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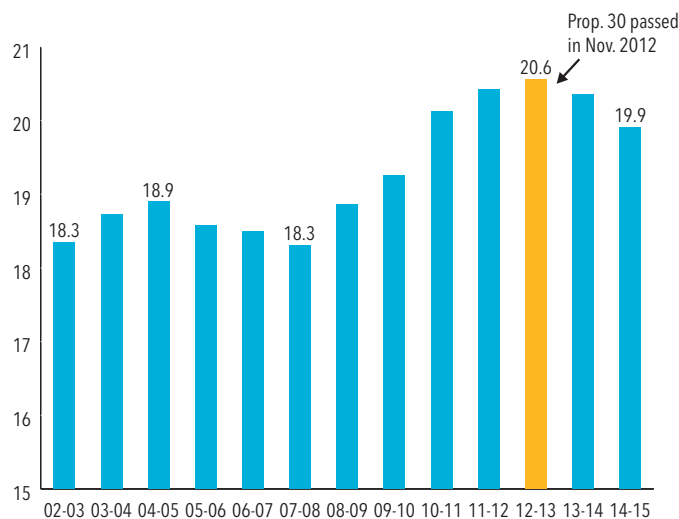
The Number of K-12 Students Per Teacher in California’s Schools Has Dropped Since Approval of Proposition 30

Although California ranks last in the nation in the number of K-12 students per teacher, the student-to-teacher ratio in the state’s public schools has dropped since 2012-13. California schools’ ability to hire teachers is largely determined by the amount of money the state spends to support K-12 education, which in turn is tied to the level of state revenues. When state revenues increase, as they did after voters approved Proposition 30 in 2012, the number of students per teacher in California’s K-12 schools tends to fall.

- California’s student-to-teacher ratio fell from 18.9-to-1 in 2004-05 to 18.3-to-1 in 2007-08, the lowest level since 2002-03.¹
- California’s student-to-teacher ratio climbed from 18.3-to-1 in 2007-08 to 20.6-to-1 in 2012-13, the highest level in over a decade.
- After California voters approved Prop. 30 in 2012, the number of students per teacher declined. The state’s student-to-teacher ratio dropped from 20.6-to-1 in 2012-13 to 19.9-to-1 in 2014-15.
- Prop. 30 revenues are set to decline beginning in 2016-17, the current fiscal year, which could reduce state funding for schools. Prop. 30 boosted state revenues and, along with growth in the economy, provided

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Number of Students Per Teacher



Note: “Teachers” may include other certificated employees such as nurses, librarians, and counselors.

additional school funding. Prop. 30 raised an estimated \$8.3 billion in 2015-16, the state fiscal year that ended this past June 30, by increasing the state sales tax rate through 2016 and personal income tax rates on high-income taxpayers through 2018. However, revenues from the measure are projected to decline beginning in 2016-17 at least partly due to the fact that 2015-16 was the last year in which its provisions were fully in effect.

¹ Student-to-teacher ratios reflect Budget Center calculations of data reported by the California Department of Education, with 2014-15 being the most recent school year for which data are available. Calculations reflect statewide average daily attendance divided by the number of teachers statewide, which may include other certificated employees such as nurses, librarians, and counselors.