



KEY MESSAGES

- » All students should have the opportunity to graduate high school with a meaningful diploma that signals they are ready for success in college, career, and civic life.
- » To bring that vision to life, the California School Boards Association is working to increase school funding to the national average by 2020 and to the average of the top 10 states by 2025.
- » Despite boasting the fifth-largest economy in the world and the highest gross domestic product of any state, California sits near the bottom nationally in nearly every significant measure of school funding and school staffing.

Adjusted for cost of living, California ranks 41st nationally in per-pupil funding and

- 41st in the number of instructional aides per student
 - 45th in the percentage of taxable income spent on education
 - 45th in student-teacher ratios
 - 48th in student-counselor ratio
 - 48th in overall student-staff ratio
 - 50th in student-librarian ratio
- » **Many California school districts lack the means to:**
 - offer essential student services
 - deliver appropriate professional development for staff
 - engage families in student learning
 - implement well-rounded, relevant curriculum
 - provide 21st-century infrastructure and technology
 - » **California schools need Full and Fair Funding in order to provide all students with the basic components of a high-quality education:**
 - a rigorous, well-rounded and relevant curriculum
 - staff with the skills, knowledge and competencies to promote student success
 - education and assistance for families to support and guide learning;
 - 21st-century infrastructure and technology
 - academic supports to improve achievement
 - early childhood education services
 - physical, mental and environmental health supports
 - services for students with specific needs

- » **Substantial research points to a positive relationship between education funding and improved student outcomes, particularly for economically disadvantaged students.**
 - Economically disadvantaged students who attend well-resourced schools demonstrate greater achievement than peers in schools with scant resources

- » **In 1970, California’s school system was the envy of the nation, ranking top five in per-pupil funding and considered among the best in student achievement.**
 - Resources that were standard in previous decades — like school counselors, librarians, nurses and music programs — have been reduced or eliminated

- » **Inadequate resources have contributed to lower performance over time as well as persistent opportunity and achievement gaps in California schools. As California’s school funding has fallen relative to other states, so has its performance.**
 - In 2017, California’s eighth graders ranked 42nd in math, 38th in reading, 44th in sciences and 39th in writing on the National Assessment of Educational Progress
 - Those results track the state’s ranking of 41st in per-pupil funding and 45th in the percentage of taxable income devoted to education

- » **If California supported schools simply at the national average, funding would increase by \$1,961 per pupil. That’s \$49,025 for a 25-student classroom and \$980,500 for 500-student school. If we funded public education at the average of the top 10 states, our schools would receive an additional \$6,769 per pupil, \$169,225 per 25-student classroom and \$3.4 million per 500-student school.**

For a school of 500 children, that’s an additional \$3.4 million annually for:

 - expanded curriculum
 - class size reduction
 - career technical education
 - student services (counselors, social workers, wellness centers, etc.)
 - instruction in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math)
 - expanded offerings in the arts
 - parent and community engagement
 - support for English learners
 - intervention programs
 - instructional support staff
 - textbooks and supplies

- » **Californians are getting what we pay for when it comes to public schools, and it’s simply not good enough for our students, our schools, our state, or our future.**

- » **California has a moral, practical, and economic imperative to provide all students with a high-quality education that prepares them for college, career, and civic life. We can do that with Full and Fair Funding.**