

NEW ANALYSIS FINDS SB-98 WITHHOLDS OVER \$140 MILLION IN EDUCATION FUNDING FROM 10 FASTEST GROWING CALIFORNIA COUNTIES

California budget bill allows Los Angeles Unified to keep more than \$117 million for over 11,000 phantom students it will not educate this year

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – A new analysis released today finds that the 10 counties with the greatest student enrollment increases over the last five years will likely be forced to educate more than 13,700 new students this fall without funding. Senate Bill 98, the state budget deal recently signed into law, will withhold an estimated \$140.8 million from these growing counties while enabling the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to keep more than \$117 million for more than 11,000 students who have left their schools.

Released by [Fund All Kids](#), a coalition demanding California’s leaders ensure every child’s education is funded, the analysis highlights the state’s move to defund the education of an estimated 52,800 students in the majority of counties across the state. This Student Defunding Law froze student funding at pre-pandemic attendance levels in February. As a result, California is rewarding Los Angeles County with \$200 million for phantom students it won’t educate this fall while withholding over \$182 million from the 35 counties with growing student enrollments. LAUSD alone is poised to receive an additional \$117 million even after [publicly announcing](#) expected enrollment declines of more than 11,000 for this fall.

Top 10 Growing Counties by Student Enrollment

1. Kern
2. Sacramento
3. Fresno
4. San Joaquin
5. Riverside
6. Placer
7. El Dorado
8. Contra Costa
9. Stanislaus
10. Tulare

“By cheerleading this deal and accepting this money while others struggle, Los Angeles Unified and the elected officials who accepted this deal are actively working against the interests of other kids in California,” said Paul Keefer, Sacramento County Board of Education trustee. “If California is truly serious about eliminating the massive inequities we’re seeing in our state, they would fully fund the education for all students who are choosing better opportunities.”

The 10 counties most impacted by the Student Defunding Law are disproportionately growing with families of color who are leaving large cities for better educational and economic opportunities. In the last three decades, [hundreds of thousands](#) of Black Californians have left coastal counties in part for communities in growing inland counties.

“Families moving to places for better opportunities are being robbed of the money we have promised would be there to educate their children,” said Margaret Fortune, president and CEO of [Fortune School](#) and secretary treasurer of [California State National Action Network](#). “SB-98 is legally discriminating against these children—a move that will only exacerbate very real inequities throughout California.”

Fund All Kids was launched by families with children at four growing public school organizations across the state after filing a [lawsuit](#) against the State of California and Governor Gavin Newsom, among others, challenging the constitutionality of the Student Defunding Law. The 19 plaintiffs are public school

students attending [John Adams Academy](#), [Fortune School](#), [Voices College-Bound Language Academies](#) and [Sycamore Creek Community Charter School](#). Approximately \$14.3 million will be withheld from these four public school systems growing by 1,397 students this fall.

The impact of the Student Defunding Law is slated to be discussed in the Assembly Budget Subcommittee NO 6., on Tuesday, August 25, in the State Capitol, Room 4202.

About Fund All Kids

Fund All Kids came together this August, united in the belief that all children are guaranteed equal education rights and opportunities under California's constitution and to fight the looming negative impact of SB-98, the Student Defunding Law, which punishes children and families who are leaving poor-performing schools for better education opportunities—and perversely rewards schools for no longer educating students. www.fundallkids.org

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