



BLACK IN SCHOOL

FACT SHEET:

California Black Voters Education Survey Results

The [Black in School Coalition](#), an organization bringing together education stakeholders with a mission to improve academic and social outcomes for Black students, conducted a statewide survey of 1,199 California Black voters on education funding, school performance and the biggest challenges facing Black students today – with an emphasis on finding a solution to close the academic achievement gap for Black students. Currently, 70% of Black students in California are not meeting English Language Arts standards and 84% are not meeting math standards compared to the state’s averages.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- 84% want education funding to target the lowest-performing students in California.
- 79% support a California legislative proposal to change the way schools are funded by creating a new grant for California’s lowest-performing subgroup of students not currently receiving funding.
- 50% do not think schools in their area are providing a quality education for Black students.
93% think chronic absenteeism in California is an urgent problem.

Funding Low-Performing Students

- 84% of those surveyed want education funding to target the lowest-performing students across California. Most Black voters consistently supported allocating funding based on student performance rather than income, finding it more persuasive.
- 71% of respondents think a proposal that allocates additional funding based on student performance would improve education for Black students.

- 79% of respondents support a California legislative proposal to change the way schools are funded by creating a new grant for California's lowest-performing subgroup of students not currently receiving funding.

High Quality Education for All?

- Though 62% of respondents agree the schools in their area are providing high quality education to their students, a stark 50% of Black voters do not believe schools in their area are providing that for Black students.

Challenges Facing Schools

- When asked to identify the biggest problems facing schools, survey respondents identified underfunding (27%), school safety (19%), low educational standards (15%), and political influence (15%) to be the biggest issues facing schools today.

Challenges Facing Black Students

- When asked to identify the biggest challenge facing Black students today, 32 percent picked "all of the above." Those who answered "all of the above" identified the following as being the biggest challenges:
 - Black students are receiving a lower quality education than non-Black students.
 - Schools with mostly Black students are not properly funded.
 - Black students are not graduating ready for college or a career.
 - Student discipline is too severe.
 - There is a lack of focused attention on the educational needs of Black students.
 - Black students face racial discrimination.

The California Legislature & Governor Newsom

- 48% of respondents disagreed that the California Legislature is working hard to improve education for Black students.
- When asked if Governor Newsom was doing enough to improve educational outcomes for Black students, only 27% agreed.

Chronic Absenteeism Urgency

- After hearing that chronic school absenteeism in California has more than doubled from 10 percent to 22 percent between 2019 and 2023, 93% of Black voters think it is an urgent problem for school districts to address.

Support for Public Charter Schools

- Enthusiasm for charter schools is strong, with 72% of respondents supporting the formation of public charter schools.