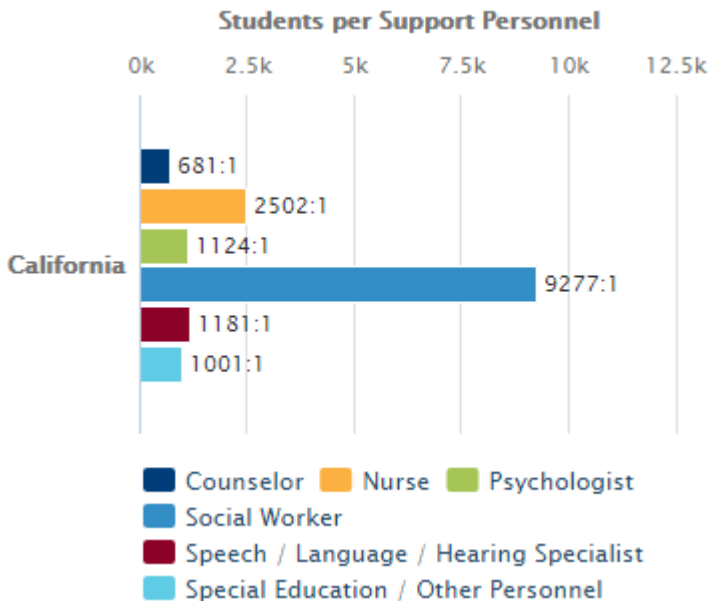


Pupil Support Services in California

Ratio of Students to Pupil Support Service Personnel, by Type of Personnel: 2017



Definition: Number of public school students per full-time equivalent (FTE) pupil support service personnel, by type of personnel (e.g., in 2017, there were 681 students per FTE counselor in California public schools).

Data Source: California Dept. of Education, [Staff Assignment and Course Data](#) (Mar. 2018) & [DataQuest](#) (May 2017).

Ratio of Students to School Counselors: 2017; Showing Counties

What It Is

Kidsdata.org provides the number of and ratio of students to full-time equivalent pupil support service personnel, by type of personnel. Pupil support service personnel include school counselors, librarians, nurses, psychologists, psychometrists, resource specialists, social workers, language specialists, special education personnel, and others.

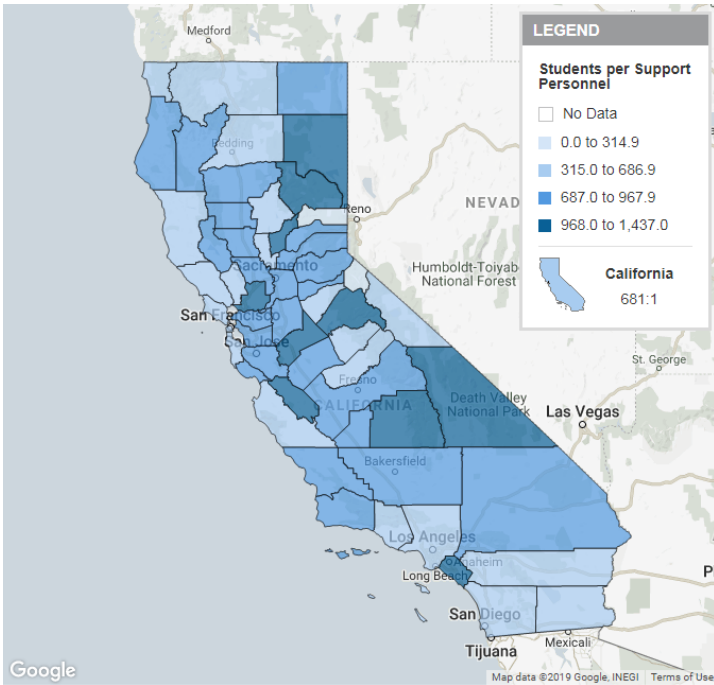
School staff reports on the extent to which, at their school, there is adequate counseling and support services for students, effective confidential support and referral services for substance abuse or other problems, and collaboration with community organizations to help address youth problems also are provided.

Why This Topic Is Important

Pupil support services address students' social, emotional, behavioral, physical, and cognitive needs to help them reach their maximum academic and health potential. The availability of an array of pupil support personnel indicates a school's capacity to meet a wide range of student needs. For example, school counselors often help students learn coping, conflict-resolution, and goal-setting skills that are critical to future success. Counselors also provide immediate support during crises and referrals to other services as needed. School psychologists provide some of these same services and also offer mental health counseling, identify learning challenges, and assist teachers in tailoring instruction accordingly. Speech/language/hearing and resource specialists provide direct service and case management for students with specific disabilities. Nurses manage the daily health needs of students, which may include providing basic health care and screenings, connecting students to health care resources, and helping students manage chronic health conditions, among other responsibilities. Nurses and other student support staff help ensure that children are healthy and have the support they need to be successful learners. These support services play an important role in creating a positive school climate, which is linked to improved student behavior and academic achievement.

How Children Are Faring

In 2017, public school districts in California employed one full-time equivalent counselor for every 681 students, a psychologist for every 1,124 students, a speech/language/hearing specialist for every 1,181 students, a nurse for every 2,502 students, and a social worker for every 9,277 students. As in previous years,



2017 data for counties and school districts show wide variation in student access to support personnel.

Across all types of pupil support personnel for which data are available, statewide ratios have improved since 2011; nevertheless, they do not meet recommendations from the American School Counselor Association (250 students per counselor), the National Association of School Psychologists (500-700 students per psychologist), or the National Association of Social Workers (250 students per social worker).

When asked whether their school provides adequate counseling and support services for students, 23% of responses by elementary school staff, 30% of responses by middle school staff, 27% of responses by high school staff, and 44% of responses by staff at non-traditional schools reported strong agreement in 2013-2015.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:
<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/24/pupil-support-services/summary>

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Ratio of Students to Pupil Support Service Personnel, by Type of Personnel California



Definition: Number of public school students per full-time equivalent (FTE) pupil



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