

California Student –Teacher Ratio is Very High

California has 20.9 students per teacher, compared to a national average of 15.5.

✓ **That means we exceed the national average by 35 percent!**

California actually helps to raise the national average. Only 17 of the other 50 jurisdictions (the other states plus the District of Columbia) have a student-teacher ratio that is higher than the average of 15.5 to 1.

Vermont has the nation's lowest student/teacher ratio, at 10.8 to 1, about half as many students per teacher as California. The number of students per teacher in some of the other large states is:

- Florida—16.4
- Illinois—18.1
- Massachusetts—13..2
- New Jersey—12.4
- New York—12.8
- Ohio—16.6
- Texas—14.8
- Wisconsin—14.8

Even the “rustiest” of the rust belt states of Michigan (17.5 to 1) and Pennsylvania (15.5 to 1) have student-teacher ratios that are well below California's.

✓ Having 35 percent more students per teacher than most other states means that **California's students are denied the same level of student-teacher contact and individual attention as most students receive nationally.**

It also results in more difficult classroom management and less quality instructional time during the school day.