1998

## CLASS SIZE REDUCTION STUDY



## Parent Survey

IMPORTANT: This questionnaire is to be filled out by the parent or guardian of the third grade child named below:

Student name
Teacher name
School name
ID \#

Conducted by:
A Consortium of California Research and Policy Organizations.

- American Institutes for Research (AIR)
- RAND
- Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE)
- WestED
- EdSource


Dear Parent:
Please fill out this page so we can mail you a check for $\$ 10.00$ to thank you for completing and returning this Parent Survey.

## PLEASE PRINT USING CAPITAL LETTERS

## 1. YOUR NAME:

FIRST NAME


13-24/

MIDDLE NAME


25-34/

LAST NAME

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## 2. YOUR ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER:



Phone Number


## THANK YOU VERY MUCH. WE WILL MAIL YOU YOUR CHECK AS SOON AS WE RECEIVE YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY.

## SECTION A: YOUR THIRD GRADER

1. Please fill in the following information about your third grade child named on the front of this survey.
a. Is this child: ........................... $\square$ Male $\square$ 7/
b. How old was this child on his or her last birthday? .... \# Years

c. How many years has this child attended his or her current school? $\qquad$ \# Years

d. How many children are in this child's classroom? $\qquad$

e. In what Country was this child born?
${ }_{1} \square$ United States
${ }_{2} \square$ Other Country (Where) $\qquad$

|  |  |  | YES | NO | DON'T KNOW |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Does this child participate in a Special Education program for students with disabilities? $\qquad$ | ${ }_{1} \square$ | ${ }_{2} \square$ | ${ }_{3} \square$ |
|  |  | Does this child participate in <br> a Gifted and Talented program? | $\square$ | ${ }_{2} \square$ | ${ }_{3} \square$ |
|  |  | Does this child receive English-as-a Second Language (ESL) instruction? | $\square$ | ${ }_{2} \square$ | $\square$ |

2. Since your child entered third grade last fall, have you (or your spouse/partner) attended the following events at your child's school?
If Yes: HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU
DO THIS?
NO YES
a. Scheduled conference with
teacher about your child
$\square$

b. School meeting $\qquad$ ${ }_{1} \square$

c. Back-to-school night $\qquad$ $\square$

d. Fundraising event , 1


## SECTION B: YOUR CHILD'S THIRD GRADE TEACHER AND SCHOOL

## Please answer the following questions about your third grade child listed on the cover of the questionnaire.

3. Since your child entered third grade, has her /his teacher contacted you (or your spouse/partner) to discuss the following things? If you (or your spouse) discussed these things with your third grader's teacher, please indicate the number of times you spoke to them about these things.

If Yes: HOW MANY<br>TIMES DID YOU DISCUSS THIS?

## Your CHILD'S:

a. Academic progress or performance
b. Behavior at school $\qquad$ ${ }_{1} \square$ $\ldots . . . . .{ }_{1} \frac{\mathrm{NO}}{\square}$
b. Behavior at school
${ }_{1} \square$


32-34/
c. Placement in a special school program $\qquad$ ${ }_{1} \square$ ${ }_{1} \square$

d. Placement out of a special program $\qquad$


41-43/
e. Other things about your child's school performance or activities $\qquad$


44-46/
4. Since your child entered third grade, have you (or your spouse/partner) been contacted by the school (not counting the teacher) to discuss the following things?

> IF YES: HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU DISCUSS THIS?

## Your CHILD'S:

a. Academic performance $\qquad$ ${ }_{1} \square$ NO
b. Behavior in school $\qquad$ $\square$
c. Placement in a special school program $\qquad$ ... ${ }_{1}$ $\square$ ${ }_{1} \square$
e. Other things about your child's school performance or activities $\qquad$ , $\square$

YES



53-55/
d. Placement out of a special school program $\qquad$


59-61/
5. Since your third grader's school opened last fall, have you (or your spouse/partner) contacted your child's third grade teacher to discuss the following things?

If Yes: How many TIMES DID YOU
DISCUSS THIS?
YES
a. Your child's performance in school $\qquad$
$\square$

b. Your child's study habits $\qquad$ , $\square$

c. A concern about your child's
homework

d. A concern about safety in the classroom .. $\square$

e. A concern about discipline in the classroom $\qquad$
$\square$

f. Volunteering to work in the classroom $\square$

6. Since your child entered third grade in the fall, have you received any one of the following things?

> IF YES: HOW MANY
> TIMES DID YOU
> RECEIVE IT?

NO YES
a. Newsletters about general activities
in the school $\qquad$ , $\square$
b. Information about the school's
class size reduction program $\qquad$ ${ }_{1} \square$
c. Memos about specific events $\qquad$ ${ }_{1} \square$
d. Other notices addressed to parents $\qquad$ , $\square$




31-33/
31-33/
7. In a typical month, how many times do you volunteer to work in your third grader's classroom?
(Check One)
${ }_{1} \square$ Never
${ }_{2} \square$ Once or twice
${ }_{3} \square$ Once a week
${ }_{4} \square$ Two or more times a week

## SECTION C: YOU AND YOUR THIRD GRADER AT HOME

8. In an average month, how often do you talk with your third grader about the following things:
(Check One Box on Each Line)

|  | THREE OR | ONCE OR |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| EVERY | FOUR TIMES | TWICE |  | DON'T |
| $\underline{\text { DAY }}$ | A WEEK | A WEEK | NEVER | KNOW |

a. Your child's day in school ........ $\square \square$
${ }_{1} \square \quad{ }_{3} \square \quad \square \quad{ }_{4} \square \quad{ }_{5} \square \quad$ 38/
b. Whether your child has
homework $\qquad$ ${ }_{0} \square$


$$
{ }_{3} \square
$$

$$
{ }_{4} \square
$$

$$
{ }_{5} \square \quad \square \quad 39 /
$$

c. What your child is studying in school..................................... ${ }_{0} \square$
${ }_{1} \square$
${ }_{3} \square$

${ }_{5} \square \quad 401$
d. Your child's relationship with his /her teacher(s) .......... $\square$

e. Your child's relationship with his / her schoolmates $\qquad$


CARD 04
9. In an average week, how often do you do the following things with your third grade child:

| (Check One Box on Each Line) |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | THREE OR | ONCE OR |  |  |
| EVERY | FOUR TIMES | TWICE | DON'T |  |
| DAY | $\underline{\text { A WEEK }}$ | A WEEK | NEVER | KNOW |

a. Read to or with your child....... ${ }_{0} \square \quad{ }_{1} \square \quad \square \quad{ }_{3} \square \quad{ }_{4} \square \quad{ }_{5} \square \quad$ 43/
b. Help your child with homework ................................ $\square$ ${ }_{1} \square$ ${ }_{3} \square$ ${ }_{4} \square$ ${ }_{5} \square$ 441
c. Review homework after your child finished......... ${ }_{0} \square \quad{ }_{1} \square \quad{ }_{3} \square \quad{ }_{4} \square \quad{ }_{5} \square \quad$ 45/
10. In an average week, how often does your third grader bring homework home?
(Check One)
${ }_{1} \square$ Every day
${ }_{2} \square$ Three or four times a week
${ }_{3} \square$ Once or twice a week
${ }_{4} \square$ Never
${ }_{5} \square$ Don't know
11. On average, how much time does your third grader spend on homework each day? (Check One)
${ }_{1} \square$ 0-14 minutes
${ }_{2} \square$ 45-60 minutes
${ }_{3} \square$ 15-29 minutes
${ }_{4} \square$ More than 60 minutes
${ }_{5} \square$ 30-44 minutes
${ }_{6} \square$ Don't know
12. Do you have family rules about how many hours per day your third grade child can watch television on school days?
(Check One)
$\square$ No
${ }_{2} \square \mathrm{Yes}$

12a. If yes: how many hours per day is your third grader allowed to watch television on a school day?
(Check One)
$\square$ 0-1 hours per school day
${ }_{2} \square 2-3$ hours per school day
${ }_{2} \square$ 3-4 hours per school day
${ }_{2} \square 5$ or more hours per school day
13. Do you have family rules that are enforced for your third grader about any of the following things?
(Check One Box on Each Line)
NO
YES
a. Maintaining a certain grade average $\qquad$ . ${ }_{2} \square$ 50/
b. Doing homework $\qquad$
$\square$
$\square$51/
c. Doing household chores $\square$${ }_{2} \square$52/

## SECTION D: YOUR THIRD GRADER'S SCHOOL

14. Overall, how would you rate the following things at your third grader's current school? (Check One Box on Each Line)

|  | VERY |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| EXCELLENT |  |  | DON'T |

a. His/her teacher's qualifications.
${ }_{2} \square \quad{ }_{3} \square$
${ }_{4} \square \quad{ }_{5} \square$
${ }_{6} \square$ 53/
b. His/her teacher's ability to maintain discipline in the classroom $\qquad$ $\square$

c. Individual attention his/her
teacher gives to your child $\qquad$
$\square$ ${ }_{3} \square$

d. Number of children in your child's classroom $\qquad$ $\square$

e. The physical condition of your child's class $\qquad$

f. Availability of books for your child's class $\qquad$
$\square$

g. Your child's access to computers at school $\qquad$

${ }_{6} \square$
59/
h. Your child's access to counseling $\qquad$

i. Your child's access to special school services or programs ...... 1 $\square$

${ }_{6} \square \quad 61 /$
j. Overall quality of your child's education $\qquad$ ,
$\square$

. 1
${ }^{62 /}$

## SECTION E: THE CLASS SIZE REDUCTION PROGRAM (CSR)

15. Have you ever heard of the California Class Size Reduction Program?
(Check One)
${ }_{1} \square$ No $\rightarrow$ GO TO SECTION F, Q.21, PAGE 13
${ }_{2} \square$ Yes $\rightarrow$ CONTINUE WITH Q. 16
16. After the CSR program was announced, were you invited to discuss plans to implement the Class Size Reduction Program (CSR) in your third grader's school?
(Check One)
${ }_{1} \square \mathrm{No} \rightarrow$ GO TO Q. 19
${ }_{2} \square$ Yes $\rightarrow$ CONTINUE WITH Q. 17
${ }_{3} \square$ Don't Recall $\rightarrow$ CONTINUE WITH Q. 17
17. Did you attend any meeting to discuss plans to implement the program in your third grader's school?
(Check One)
${ }_{1} \square \mathrm{No} \rightarrow$ GO TO Q. 19
${ }_{2} \square$ Yes $\rightarrow$ CONTINUE WITH Q. 18
18. At the meeting(s) you attended, were any of the following things discussed about the Class Size Reduction Program?
(Check One Box on Each Line)

| $\underline{\mathrm{NO}}$ | YES | $\begin{array}{r} \mathrm{DON}^{\prime} \mathrm{T} \\ \text { RECALL } \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. Whether or not to implement the program at your school $\qquad$ $\square$ | ${ }_{2} \square$ | ${ }_{3} \square$ | 66/ |
| b. Adequacy of funding for all grades ............. ${ }_{1} \square$ | ${ }_{2} \square$ | ${ }_{3} \square$ | 67/ |
| c. Grade in which the CSR Program should be first implemented $\qquad$ $\square$ | ${ }_{2} \square$ | ${ }_{3} \square$ | 68/ |
| d. Need to use space from other programs ...... ${ }_{1} \square$ | ${ }_{2} \square$ | ${ }_{3} \square$ | 69/ |
| e. Need to use funds from other programs ...... ${ }_{1} \square$ | ${ }_{2} \square$ | ${ }_{3} \square$ | $70 /$ |
| f. Recruitment of qualified teachers ................. ${ }_{1} \square$ | ${ }_{2} \square$ | ${ }_{3} \square$ | 71/ |
| g. Effects on older children ............................. ${ }_{1} \square$ | ${ }_{2} \square$ | ${ }_{3} \square$ | 72/ |

19. In your opinion, did parents have an adequate say in deciding whether and/or how to implement class size reduction in your third grader's school?
(Check One)
${ }_{1} \square \mathrm{No}$
${ }_{2} \square \mathrm{Yes}$
${ }_{3} \square$ No opinion
20. In order to reduce the number of children per classroom from about 30 to 20 children, the State of California is spending in excess of $\$ 1.5$ billion annually. In your opinion, would some or all of this money be better spent on any of the following education initiatives?
(Check One Box on Each Line)

| STRONGLY |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| AGREE |  |  | STRONGLY |
| AGREE UNCERTAIN | DISAGREE | DISAGREE |  |

## Would this money be better spent to:

a. Reduce class size from, say 30 to 27 in all grades K through 12 ... $\quad \square$

${ }_{3} \square$ ${ }_{4} \square \quad{ }_{5} \square$ 71
b. Upgrade the training of teachers $\qquad$ $\square$

c. Increase teachers' salary $\qquad$
$\square$


9/
d. Tutor individual children having difficulties $\qquad$ $\square$

e. Provide summer school for all children ............................ $\square$

f. Provide enrichment after-school programs
at all levels ................................. $\square$
${ }_{2}$
$\square$


g. Equip all schools with computers and train teachers to use them.. $\square$

h. Expand sports programs $\qquad$

i. Expand music and arts programs $\qquad$

j. Provide scholarships to all who qualify to go to college ..... $\square$


CARD 05

## SECTION F: LOOKING BEYOND THIRD GRADE

21. Is your third grader in a reduced size classroom?
(Check One)
${ }_{1} \square \mathrm{No} \rightarrow$ GO TO Q. 26
${ }_{2} \square$ Yes $\rightarrow$ CONTINUE WITH Q. 22
${ }_{3} \square$ Don't Know $\rightarrow$ GO TO Q. 26
22. Next school year, your third grader may be back in a 30-student classroom until he/she graduates from high school. In what ways do you expect this experience in the early grades will affect your child's overall education?
(Check One Box on Each Line)

| STRONGLY |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| AGREE |  |  | STRONGLY |
| AGREE |  |  |  |
| UNCERTAIN | DISAGREE | DISAGREE |  |

a. My child will be more likely to graduate from high school and go to college $\qquad$ $\square$ ${ }_{3} \square$ ${ }_{4} \square$ ${ }_{5} \square$ 181
b. My child will do better in English $\qquad$ , $\square$

c. My child will do better in math. ${ }_{1} \square$

d. Overall, my child will be a better student $\qquad$

e. My child will have difficulties readjusting to a larger class $\qquad$

f. All of the gains my child made in earlier grades will be lost ..... ${ }_{1}$

g. Although smaller classrooms are good in the early grades, in the end it will make no difference in what my child learns $\qquad$ , $\square$

${ }_{3} \square$
${ }_{4} \square$$24 /$
CARD 05
23. Do you currently have a child in 4 th, 5 th or 6 th grades in the same school as your third grader?
(Check One)

```
1 }\square\textrm{No}->\mathrm{ GO TO Q. }2
2}\square\mathrm{ Yes }->\mathrm{ CONTINUE WITH Q. }2
24. For your older child in 4th, 5th or 6th grade, did any of the following occur as a result of implementing class size reduction at your child's school?
(Check One Box on Each Line)
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline NO & YES & \begin{tabular}{l}
DON'T \\
KNOW
\end{tabular} & \\
\hline a. The number of children in my child(ren)'s class increased \(\qquad\)
\(\square\) & \({ }_{2} \square\) & \({ }_{3} \square\) & 261 \\
\hline b. Some sports programs were eliminated ....... \(\square\) & \({ }_{2} \square\) & \({ }_{3} \square\) & \(27 /\) \\
\hline c. The playground was used for temporary classrooms & \({ }_{2} \square\) & \({ }_{3} \square\) & \(28 /\) \\
\hline d. Good teachers went to the lower grades ...... \(\square\) & \({ }_{2} \square\) & \({ }_{3} \square\) & \(29 /\) \\
\hline e. I had to help my older child more ................ \(\square\) & \({ }_{2} \square\) & \({ }_{3} \square\) & 301 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
25. For your older child in 4th, 5th or 6th grade, how would you rate the following things at your child's school?
(Check One Box on Each Line)
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline EXCELLENT & VERY
GOOD & GOOD & FAIR & POOR & \[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { DON'1 } \\
& \text { KNOW }
\end{aligned}
\] & \\
\hline a. His/her teacher's qualifications \(\qquad\) & \({ }_{2} \square\) & \({ }_{3} \square\) & \({ }_{4} \square\) & \({ }_{5} \square\) & \({ }_{6} \square\) & 31/ \\
\hline b. His/her teacher's ability to maintain discipline in the classroom \(\qquad\) 1 & \({ }_{2} \square\) & \({ }_{3} \square\) & \({ }_{4} \square\) & \({ }_{5} \square\) & \({ }_{6} \square\) & 32/ \\
\hline c. The individual attention his/her teacher gives to your child \(\qquad\)
\(\square\) & \({ }_{2} \square\) & \({ }_{3} \square\) & \({ }_{4} \square\) & \({ }_{5} \square\) & \({ }_{6} \square\) & 33/ \\
\hline d. Number of children in the classroom \(\qquad\)
\(\square\) & \({ }_{2} \square\) & \({ }_{3} \square\) & \({ }_{4} \square\) & \({ }_{5} \square\) & \({ }_{6} \square\) & 34/ \\
\hline e. Physical condition of class.......... \(\square\) & \({ }_{2} \square\) & \({ }_{3} \square\) & \({ }_{4} \square\) & \({ }_{5} \square\) & \({ }_{6} \square\) & 35/ \\
\hline f. Availability of books ................ \({ }_{1} \square\) & \({ }_{2} \square\) & \({ }_{3} \square\) & \({ }_{4} \square\) & \({ }_{5} \square\) & \({ }_{6} \square\) & 36/ \\
\hline g. Access to computers ................. \(1_{1} \square\) & \({ }_{2} \square\) & \({ }_{3} \square\) & \({ }_{4} \square\) & \({ }_{5} \square\) & \({ }_{6} \square\) & 37/ \\
\hline h. Access to counseling .................. \(1_{1} \square\) & \({ }_{2} \square\) & \({ }_{3} \square\) & \({ }_{4} \square\) & \({ }_{5} \square\) & \({ }_{6} \square\) & 38/ \\
\hline i. Access to special school services or programs for your child \(\qquad\)
\(\square\) & \({ }_{2} \square\) & \({ }_{3} \square\) & \({ }_{4} \square\) & \({ }_{5} \square\) & \({ }_{6} \square\) & 39/ \\
\hline j. Overall quality of education ..... \(1_{1} \square\) & \({ }_{2} \square\) & \({ }_{3} \square\) & \({ }_{4} \square\) & \({ }_{5} \square\) & \({ }_{6} \square\) & 40/ \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\section*{SECTION G: YOU AND YOUR FAMILY}
(Check One)
26. Are you: ................................. \(\square\) Male \(\square\) Female 41/
27. What is your relationship to the third grade child listed on the cover of this survey? (Check One)
\({ }_{1} \square\) Mother
\({ }_{2} \square\) Stepmother or foster mother
\({ }_{3} \square\) Father
\({ }_{4} \square\) Stepfather or foster father
\({ }_{5} \square\) Grandmother
\({ }_{6} \square\) Grandfather
, \(\square\) Other (specify)
28. What is the highest level of education YOU have COMPLETED?
(Check One)
\({ }_{1} \square\) 11th grade or less
\({ }_{2} \square\) 12th grade
\({ }_{3} \square\) Some college but no degree
\({ }_{4} \square\) Associate degree in college
\({ }_{5} \square\) Bachelor's degree
\({ }_{6} \square\) Master's, doctorate, or other graduate degree
29. What is the highest level of education your spouse or partner has COMPLETED? (Check One)
\({ }_{1} \square\) Not applicable • I don't have a spouse or partner
\({ }_{2} \square\) 11th grade or less
\({ }_{3} \square\) 12th grade
\({ }_{4} \square\) Some college but no degree
\({ }_{5} \square\) Associate degree in college
\({ }_{6} \square\) Bachelor's degree
\({ }_{7} \square\) Master's, doctorate, or other graduate degree
30. In what country were you born?
\begin{tabular}{lr}
\({ }_{1} \square\) United States & \(46 /\) \\
\({ }_{2} \square\) Other Country (Where?) & \(47-48 /\)
\end{tabular}

30a. If you were NOT born in the United States, when did you come to the United States?
(Check One)
\({ }_{1} \square\) Before 1980
\({ }_{2} \square\) (1980-1984
\({ }_{3} \square 1984-1990\)
\({ }_{4} \square 1991-1994\)
\({ }_{5} \square 1995-1998\)
31. What is your race /ethnicity?
(Check One)
\({ }_{1} \square\) Black (or African-American) 50-51/
\({ }_{2} \square\) Chicano, Mexican or Mexican-American
\({ }_{3} \square\) Other Latin American (includes Central and South America, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and other Caribbean Islands)
\({ }_{4} \square\) Chinese (or Chinese-American)
\({ }_{5} \square\) Japanese (or Japanese-American)
\({ }_{6} \square\) Filipino (or Filipino-American)
\({ }_{7} \square\) Korean (or Korean-American)
\({ }_{8} \square\) Other Asian or Pacific Islander
, \(\square\) Middle Easterner (includes Persian, Israeli, etc.)
\({ }_{10} \square\) White or Caucasian (not of Hispanic origin)
\({ }_{11} \square\) American Indian (or Native American)
\({ }_{12} \square\) Other (please specify):
32. How old were YOU on your last birthday?

YEARS \(\square\)
33. Including yourself, how many people (adults and children) currently live in your household?

34. Do you speak English as your main language at home?
(Check One)

35. What language(s) are spoken in your home? (Check All that Apply)
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \({ }_{1} \square\) English & \(10 /\) & \({ }_{6} \square\) Filipino/Tagalog & 15/ & \({ }_{11} \square\) Farsi & 22-23/ \\
\hline \({ }_{2} \square\) Spanish & 11/ & \({ }_{7} \square\) Vietnamese & 161 & \({ }_{12} \square\) Armenian & 24-25 \\
\hline \({ }_{3} \square\) Chinese & 12/ & \({ }_{8} \square\) Thai & 17/ & \({ }_{13} \square\) Cambodian & 26-27 \\
\hline \({ }_{4} \square\) Japanese & 13/ & \({ }_{9} \square\) Other Asian: & 18-19/ & \({ }_{14} \square\) Other: What? & 28-291 \\
\hline \({ }_{5} \square\) Korean & 14/ & \({ }_{10} \square\) Russian & 20-21/ & & 30-31/ \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
36. Including yourself, how much money did the people in your family who live here now receive from all sources during 1997? Please include all sources of income before taxes for all members of your family who are living here now. (Just your best estimate) (Check One)

37. Thank you for completing this survey. A report of our findings will be available in the winter of 1999. Would you like us to send you a copy of this report?
(Check One)


Thank you for participating in this important study. Please place your completed survey inside the enclosed postage-paid envelope and mail it to:

RAND
Beverly Weidmer
1700 Main Street
PO Box 2138
Santa Monica CA 90407-2138```

