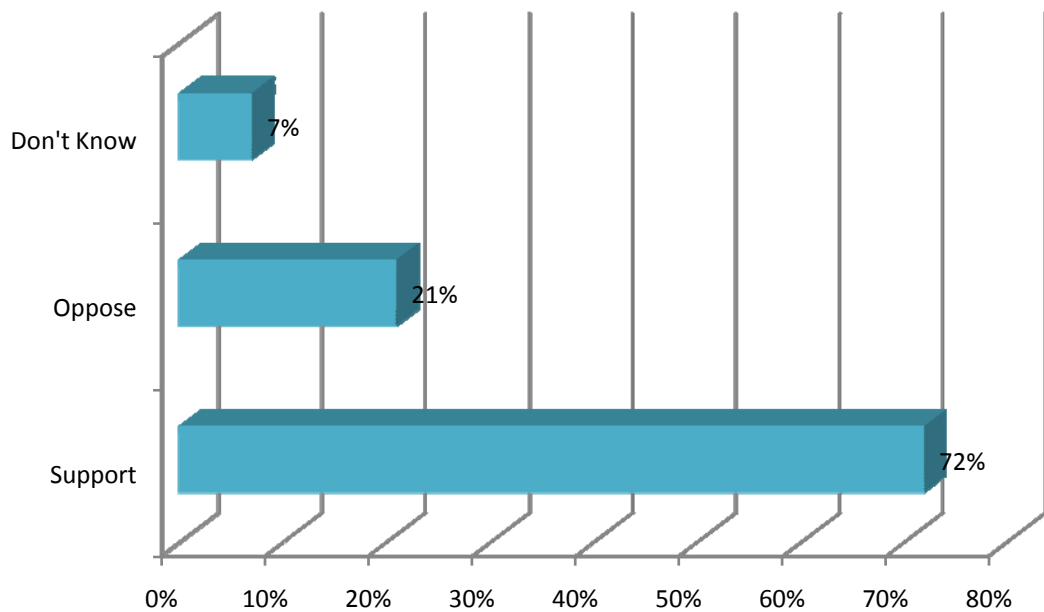


Great Teachers and Leaders

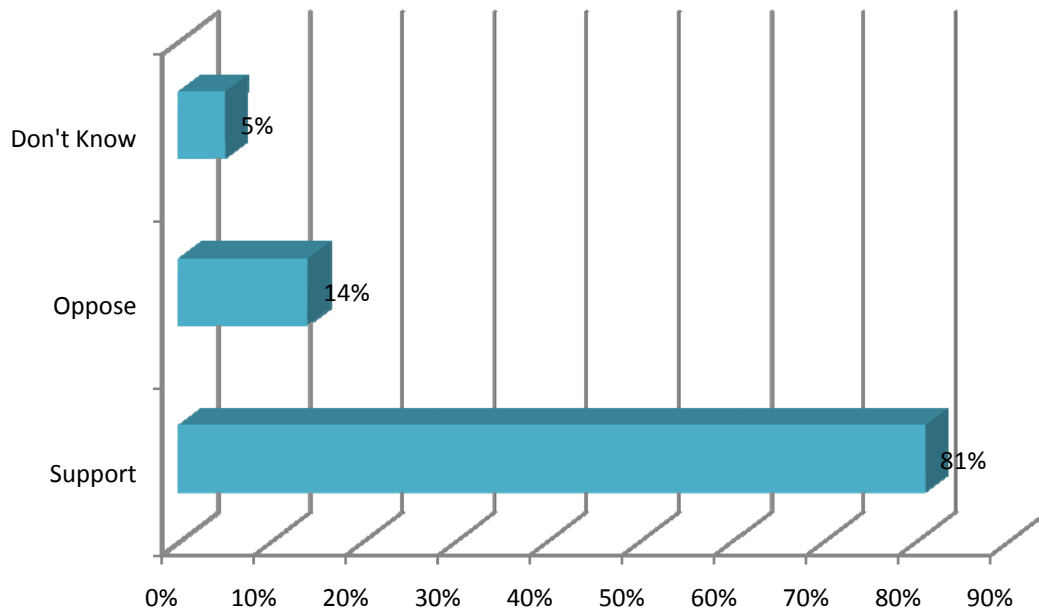
The legislature should direct the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop a fair, easily understandable measure of student academic growth to be used as a factor in all teacher and principal evaluations statewide.



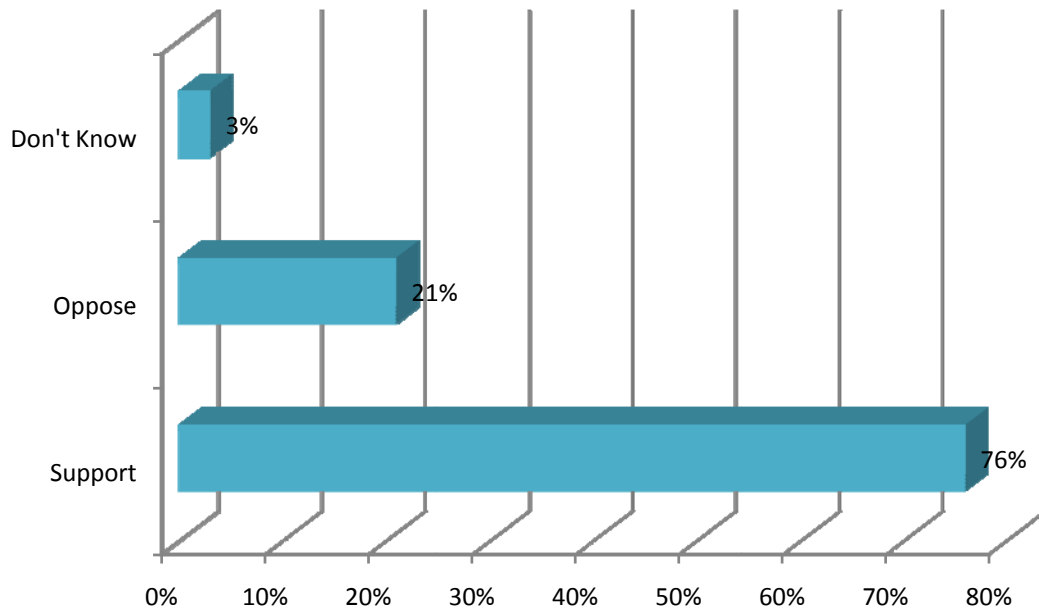
The legislature should direct the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to create a single teacher and principal evaluation system to be used by districts statewide.



The legislature should require districts to base any teacher layoffs on performance rather than seniority.

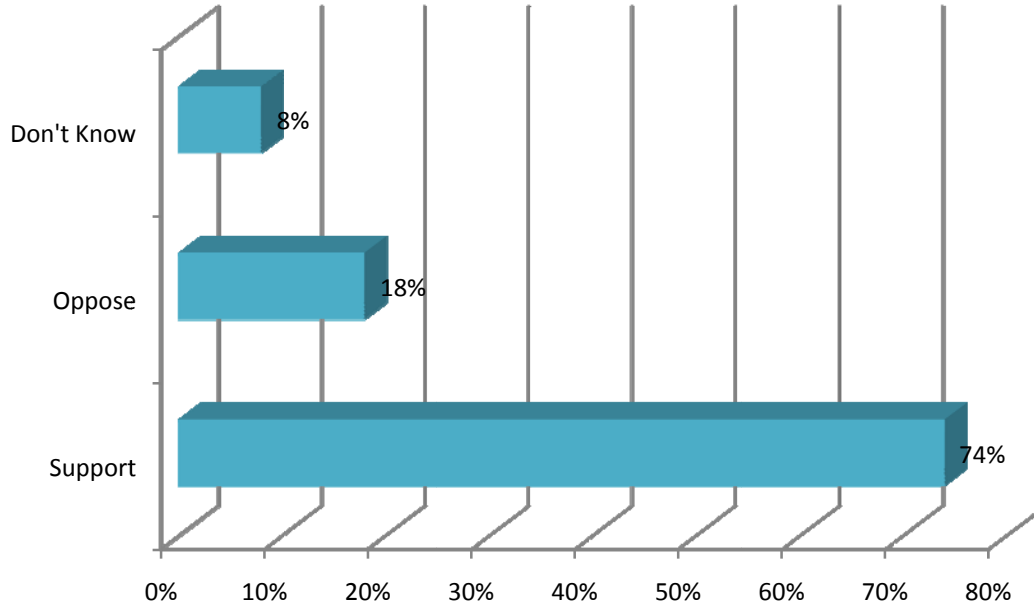


The legislature should allow principals to have the authority to hire and fire the teachers and other staff who work in their buildings.



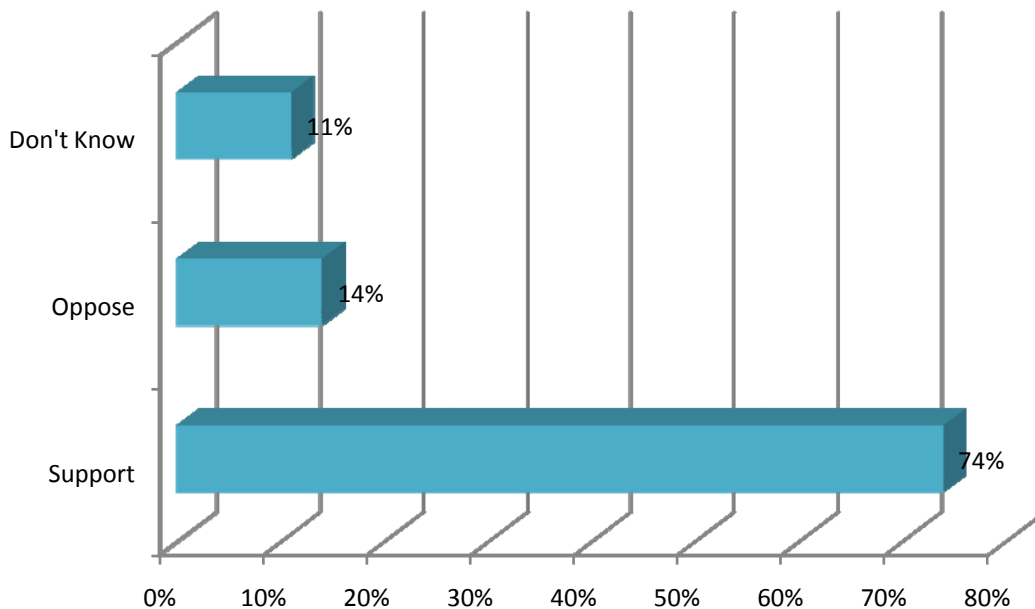
Turning Around the Lowest Performing Schools

The legislature should require school districts with chronically underperforming schools to take actions such as extending the school day and year, hiring only exceptional teachers and barring ineffective teachers from teaching at the school, providing a significant monetary incentive for high-performing teachers to move to low performing schools, and giving principals hiring and firing authority.



Education Funding

When forced to make budget cuts, the legislature should prioritize programs and practices that are proven to accelerate student achievement, including reprioritizing spending to support the implementation of the new graduation requirements aligned with minimum college admissions requirements over things not found by research to be as effective.



Methodology:

- Telephone Survey.
- 500 interviews with voters across the state
- Quotas set by age, gender and area of State based on the total population of voters in Washington State to ensure a representative sample.
- Conducted January 10, 2011 and January 13, 2011
- Margin of error for n=500 is +/- 4.4%, at the 95% confidence level.

Partnership for Learning

Partnership for Learning believes every student deserves a quality education. Since 1994, as the Washington business community's voice in education, the Partnership has focused on communicating and advocating for the success of every student. Our goal is to create a stronger public education system that prepares all students for college and the world of work.



Excellent Schools Now

Excellent Schools Now Coalition is comprised of the following organizations: Alliance for Education, ArtsEd Washington, Black Collective, Black Education Strategy Roundtable, Coalition for Equal Education Rights, College & Work Ready Agenda, College Spark, College Success Foundation, Communities in Schools of Seattle, Executive Council for a Greater Tacoma, King County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, League of Education Voters, New Futures, Pacific Science Center, Partnership for Learning, Powerful Schools, Rainier Scholars, Schools Out Washington, Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, Seattle Breakfast Group, Social Venture Partners, Stand for Children, Tabor 100, Teachers United, Technology Access Foundation, Technology Alliance, WashACE, Washington Alliance of Black School Educators, Washington Global Health Alliance, Washington Roundtable, Washington State PTA, and Washington Technology Industry Association. You can learn more about Excellent Schools Now Coalition at www.excellentschoolsnow.org

