

State of the State

PACE Annual Conference
Feb 3, 2023



Panelists



Moderated by:
Christopher Edley,
Jr., Interim Dean,
Berkeley School of
Education and
Faculty Director,
PACE



Julie Marsh, Professor
of Education Policy,
USC Rossier School of
Education; Faculty
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Kevin Gee, Associate
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School of Education,
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Carrie Hahnel, Senior
Associate Partner,
Policy and Evaluation,
Bellwether and Senior
Policy and Research
Fellow, PACE



Matt Navo,
Executive Director,
California
Collaborative for
Educational
Excellence

Voters' and Parents'
Perspectives on Current Threats
to Public Education

The 2022 PACE/USC Rossier Poll

Julie Marsh, USC

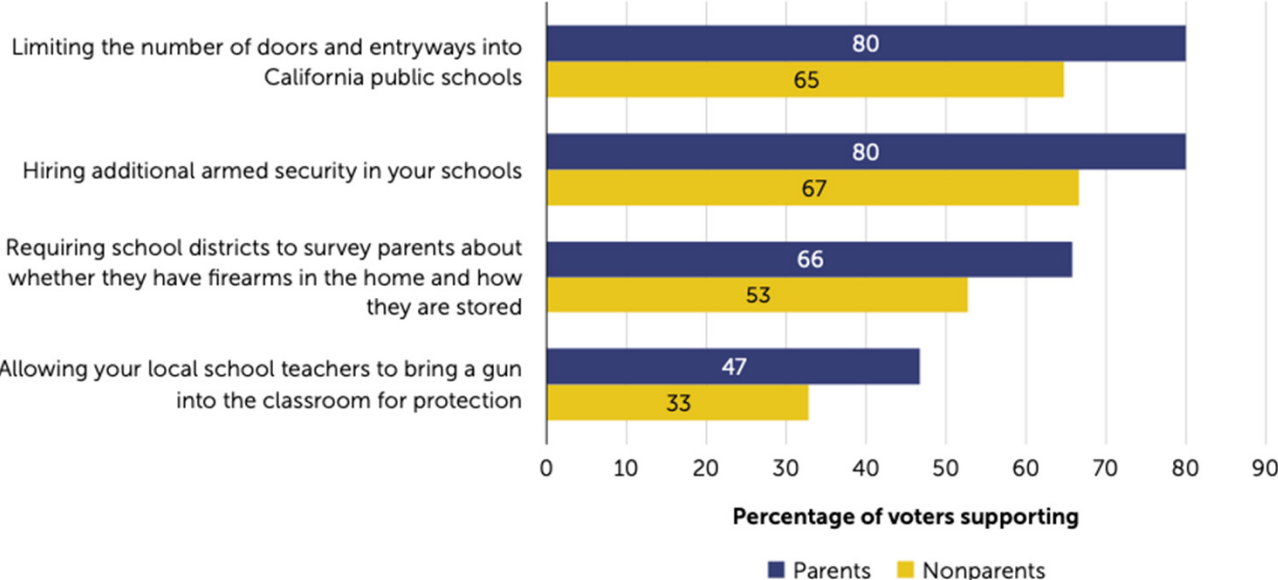


Poll overview

1. gun violence
2. politicization of and support for public education
3. controversy over what is taught in schools
4. student learning and well-being
5. declining enrollment
6. teacher shortages
7. college affordability
8. long-term funding inadequacy

Reducing Gun Violence in Schools Was the Top-Rated Issue & Voters Strongly Support “Hardening” Schools

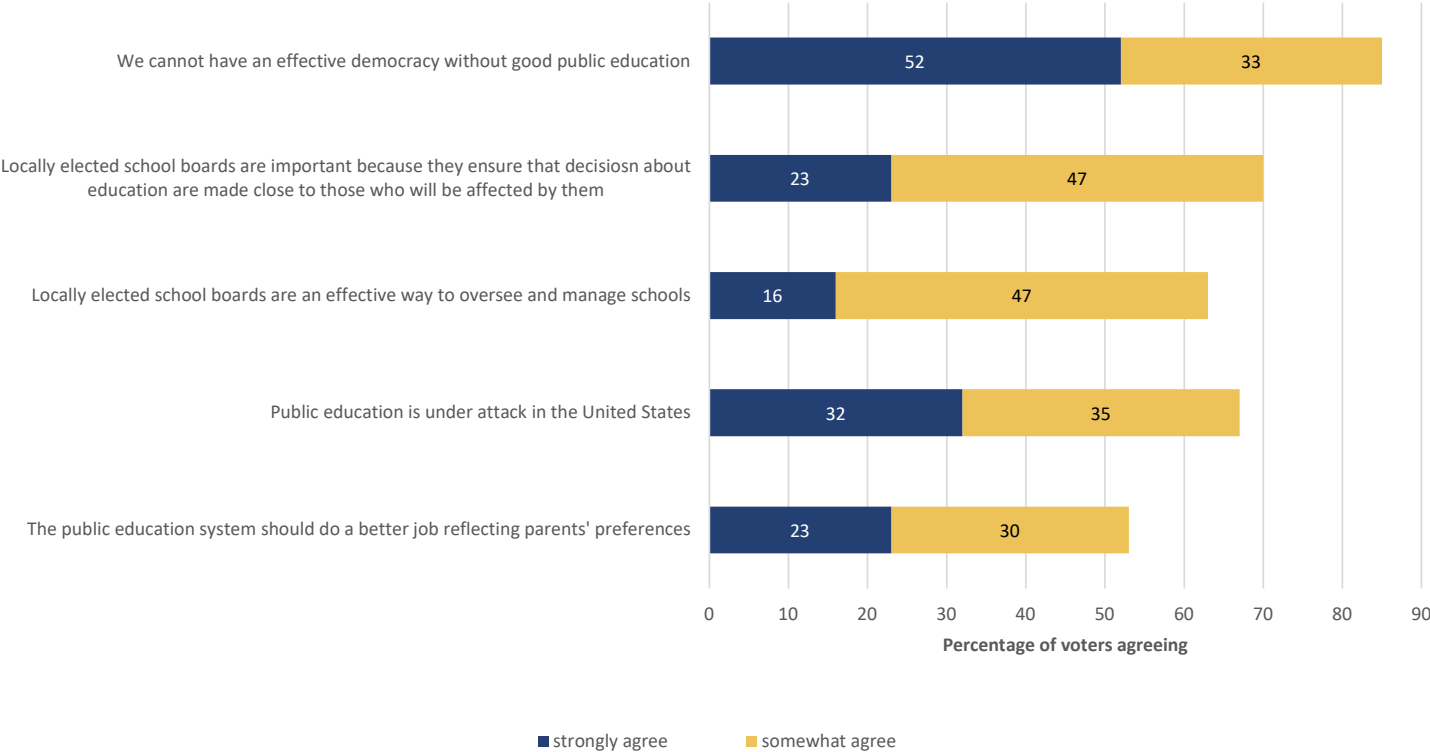
Figure 2. Support for “School Hardening” Policies, Parents Versus Nonparents



Note. “Parents” refer to respondents with children aged 18 or younger living at home.

Support for Public Education is Fairly Strong, but There are Concerns

Voter Agreement with Statements about Public Education

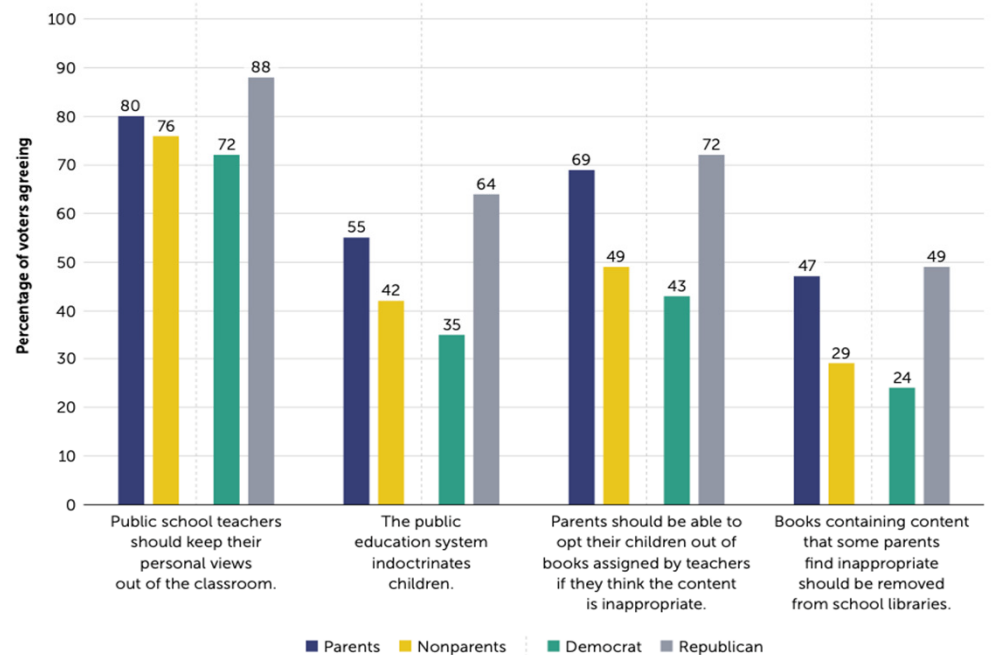


Parents & Voters Support Teaching about Inequality & Racism, but Concerned about Teachers' Personal Views in Classrooms

- 64% of voters said schools should spend *more* time teaching grade-appropriate lessons about the causes & consequences of racism & inequality
- 65% of voters supported CA's recent ethnic studies requirement

(Relatively weaker support from Republicans, White voters)

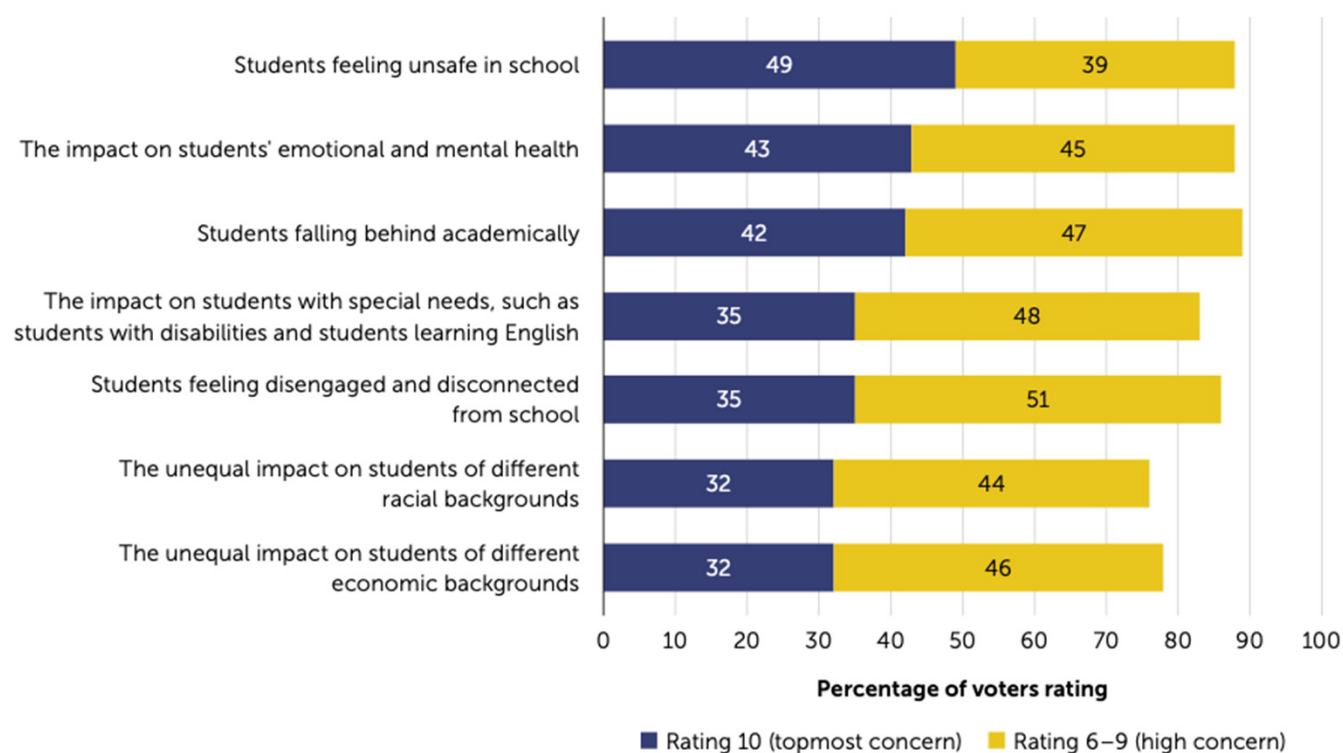
Figure 9. Voter Agreement With Statements About Curriculum Control



Note. The party categories "Independent/no party preference" and "other party member" are excluded here for ease of reporting. "Parent" refers to respondents with children aged 18 or younger living at home.

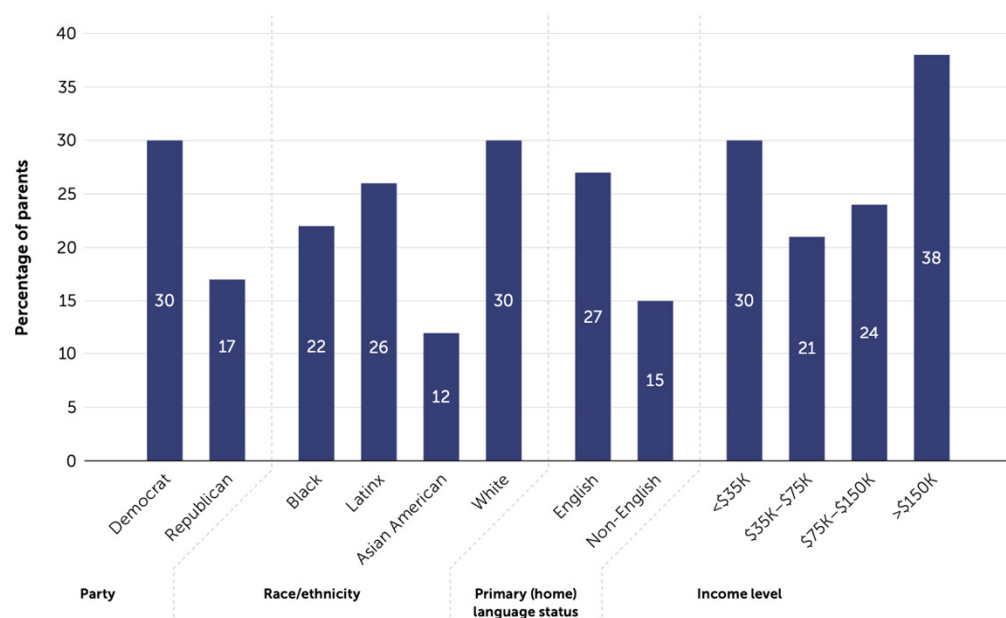
Voters Are Concerned about Pandemic's Effects on Students

Figure 10. Voters' Concerns About the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Students



More than 25% of Parents Reported Switching Child's School Since Pandemic Started

Figure 14. Percentage of Parents Who Changed Their Children's Schools During the Pandemic by Group



Note. "Parents" refer to respondents with children aged 18 or younger living at home. The race/ethnicity category "other/mixed" is excluded here for ease of reporting. Because of the smaller sample size for parents, we are not able to report on the income category >\$500,000 and instead report >\$150,000.

Main reasons for switching:

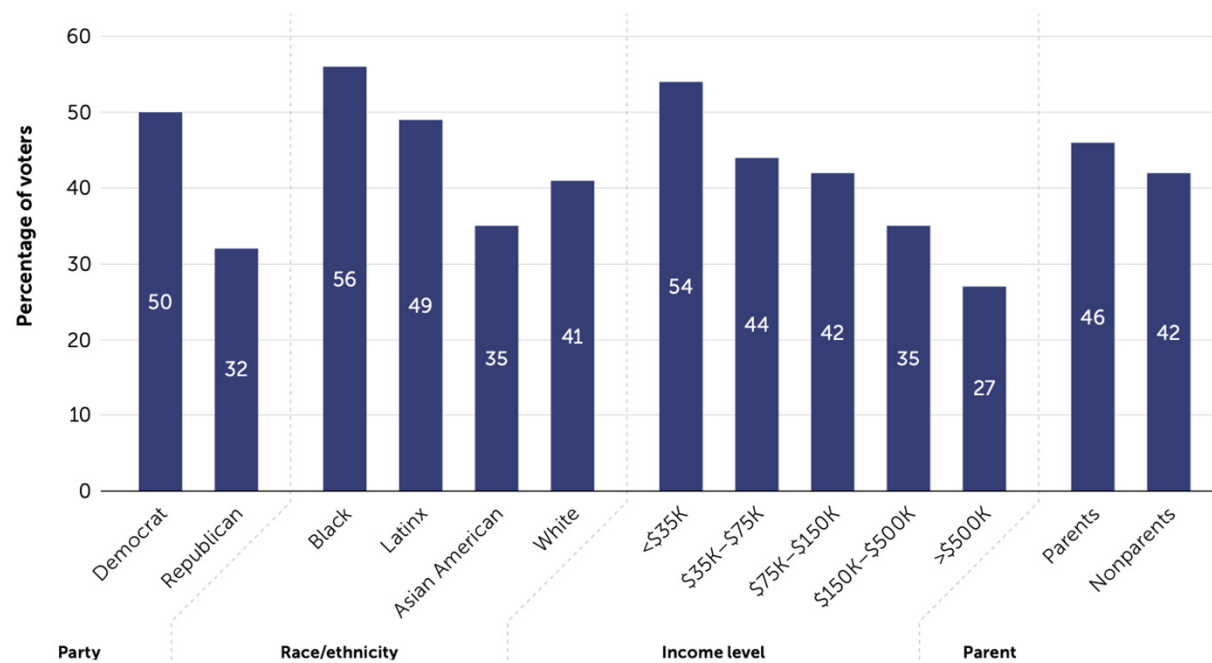
- Wanted a different educational experience (38%)
- Dissatisfaction with COVID safety measures (31%)
- Dissatisfaction with support child received (30%)
- Moved to different area (28%)

Many reported moving child to charter school

- Before switch 15% had child in charter
- After switch 23% had child in charter

Teacher Shortages is a Near-Top Education Priority for Voters

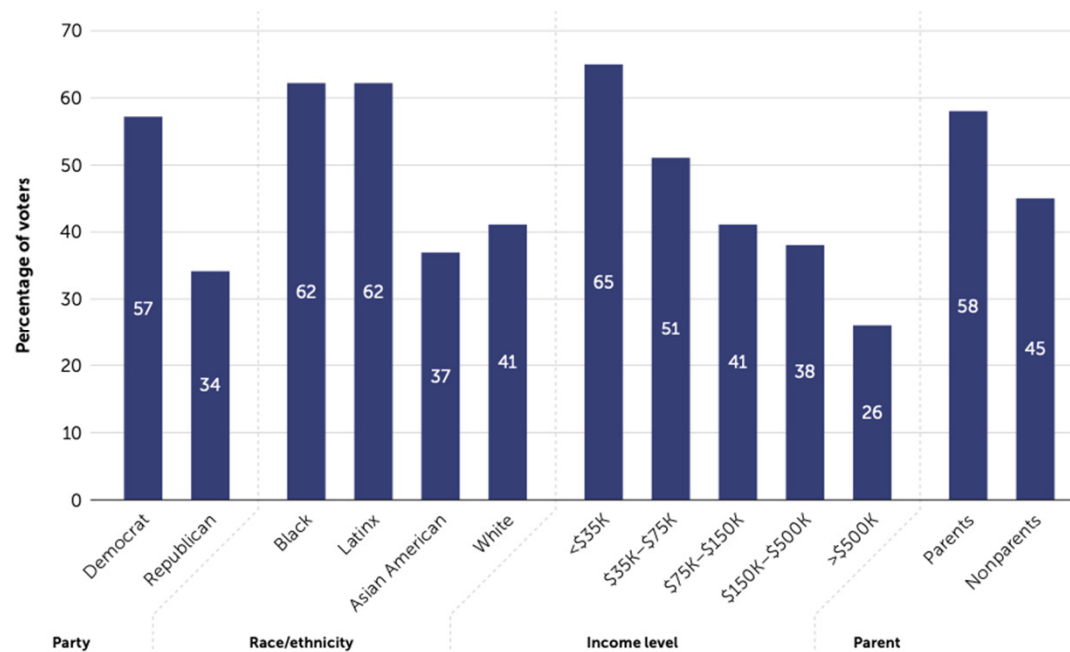
Figure 19. Percentage of Voters Rating the Teacher Shortage as a Very Important Issue by Group



Note. The party categories "Independent/no party preference" and "other party member" and the race/ethnicity category "other/mixed" are excluded here for ease of reporting. "Parents" refer to respondents with children aged 18 or younger living at home.

Voters Are Concerned about College Affordability: Rated Second Most Important Educational Issue Facing State

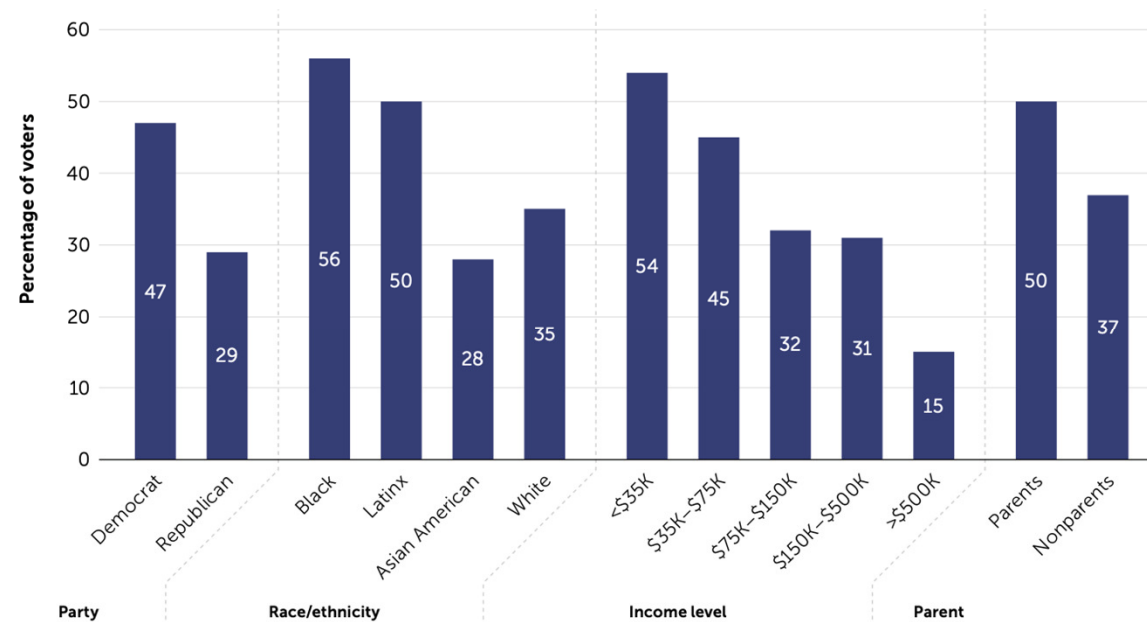
Figure 20. Percentage of California Voters Reporting "Making College More Affordable" as a Top Issue by Group



Note. The party categories "Independent/no party preference" and "other party member" and the race/ethnicity category "other/mixed" are excluded here for ease of reporting. "Parent" refers to respondents with children aged 18 or younger living at home.

Voters Are Concerned about Education Funding Despite Recent Federal & State Investments

Figure 21. Percentage of California Voters Reporting "Improving Education Funding" as a Top Issue by Group



Note. The party categories "Independent/no party preference" and "other party member" and the race/ethnicity category "other/mixed" are excluded here for ease of reporting. "Parent" refers to respondents with children aged 18 or younger living at home.

Report, brief & raw data can be found on PACE website:

<https://edpolicyinca.org/publications/pace-usc-rossier-poll-2022>

The State of Student Achievement & Wellbeing in California

Challenges, Bright Spots & Opportunities

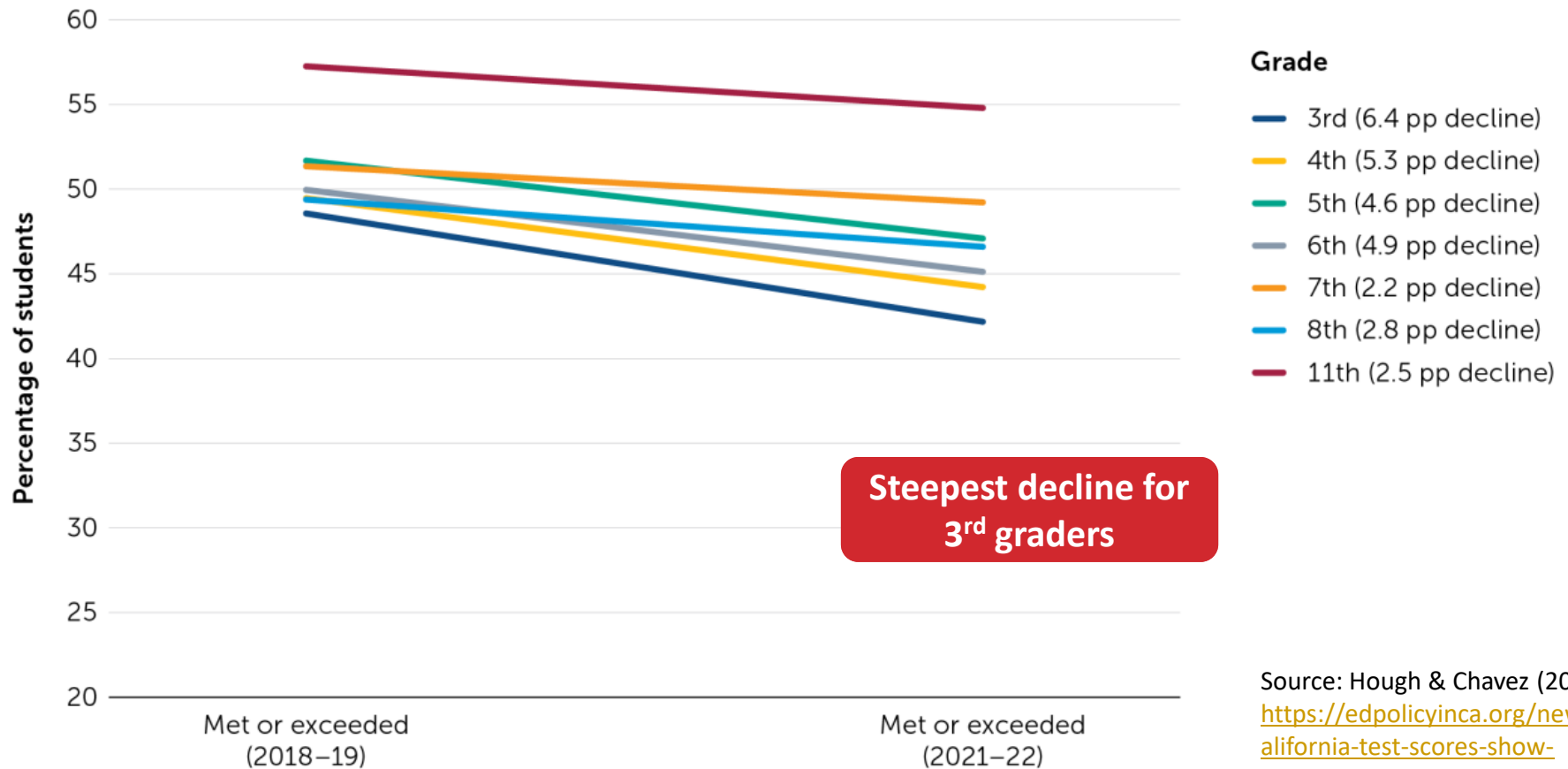
POLICY ANALYSIS FOR CALIFORNIA EDUCATION
(PACE) 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 3, 2023

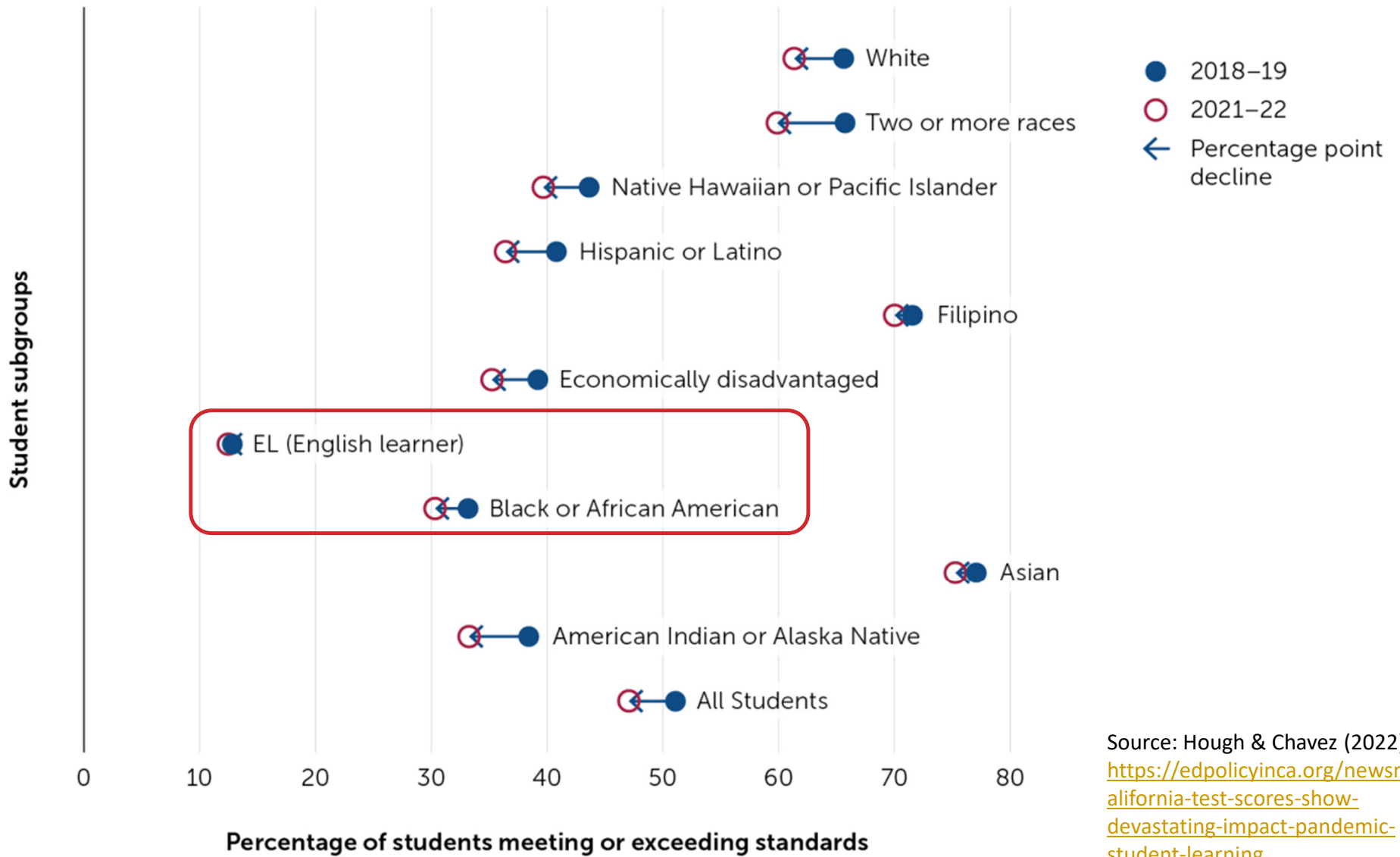
KEVIN A. GEE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UC DAVIS



Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Standards in ELA 2018-9 to 2021-22

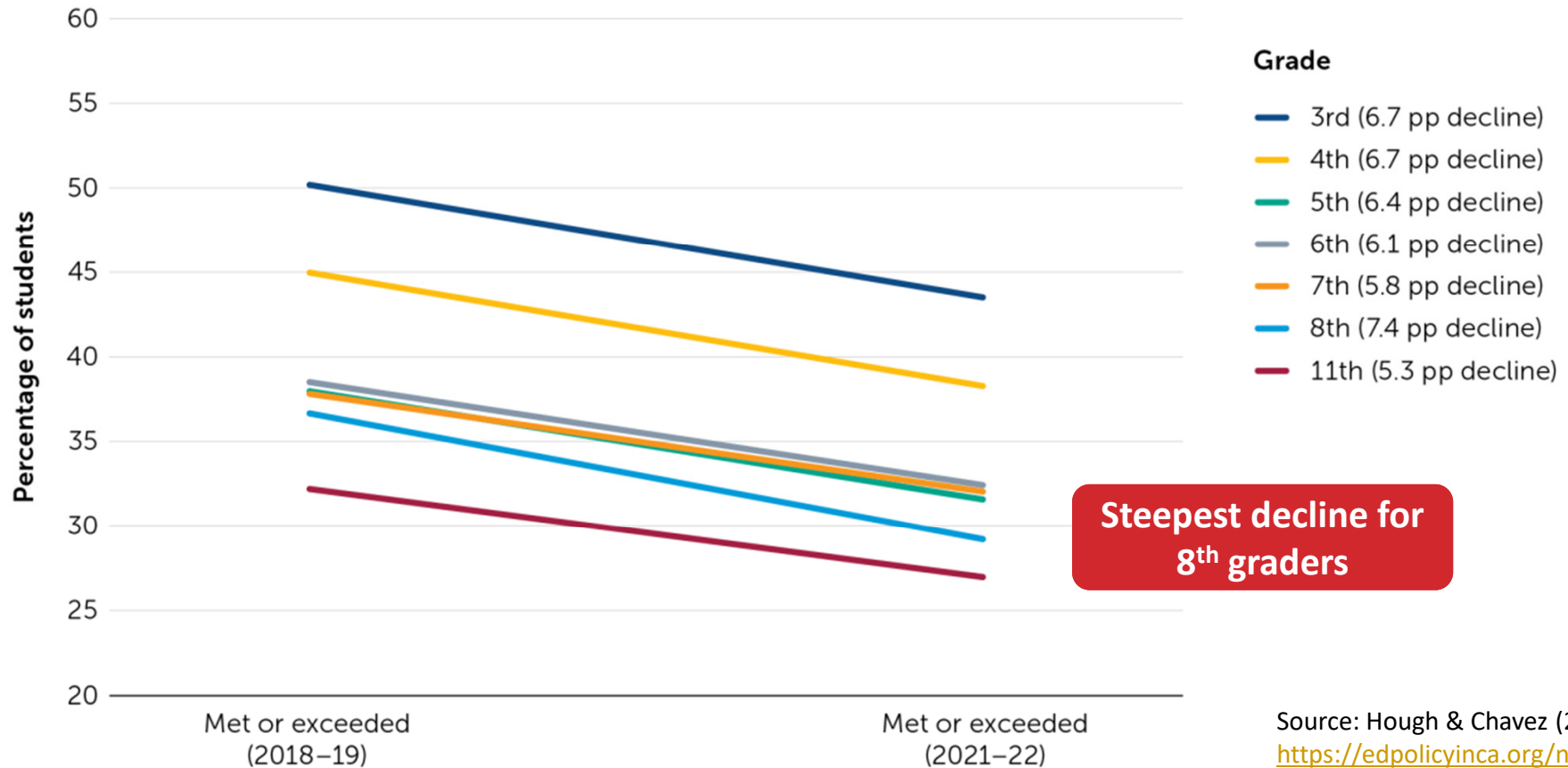


Source: Hough & Chavez (2022)
<https://edpolicyinca.org/newsroom/california-test-scores-show-devastating-impact-pandemic-student-learning>

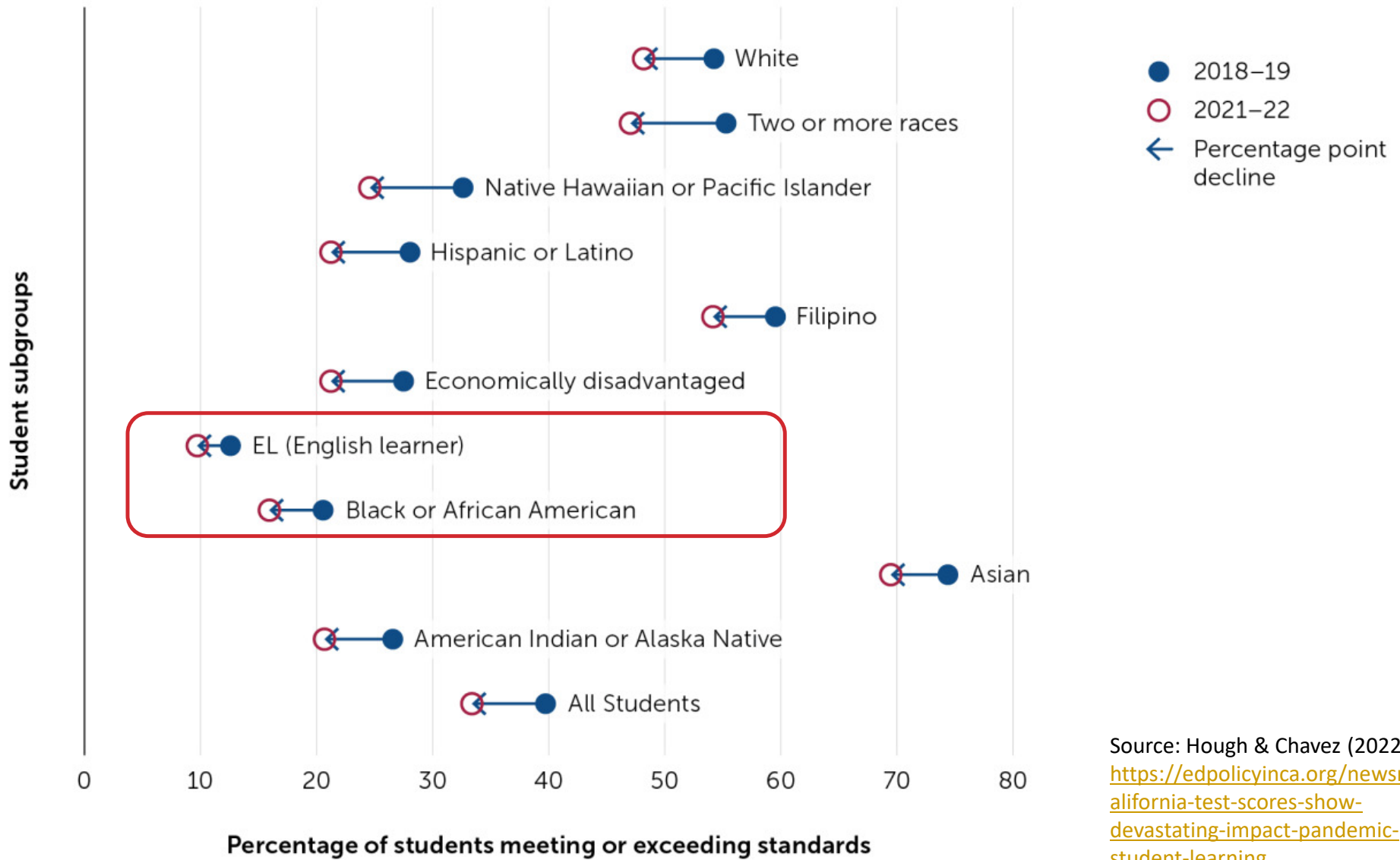


Source: Hough & Chavez (2022)
<https://edpolicyinca.org/newsroom/california-test-scores-show-devastating-impact-pandemic-student-learning>

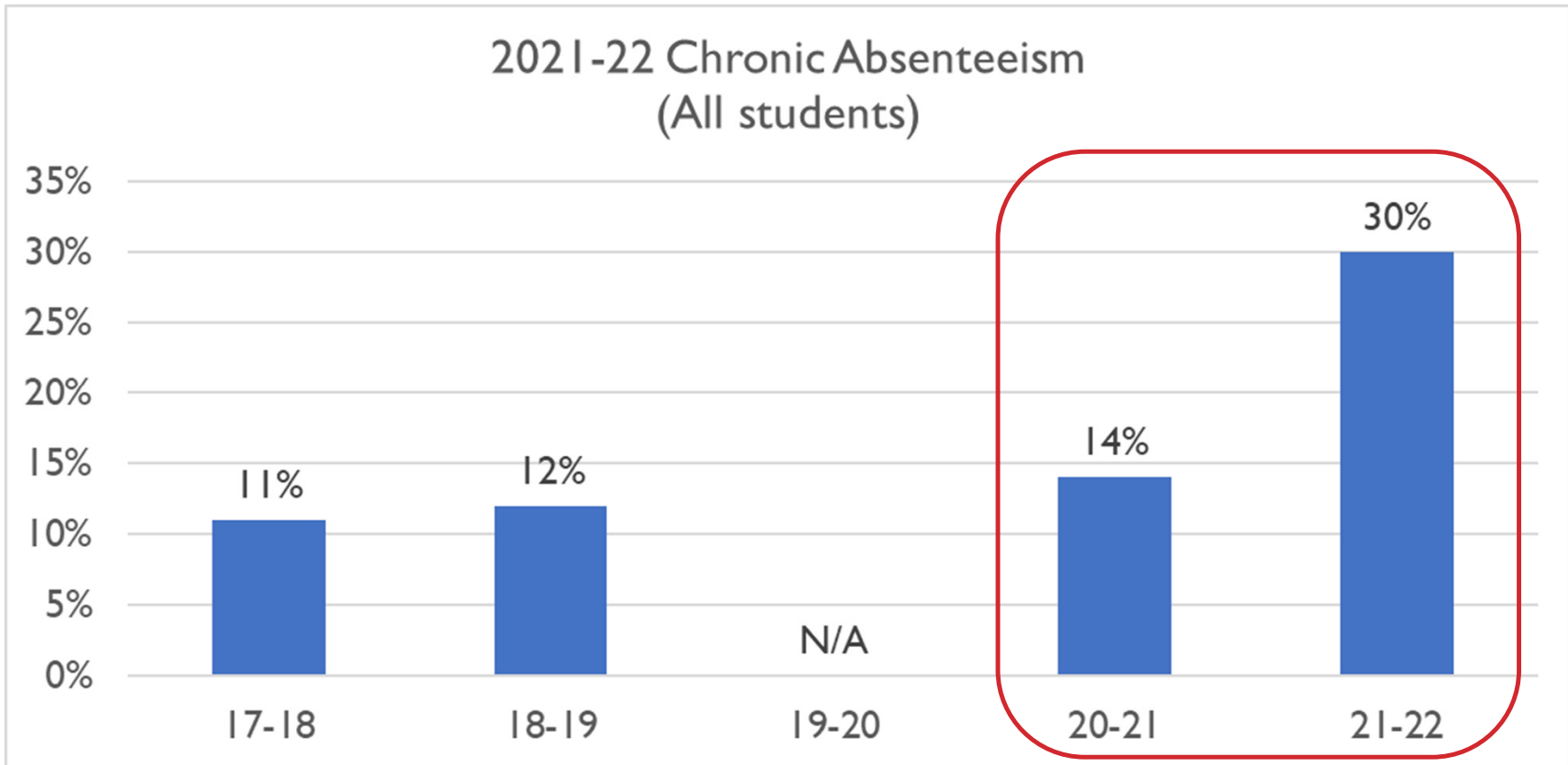
Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Standards in Math 2018-9 to 2021-22



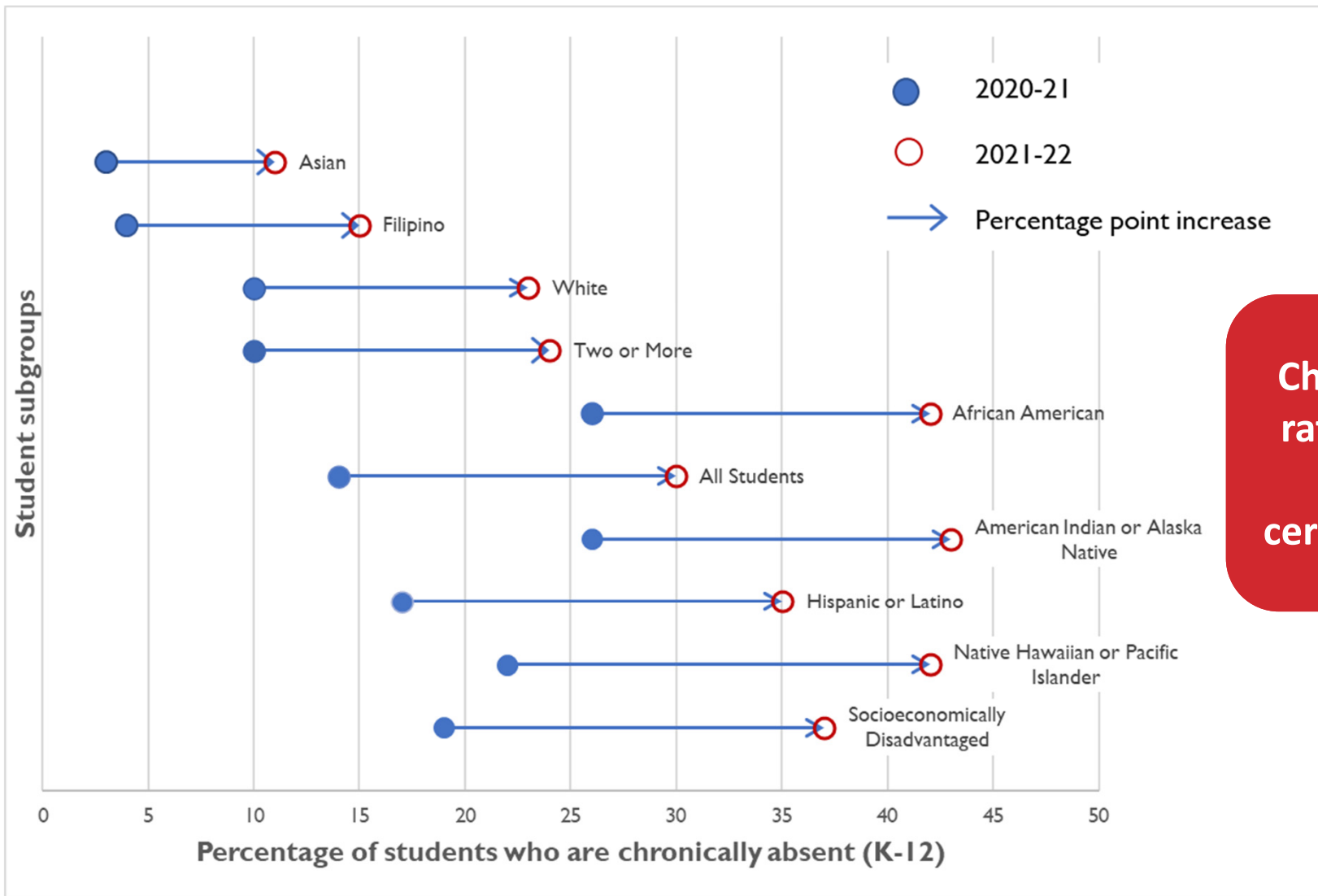
Source: Hough & Chavez (2022)
<https://edpolicyinca.org/newsroom/california-test-scores-show-devastating-impact-pandemic-student-learning>



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<https://edpolicyinca.org/newsroom/california-test-scores-show-devastating-impact-pandemic-student-learning>



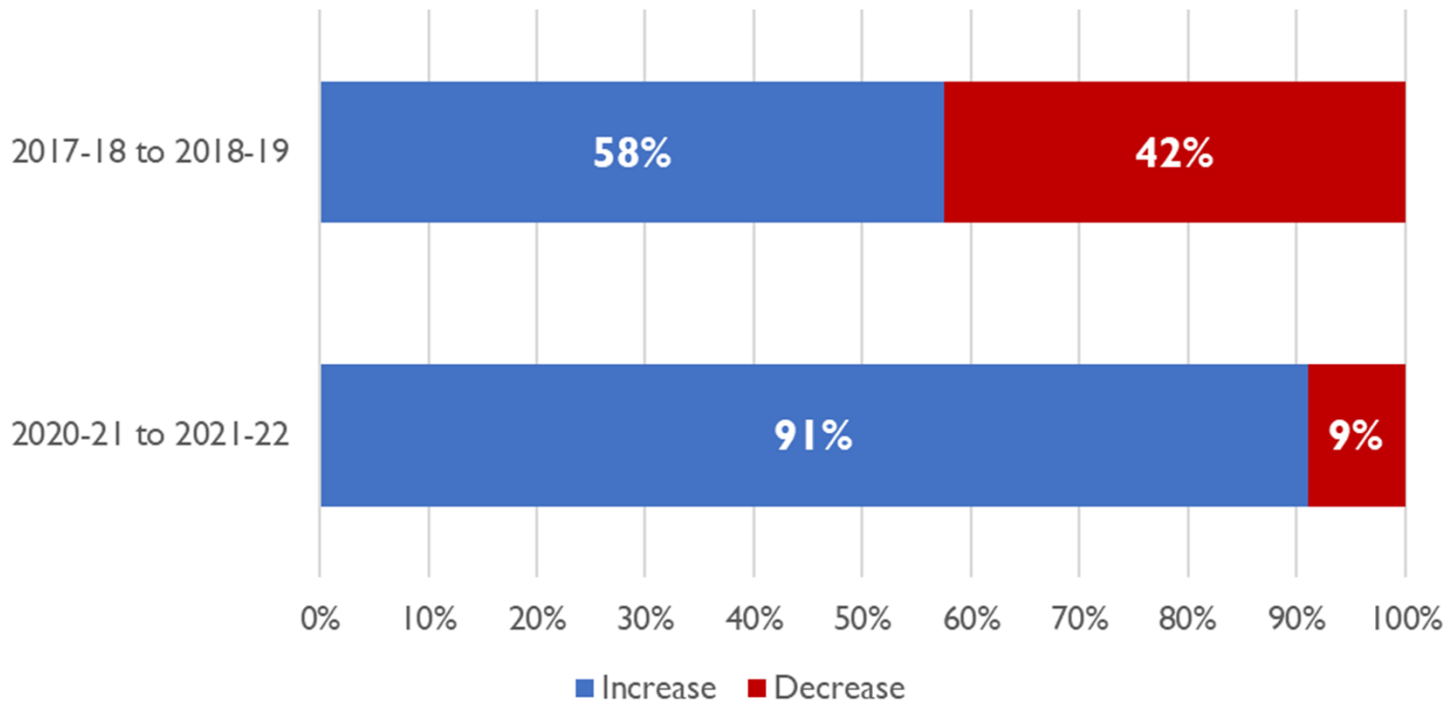
Source: Author's calculation based on [Dataquest](#) data from the California Department of Education (CDE)



Chronic absence rates more than doubled for certain subgroups

Source: California Department of Education (CDE) [Dataquest](#)

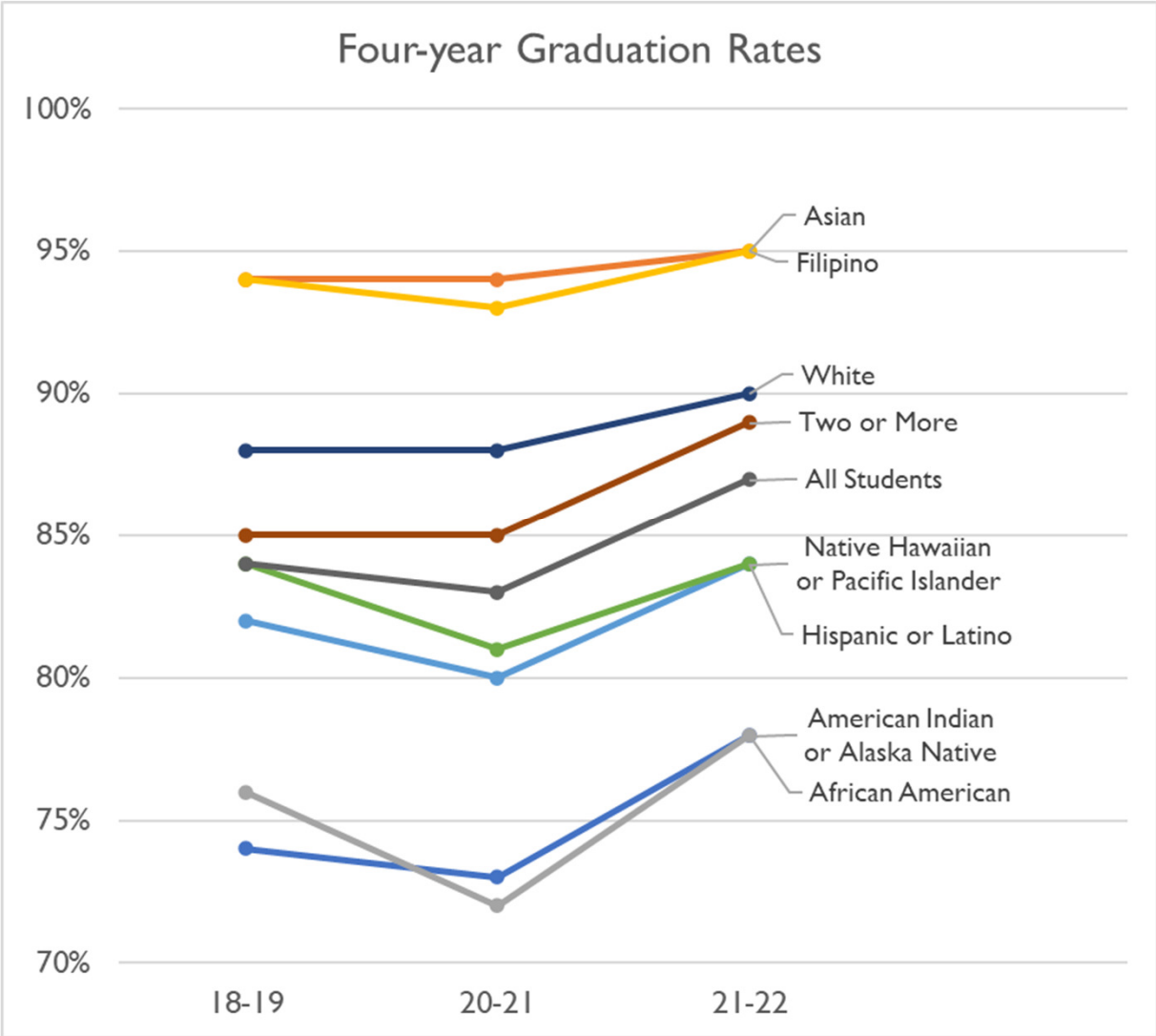
Proportion of Year-to-Year Increases and Decreases in Chronic Absence Across Schools



Some schools experienced *decreases* in chronic absence between 2020-22, albeit a much smaller proportion vs. in prior years

Source: Author's calculation from California Department of Education (CDE) Chronic Absenteeism [Data files](#)

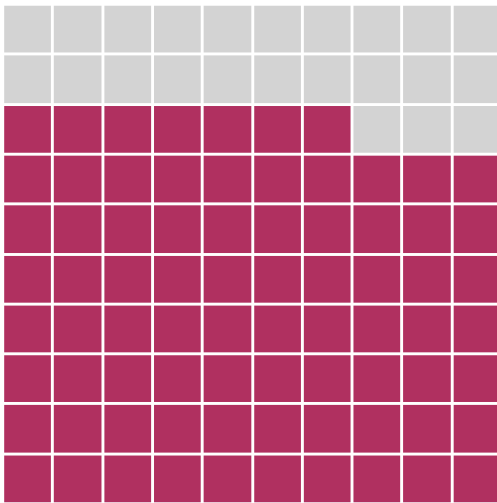
Graduation rates are up from 20-21



Source: California Department of Education (CDE) [Dataquest](#)

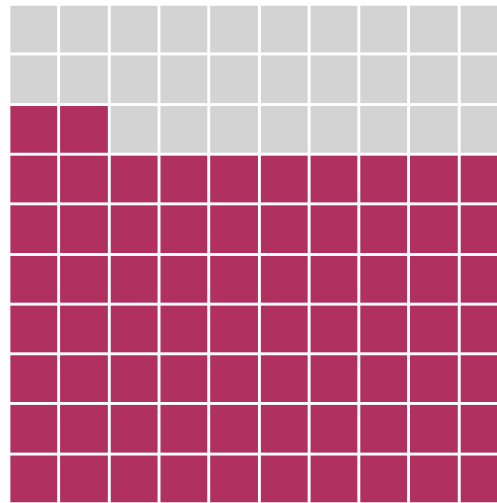
ACLU & CSU Center to Close the Opportunity Gap Survey

77%



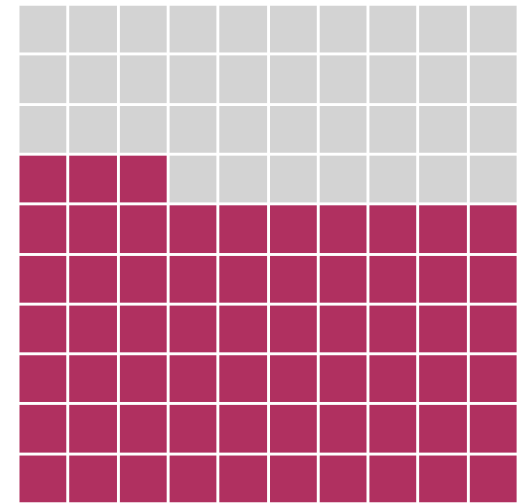
**Lacking
Motivation**

72%



**Feeling
Overwhelmed**

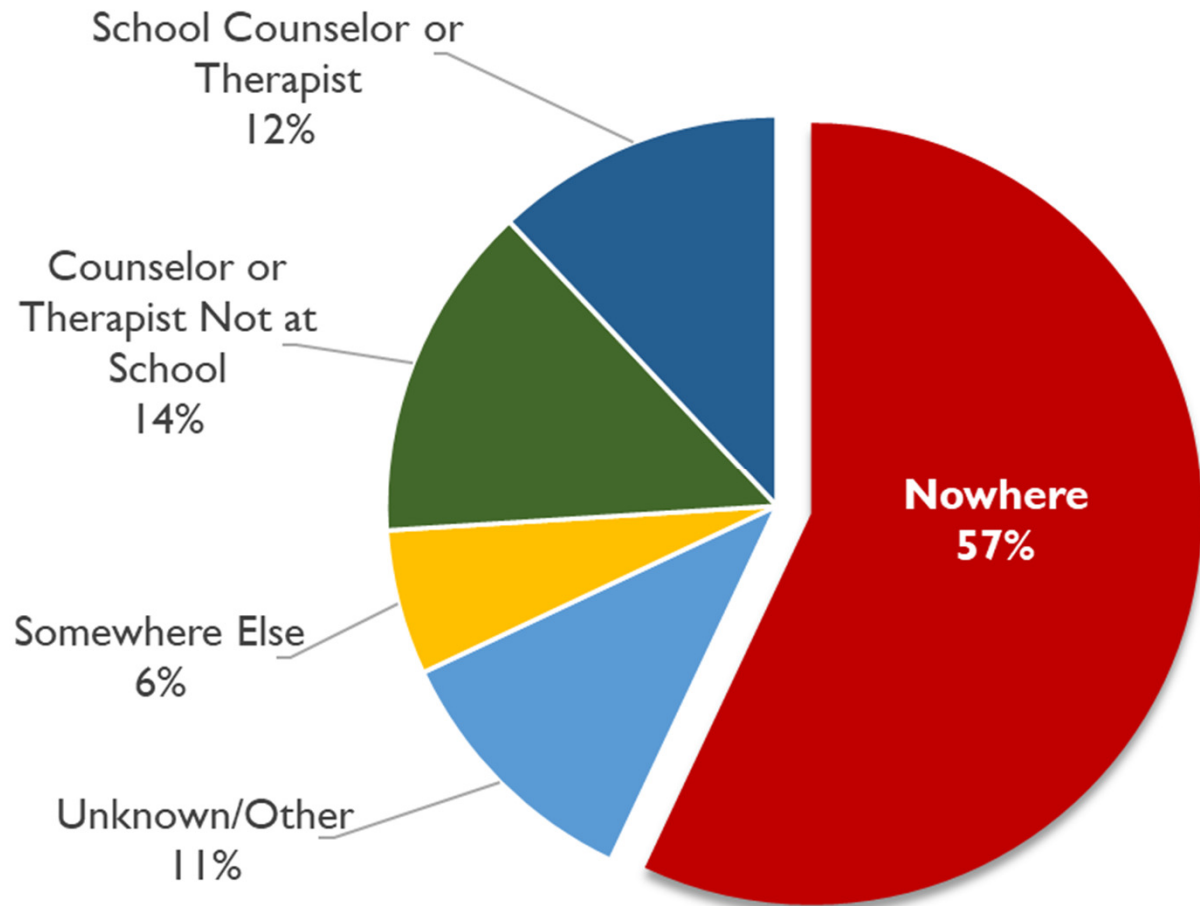
63%



**Emotional
Breakdown**

Source: Whitaker & Lopez-Perry (2022). State of Student Mental Wellness Report 2022, https://aclucalaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022_State_of_Student_Wellness_Report_.pdf
N = 1248 students (n=658 in 2020; n =590 in 2021; 46 school districts; 23 counties)

“In the past year, where did you get help from a counselor or therapist?”



Source: Whitaker & Lopez-Perry (2022). State of Student Mental Wellness Report 2022, https://aclucalaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022_State_of_Student_Wellness_Report_.pdf
N = 1248 students (n=658 in 2020; n =590 in 2021); 46 school districts; 23 counties)

Opportunities

- California's Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health
- Expanded learning time
- Community Schools Partnership Programs
- **Family Support and Equity**

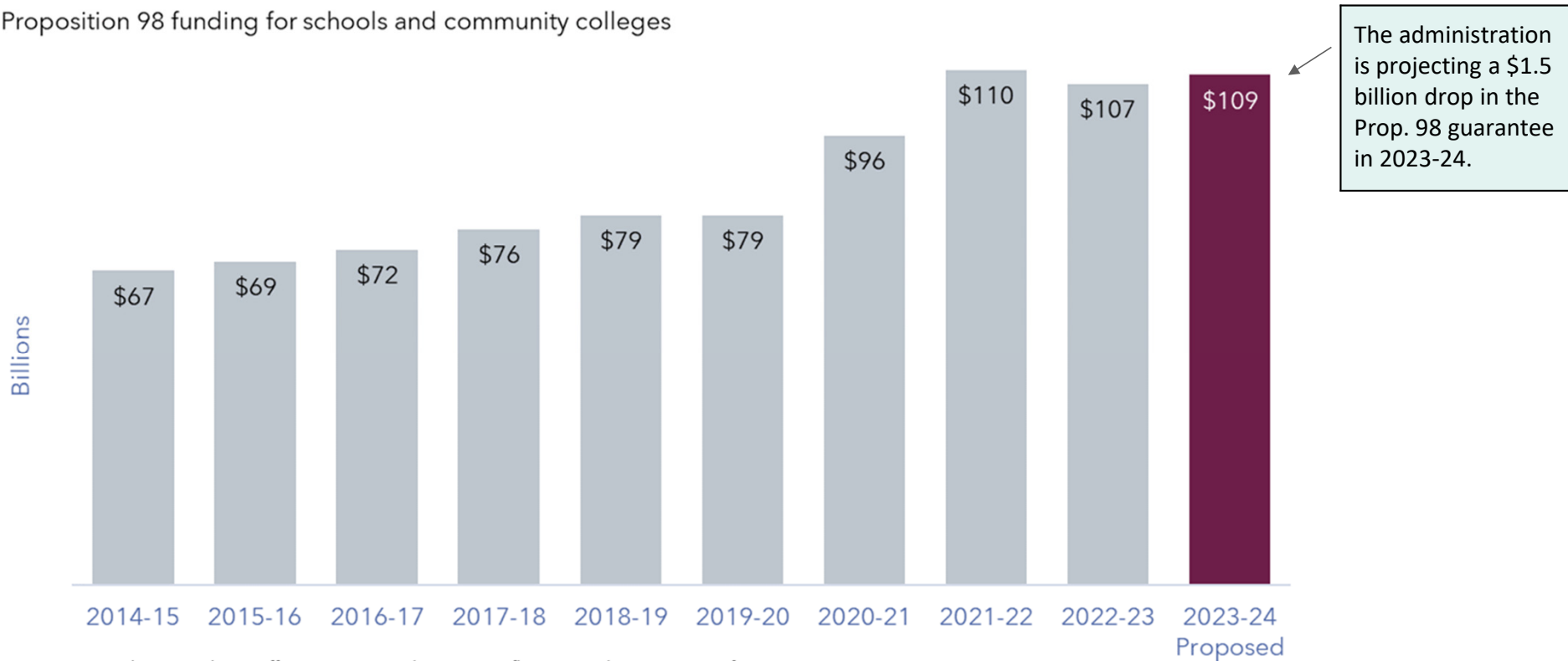
The State of the State: California School Finance

Carrie Hahnel, Bellwether
February 3, 2023



California TK-14 education funding is leveling off after reaching historical highs

Proposition 98 funding for schools and community colleges



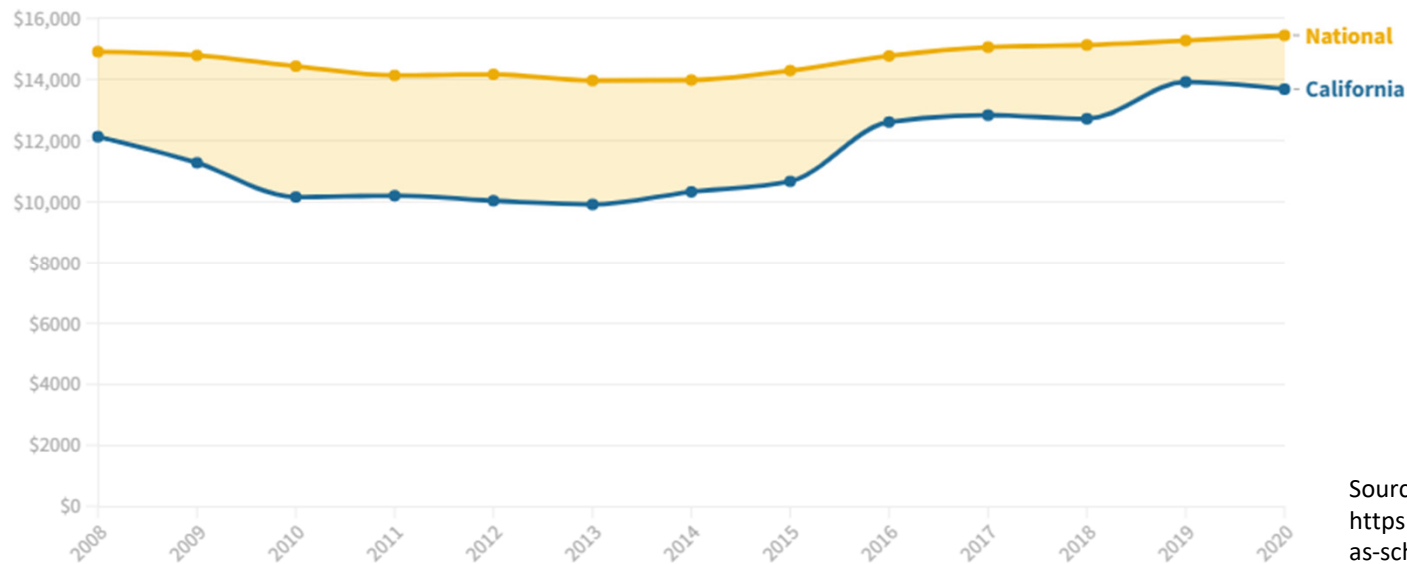
Source: Legislative Analyst's Office. 2021-22 and 2022-23 reflect revised estimates as of January 2023.

Note: Not adjusted for inflation

California is still below the national average in per-pupil funding, adjusted for regional costs

Funding level

Funding level is measured by analyzing the combined state and local revenues provided through the state school finance formula, adjusted to account for regional variations in labor market costs.



Source: [ELC analysis of U.S. Census Annual Survey of School System Finances, 2008-2020](#), U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis' State Gross Domestic Product reports, 2008-2020. • Graphic by Yuxuan Xie, EdSource

Source: **EdSource**, <https://edsources.org/2023/california-school-finance-rankings-d-for-adequacy-b-for-equity-f-for-effort-yet-on-the-upswing/683463>

Although the state projects an economic slowdown, Gov. Newsom has not proposed cuts to education

Key features of Newsom's 2023-24 spending plan:


Base cost increases	Maintenance of prior commitments	Targeted reductions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8.1% COLA for TK-14• 5% base funding increases for the University of California and California State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued phase-in of Universal TK• Continued implementation of Expanded Learning Opportunities Grants, Community Schools Partnership Program, mental health, dual enrollment, Golden State Pathways, and other programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1.2 billion reduction in the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant (which will largely be offset by Prop. 28)• Delays \$500 million for TK facilities• Delays adding more child care slots

However, the final budget could look different from the January proposal

- Others like the LAO expect lower revenues for 2022-23 and 2023-24
- Some say state reserves may not be strong enough to cover more than a mild, short recession
- Any fiscal shocks can greatly affect education, which is highly dependent on volatile income tax revenues

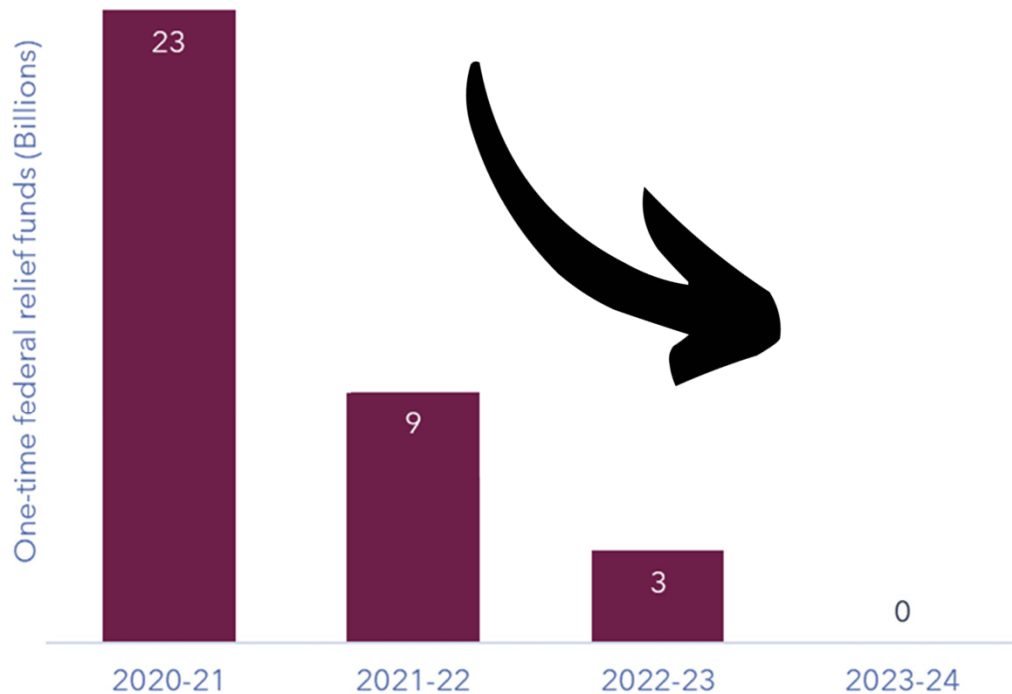
Economic risks include:

- Continued inflation
- Rising interest rates
- Supply chain issues
- Stock market declines

A photograph of a coastal cliff face meeting a beach and the ocean under a blue sky with light clouds. The cliff is composed of layered, reddish-brown rock. The beach is dark and pebbly, and the ocean is blue with white waves breaking. The sky is a clear, bright blue with some light, wispy clouds.

Either way, many Local
Education Agencies
could face a fiscal cliff

One-time federal relief funds are evaporating



Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)

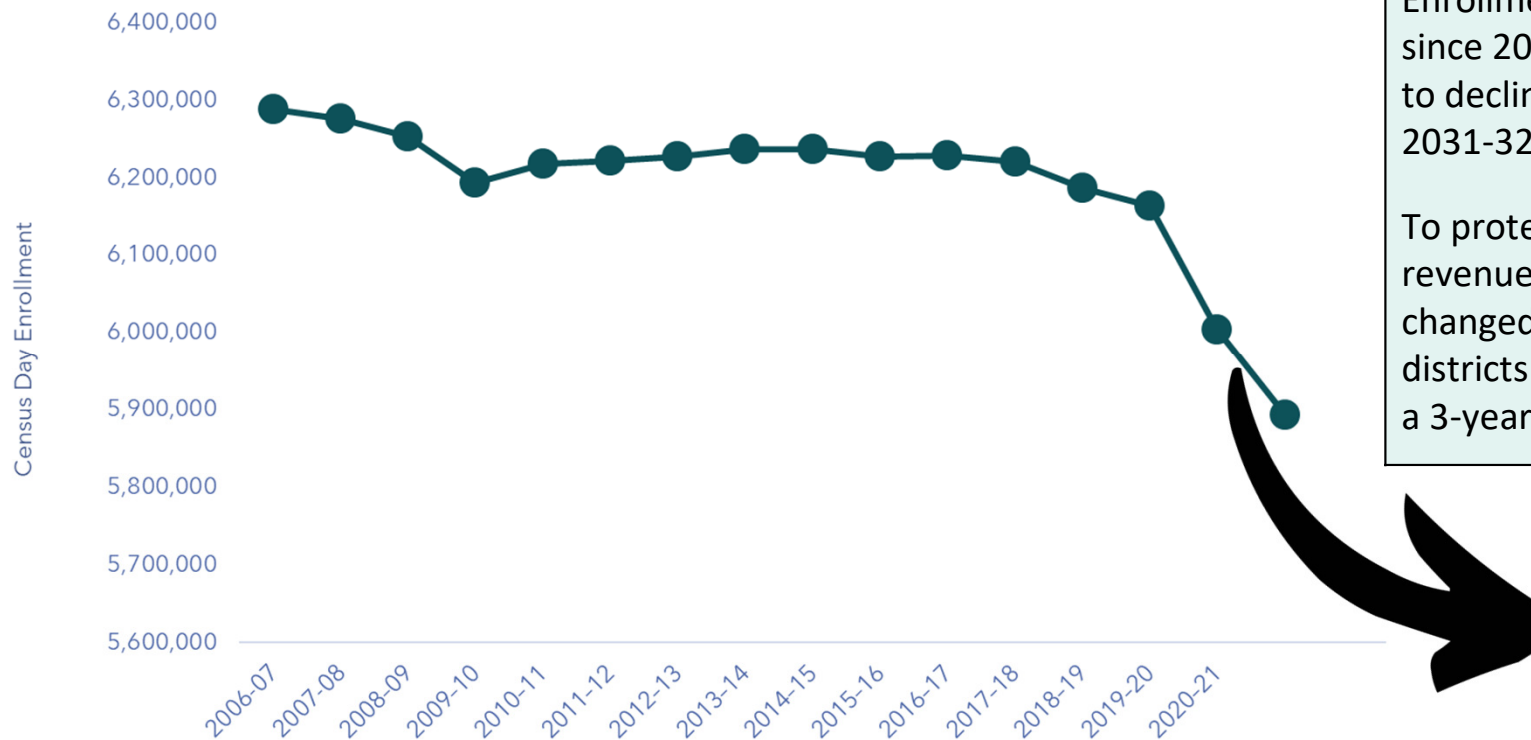
- Funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2024 and liquidated 120 days later
- Districts are most at risk if they have used ESSER funds for ongoing commitments (e.g. new hires, permanent raises)

Source: Legislative Analyst's Office

Note: Consists of funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (March 2020), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (December 2020), and the American Rescue Plan Act

California public school enrollment is declining

California Public School Enrollment From 2006-07 to 2020-21



Enrollment has dropped by 5% since 2018-19 and is expected to decline another ~9% by 2031-32 (source: DOF)

To protect districts from abrupt revenue drops, the state changed LCFF last year to allow districts to calculate ADA using a 3-year average

Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest

Costs continue to rise

For example:

- Salary schedule increases
- Minimum wage increases
- Special education costs
- Pension contributions are likely to increase due to pension fund investment losses, surge in retirees, and newer employees contributing less



Complicating things:

- Local reserve caps may prevent districts from saving for these and other scenarios
- Newer programs that seek to expand equity (e.g. Expanding Learning Opportunities Program, Community Schools Partnership Program, dual enrollment, Golden State Pathways) also constrain district budgets and choices

Some districts face difficult decisions about how to cut costs

- Some districts may reduce programs or lay off staff, even after boosting staffing levels in recent years
- Some have already closed or consolidated schools, and others are considering doing so
 - These closures, on average, disproportionately affect low-income students and Black students

Questions & Contact

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The State of the State

Matt Navo, California Collaborative for Educational Excellence
February 3, 2023



Opportunities/Challenges- Statewide Investments for the Whole Child Design

TK-12 Education

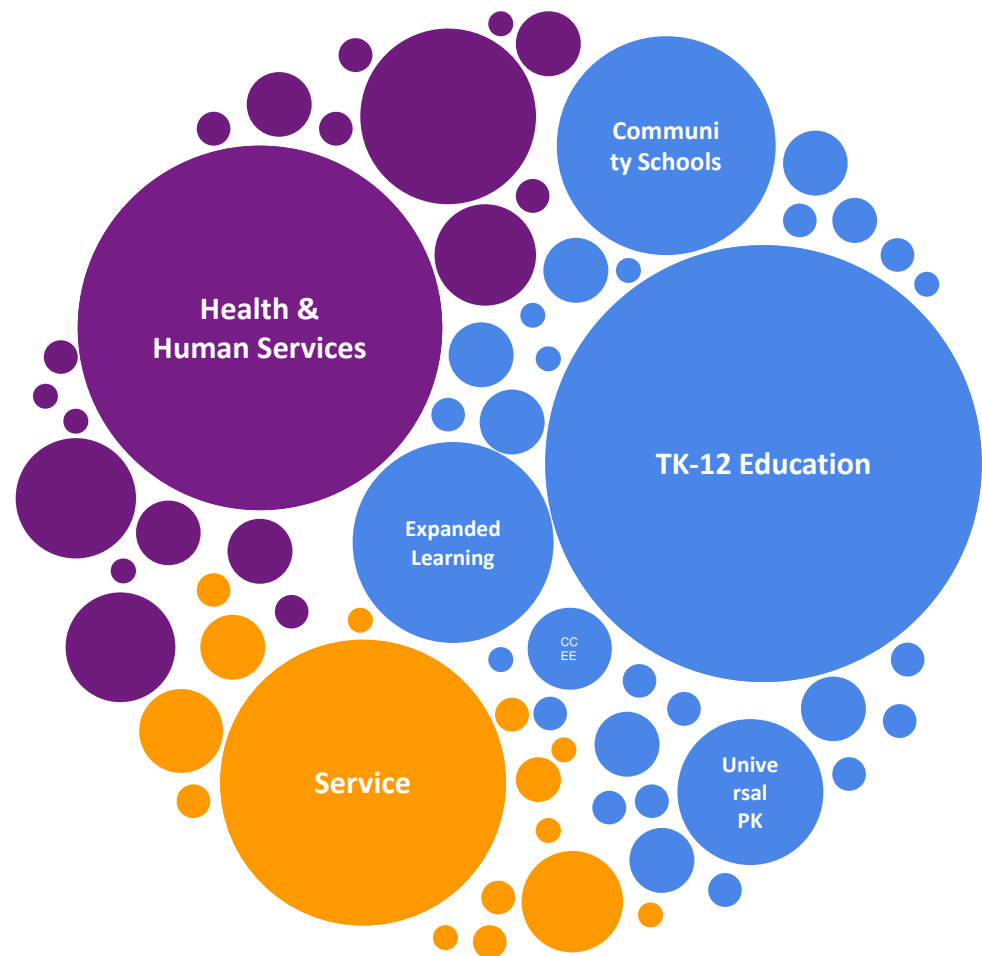
- Community Schools
- Expanded Learning Opportunities Grants
- Universal Pre-k

Health and Human Services

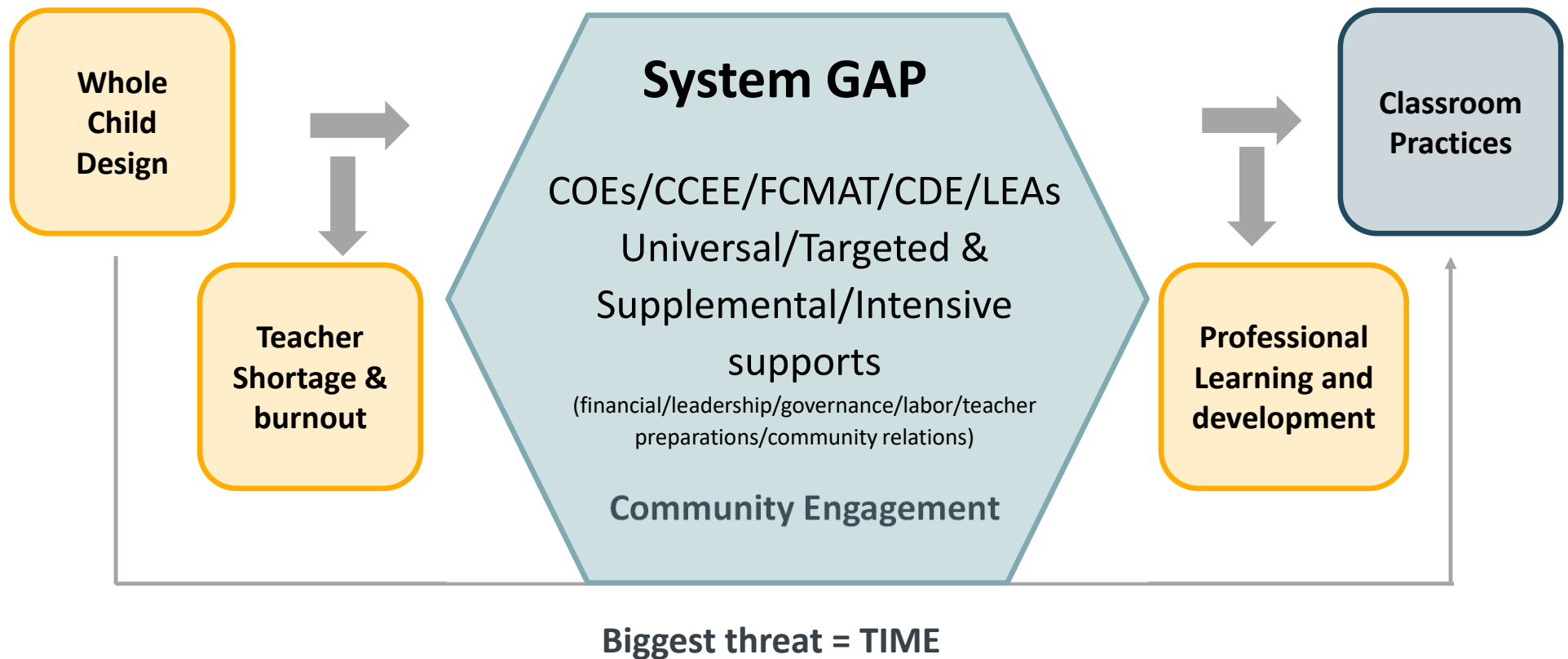
- California Department of Health Care Services (CDHCS)
- Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC)
- County Departments of Public Health

K-12 Service, grants, programs

- High Impact Tutoring
- Learning Acceleration
- High Quality on-line
- Literacy



Our challenge/Roles of Support?



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