

10 Ways California is Transforming Education

As other states ban books, target gay and trans kids, cut mental health funding, and restrict speech, California is taking action to support kids from cradle to career.

- Community Schools. Roughly 1 out of every 3 schools in California will get a total of \$4.1 billion to become 'community schools' to focus more on parent engagement, expanded access to mental health supports, and wraparound services.
- 2. Universal Transitional Kindergarten (TK). Public schools will add a **new grade** underneath kindergarten. By 2025, schools will serve roughly 430,000 children per year, giving all parents access to free, high-quality early care and education.
- 3. Universal Access for Youth Mental Health. With a \$4.7 billion investment, all young people ages 0-25 can access mental health support inside and outside of school.
- 4. **Universal School Meals.** All students, regardless of income, have access to **two free school meals per day** up to 12 million meals per day statewide.
- 5. More Access to Before, After, and Summer School. Students from low-income households, foster youth, and English learners can access year-round enrichment programs for 9 hours per day.
- 6. **Tutoring + Literacy + Math.** Schools will help students recover missed learning caused by COVID-19 and accelerate academic progress with more than \$8 billion invested in **tutoring, increased instructional time, and other student supports**.
- 7. Arts + Music. Schools will **rebuild arts and music programs** with nearly a billion dollars in new investments, giving all students expanded opportunities.
- 8. More Teachers, More Counselors, and More Paraeducators. Staff-to-student ratios will be lowered across settings, including a reduction from 24:1 to 12:1 for transitional kindergarten, and funding to hire more school staff.
- 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 programs to prepare students for in-demand careers.
- 10. Universal College Savings Accounts. All newborns will automatically have college savings accounts opened in their names, with seed investments of up to \$100. And \$500-\$1,500 in seed investments will be added annually for all first graders who are low-income, in foster care, or experiencing homelessness.