

## Teacher Perspectives on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

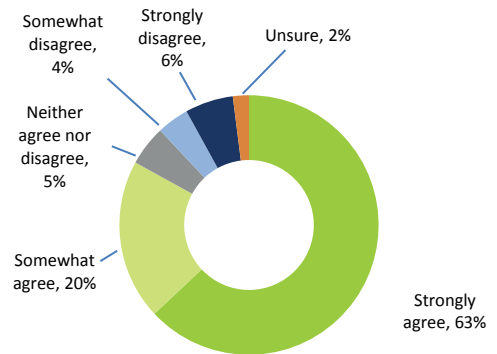
Between April 10 and April 13, 2015, Teach Plus polled teachers in the Teach Plus network on a series of questions concerning the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This brief is based on the poll responses of 1,111 teachers who currently teach in traditional public schools or public charter schools.<sup>1</sup>

### ISSUE #1: What do teachers think about possible changes to testing and accountability?

**Question:** Congress is considering a proposal to streamline testing by providing funding to states to audit their assessments and eliminate poor-quality or redundant district-required assessments.

Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Congress should provide funding to states for assessment audits that would determine which district tests are unnecessary and should be eliminated.”

**83 percent of teachers agree that Congress should provide funding to states for assessment audits that would determine which district tests are unnecessary and should be eliminated.**<sup>2</sup>



**Question:** Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement: “I believe that part of the value of tests is to have objective, comparable data that allows me to see how my students are progressing towards state standards.”

**80 percent of teachers agree that part of the value of tests is to have objective, comparable data that allows them to see how their students are progressing towards state standards.**

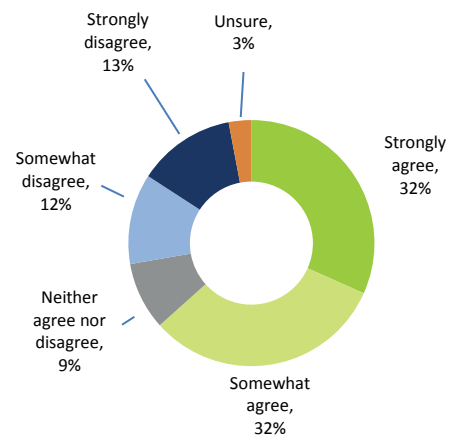
**Question:** Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement: “I believe that part of the value of tests is that they provide student data addressing the same level of mastery from one classroom to the next across the state.”

**66 percent of teachers agree that part of the value of tests is that they provide student data addressing the same level of mastery from one classroom to the next across the state.**

**Question:** Current law requires states and districts to take action, including providing resources and supports, when a school or group of students in a school (such as students who qualify for free and reduced price lunches) do not demonstrate improvement in student achievement over time.

Congress is considering a bill that would eliminate this requirement. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Congress should require states and districts to take action when students do not demonstrate improvements in student achievement over time.”

**64 percent of teachers agree that Congress should require states and districts to take action when students do not demonstrate improvements in student achievement over time.**



<sup>1</sup> In this sample of 1,111 public school teachers (both traditional and charter) 22 percent have 5 or fewer years of full-time teaching experience, 27 percent have 6 to 10 years, 32 percent have 11 to 19 years, and 19 percent have 20 or more years.

<sup>2</sup> Aggregate results for this and other questions may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

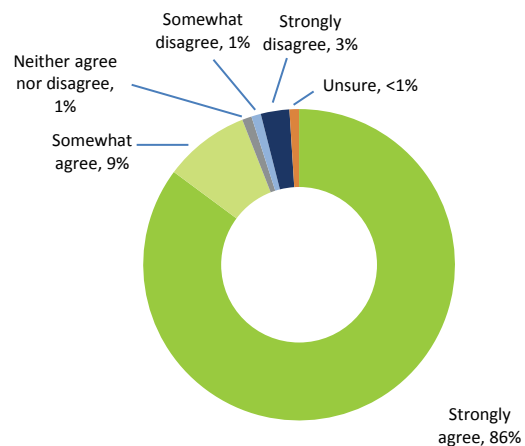
## ISSUE #2: What do teachers think about possible changes to Title I funding and comparability?

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**Question:** Title I funding is currently based on the number of students living in poverty, with a portion weighted towards districts with large concentrations of such students. Congress is considering changes that would mean states could distribute Title I dollars without this weighting.

Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Congress should continue to provide additional funds to districts that have a higher concentration of students in poverty.”

**94 percent of teachers agree that Congress should continue to provide additional funds to districts that have a higher concentration of students in poverty.**



**Question:** In 2012, Congress passed a law that cut education funding by \$4.1 billion for that year alone, including over \$700 million in cuts to the federal Title I program that sends additional dollars to high-poverty schools. Congress is considering legislation that would freeze Title I funding at reduced levels through 2021.

Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Congress should not freeze Title I funding.”

**82 percent of teachers agree that Congress should not freeze Title I funding.**

**Question:** Congress currently requires states to use federal dollars to supplement state spending for schools. Congress is considering allowing states to use federal education funding to replace some state funding, which would likely reduce the overall amount of funding for schools.

Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Congress should not allow states to use federal dollars to replace some state spending on education.”

**78 percent of teachers agree that Congress should not allow states to use federal dollars to replace some state spending on education.**

**Question:** Federal law requires states to report on district and school expenditures. This should allow the public to see differences in spending by district or school (for example, how much is spent on teacher salaries or resources for students).

Because districts are allowed to report on spending by using averages across the district (for things such as teacher salaries), funding disparities for individual schools are less apparent. Congress may consider a proposal that would require districts to report on actual school expenditures and not use district-wide averages.

Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Districts should be required to report on actual school spending and not just district-wide averages for expenditures.”

**82 percent of teachers agree that Districts should be required to report on actual school spending and not just district-wide averages for expenditures.**