

# California Teacher Shortage Fact Sheet

January 2016

California has the highest student-teacher ratio in the nation, at 24:1 in 2013, compared to the national average of 16:1. **California would need to hire 135,000 teachers beyond their other hiring needs right now just to get us to the national average.**

- [Addressing California's Emerging Teacher Shortage](#), Learning Policy Institute, January, 2016.

The teacher shortage crisis was exacerbated by California's recent recession and extensive budget cuts. **California school districts would need to hire 60,000 new teachers right now just to return student-teacher ratios to pre-Recession levels.**

- [Addressing California's Emerging Teacher Shortage](#), Learning Policy Institute, January, 2016.

An upcoming wave of attrition by retirement will only increase the growing teacher shortage crisis, with **34% of California's teacher age 50 and older, and 10% age 60 and older.** In fact, a 2005 study found that **one-third of California teachers at that time would retire within the next 10 years, and California would need to replace 106,000 teachers just to maintain the current student-to-teacher ratios at that time.** That critical time is upon us, at a time when the teacher pipeline is drying up.

- [Addressing California's Emerging Teacher Shortage](#), Learning Policy Institute, January, 2016 (Source: Age percentages).

- [Teaching and California's Future – California's Teaching Force 2006](#), Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning.

**Enrollment in teacher preparation programs in California have dropped by 75 percent over the past decade.** And in 2013-14, California's number of teaching credentials issue to new teachers dropped for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year to a low of just 11,497.

- [EdSource Today](#), August 17, 2015

**Teacher shortages are most acute in the critical fields of Math, Science, and Special Education.**

The number of credentials issued to fully-prepared new math and science teachers dropped by 32% and 14% respectively just over the past four years, while at the same time the number of underprepared teachers (emergency permits, waivers, intern credentials) in those fields increased by 25% and 51% respectively.

- [Addressing California's Emerging Teacher Shortage](#), Learning Policy Institute, January, 2016.

Nationally, a recent national study found that **17% of new teachers will leave the profession within the first five years.** Teacher **attrition is especially high in poor, urban schools, where on average about a fifth of the entire faculty leaves annually** — that's roughly 50% higher than the rate in more affluent schools.

- [Public School Teacher Attrition and Mobility in the First Five Years](#), National Center for Education Statistics, April, 2015.

**Each year, 1 in every 10 teachers working in high-poverty schools in California—the ones whose students pose the greatest educational challenges—transfer away to other schools.** Often the only replacement teachers these schools can find are ones with minimal training and classroom experience.

- [A Possible Dream: Retaining California Teachers So All Students Learn](#), CSU Center for Teacher Quality, April, 2007.

Studies have shown that support programs for new teachers make a significant difference in increasing teacher retention rates.

- [Public School Teacher Attrition and Mobility in the First Five Years](#), National Center for Education Statistics, April, 2015.

- [Improving Teacher Retention in California Public Schools](#), Public Policy Institute of California, 2006.