

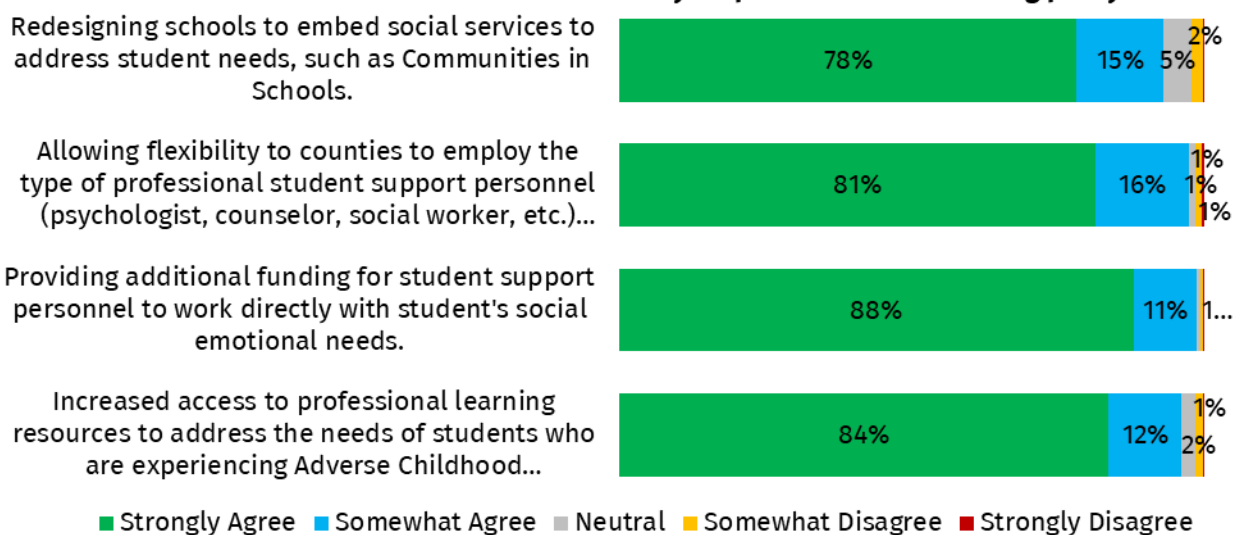
Report on Comment Card Reponses

Forum participants had the discretion to answer, or not to answer, any of the open-ended or selected response questions posed on comment cards. As a result, numerous partially completed cards were collected. For example, some participants provided extensive commentary about what they like or have concerns with related to a policy but provided no selected response answers. Although some participants provided no or limited written commentary, large majorities completed selected response questions. What follows is a summary of responses to those questions.

Social Emotional Supports

Of the 624 comment cards collected on the *Social Emotional Supports* policy topic, more than 600 had completed responses to selected response questions. From those responses it is clear that there is strong support for making it possible to provide such support to students. For example, virtually all responses (99%) indicate participants somewhat or strongly agree with providing additional funding for student support personnel to work directly with student's social emotional needs. Nearly as many favor allowing flexibility to counties to employ the type of professional student support personnel best meeting the needs of the students (97%) and increasing access to professional learning resources to address the needs of students (96%). Only slightly fewer (93%) favor embedding social services to address student needs in schools, such as is done with the Communities in Schools model.

Please indicate your position on the following policy ideas:

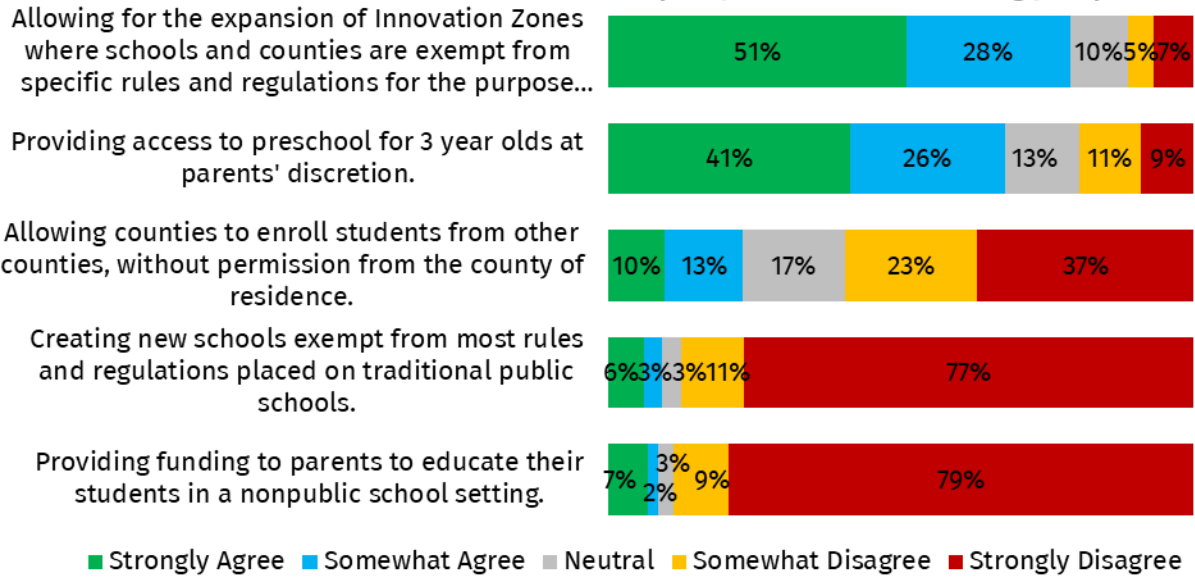


School Choice and Innovation

Over 700 comment cards had selected response answers for policy ideas under the topic of *School Choice and Innovation*. Support varied widely between proposals. About eight in ten (79%) somewhat or strongly agree with the expansion of Innovation Zones where schools and counties seek exemption from specific rules and regulations to implement innovative tactics to improve student outcomes. Similarly, about seven in ten (68%) favor providing access to preschool for three-year-olds, at parents' discretion and with appropriate safeguards in place.

Conversely, only four in ten (40%) favor open enrollment for students between county school districts. Vast majorities (89% and 87%, respectively) somewhat or strongly disagree with providing funding to parents to educate students in nonpublic school settings (i.e., Education Savings Accounts) and creating new schools exempt from most rules and regulations placed on traditional public schools (i.e., charter schools).

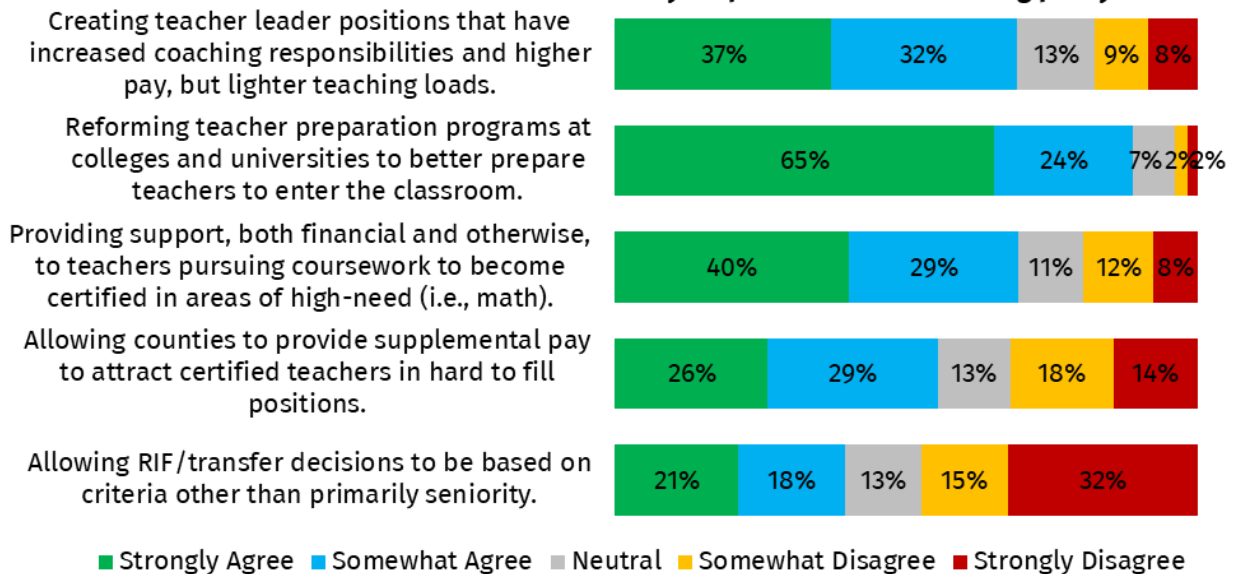
Please indicate your position on the following policy ideas:



Instructional Quality

Completed selected response questions were obtained from more than 550 comment cards specific to *Instructional Quality*. Nearly nine in ten (89%) respondents somewhat or strongly agree with reforming teacher preparation programs to better prepare new teachers to enter the classroom. Furthermore, about seven in ten (69%) indicate somewhat or strong agreement with the concept of teacher leader positions where teachers take on more peer coaching responsibilities but have lighter teaching loads. A similar level of agreement exists for providing both financial and other support to teachers pursuing coursework to become certified in areas of high-need.

Please indicate your position on the following policy ideas:



More modest support exists for allowing counties to provide supplemental pay to attract certified teachers in hard to fill positions—here 55% of responses somewhat or strongly agree. Responses are more neutral or negative with regard to allowing RIF/transfer decisions to be based on criteria other than seniority. Nearly five in ten (47%) somewhat or strongly disagree with this idea.

Funding Opportunities

Completed multiple choice questions were obtained on more than 350 comment cards specific to *Funding Opportunities*. Almost all responses (95%) indicate participants somewhat or strongly agree with providing increased compensation to teachers and school service personnel. Nearly as many (83%) favor creating an enrollment floor to counties that have less than 1,400 students for purposes of determining funding from the school aide formula.

About seven in ten (69%) somewhat or strongly agree with local share cap to increase the state's share of the school aid formula to allow a larger share of local funding to remain in the county. Only slightly more than half of participants responding somewhat or strongly agree with allowing local communities to generate more funding to support local schools by adjusting local levy rates. In fact about three in ten (28%) somewhat or strongly disagree with this strategy, and about one in five (19%) gave a neutral response to the idea.

Please indicate your position on the following policy ideas:

