

## California's Students Lack Support Services

Students in California are more likely than their counterparts in most other states to be living in poverty, homeless, in foster care or the victim of a violent crime. For many students, their school is their only source of stability and responsible adult guidance. Unfortunately, California's schools are unable to provide the level of support that students need.

- ✓ **California has 990 students for each school counselor.** Nationally, there is one counselor for every 479 students. In other words, **California's counselors have twice the workload as the national average.** The gap may actually be widening, because a number of school districts have reported laying off counselors over the past 12 months in response to budget restrictions.

But that still understates the real gap, because counselors in California face a higher challenge due to the condition of children in this state. The reality is California's students have a greater need for counselors than students in most other states.

- ✓ The "service gap" extends to other areas, as well. For example, **California has 5,660 students for each librarian, compared to only 901 students per librarian nationally.** That's 628 percent of the national workload!

Having access to libraries—staffed by professional librarians—is essential to quality education. The books, computers, and other learning materials that libraries provide are vital to a truly quality education. Without access to the materials and resources provided by a library, a student's education will likely not rise above the most basic, rudimentary level.

If California wants its students to excel, it must invest much more in student support services.