



13 Ways California is Transforming Education

As other states ban books, target gay and trans kids, cutting mental health, restricting speech, and put more guns in classrooms, California is taking unprecedented steps to support the whole kid from birth to higher education – **college savings accounts for all newborns, universal transitional kindergarten, universal school meals, before and after school, mental health, debt-free higher education**, and more.

1. **Universal Transitional Kindergarten (TK).** Public schools will add a **new grade underneath kindergarten**. By 2025, schools will serve an additional 450,000 children per year, giving all parents access to free, high-quality early care and education.
2. **Universal Access for Youth Mental Health.** **All young people ages 0-25 will have ready access to mental health supports** both inside and outside of school. The \$4.7 billion effort will prioritize early treatment and urgent support for youth in crisis.
3. **Universal School Meals.** All students, regardless of income, will have access to **two free school meals per day** – up to 12 million meals per day statewide. And \$800 million was invested to increase access to fresh, high-quality, and locally-sourced meals.
4. **Expanded Access to After-School Enrichment.** All elementary school **students from low-income households, foster youth, and English learners will have access to enrichment programs year-round and 9 hours per day**. At full scale in 2025, the \$4 billion-per-year effort will serve an additional 1.5 million students per year.
5. **Community Schools.** Roughly 1 out of every 3 schools in California will receive \$4.1 billion to become ‘community schools’ to focus more on **parent engagement, expanded access to mental health supports, and wraparound services**.
6. **Tutoring + Literacy + Math.** Schools will help students recover missed learning caused by COVID-19 and accelerate academic progress with \$7.9 billion invested in **tutoring, increased instructional time, and other student supports**. This builds on related investments, including \$5.3 billion for ‘learning loss mitigation’ in June 2020, and targeted investments in literacy and math.



7. **Arts + Music.** Schools will rebuild arts and music programs through a targeted **\$3.6 billion investment**, giving all students an opportunity for enrichment and to develop a broad base of skills.
8. **More Teachers, More Counselors, and More Paraeducators.** Lower staff-to-student ratios means higher levels of support for students. With additional funding, **ratios will be lowered across settings**, including a reduction from 24:1 to 10:1 for transitional kindergarten and \$1.1 billion in annual funding for high-poverty schools to hire up to 5 more staff each.
9. **K-12 College + Career Pathways.** High schools will utilize a \$700 million investment to **develop more opportunities for students** to dual-enroll in community college, and to establish more academies and pathway programs to prepare students for careers in healthcare, climate, education, and technology.
10. **Universal College Savings Accounts.** 3.5 million college savings accounts – with seed investments of \$500-\$1,500 – will be opened for all low-income public school students in first grade and above. Starting in August 2022, **all newborns will automatically have college savings accounts opened in their names**, with seed investments of up to \$100 – and on an annual basis, \$500-\$1,500 in seed investments will be added for all first graders who are low-income, in foster care, or experiencing homelessness.
11. **Affordable Student Housing + Textbooks.** State financial aid was expanded to provide thousands of dollars in support for **hundreds of thousands of additional students** per year. In addition, to attack underlying cost drivers, \$4 billion will build **new affordable student housing**, and over \$100 million will create more **zero-textbook-cost courses** and open-source materials.
12. **Public University Compacts.** Based on compacts Governor Newsom brokered with the University of California, California State University, and the California Community Colleges, historic reinvestments in public higher education will lead to a comprehensive set of improvements for students. In exchange for permanent funding increases totaling over \$2 billion per year by 2026, **public colleges and universities will increase seats, close equity gaps, create debt-free pathways, and improve workforce pipelines** to health, climate, education, and technology.
13. **Education, Health, Climate, and Technology Pipelines.** Multiple programs will intentionally recruit, train, and develop workforces in key industries, including **\$3.6 billion for new teachers and over \$1 billion for new healthcare workers.**