



California's Schools are UNDER Administered

Compared to national standards, **California's schools are woefully under administered.** This means that California has fewer professionals at the district and school site level to evaluate and coach teachers, monitor program effectiveness and perform other quality control functions than most other states.

- ✓ Nationally, there is 1 school-site administrator for every 312 students. In **California, there is 1 for every 433 students.**
- ✓ Only three states—Illinois, New Jersey, and Utah—have more students per administer than California.
- ✓ For district-level administrators, the national average is 1 for every 831 students; in **California the ratio is 1 for every 2,061.**
- ✓ Compared to the national average, **California has two and a half more students per district-level administrator.**

Politicians like to describe school administration as “fat” or “bloat” that just “takes money away from the classroom.” The fact is, administration provides important functions that improve the quality of classroom instruction.

- ✓ Administrators are needed to observe, evaluate and mentor teachers to improve the quality of instruction.
- ✓ Administrators evaluate student performance and program effectiveness in order to identify strengths and weaknesses and plan appropriate improvements.

Decision-makers from the President and Governor on down have stressed the importance of increasing and improving the use of data in schools in order to effectively assess student, teacher and school performance. It is administrators who design and implement data collection systems and use the information for program improvement to increase student achievement.

Just as in private business, administration is essential to quality control and improvement. Having too few administrators to fulfill these vital functions is a major impediment to achieving the quality improvements that Californians expect of and deserve from their schools.

There is evidence to support this—many states that score above the national average on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), such as Massachusetts, Vermont, New York and Connecticut, also have more administrators per student than the national average.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics. Data are for the 2007-08 fiscal year.