

## California's K-12 enrollment drops again, charter schools see increase

*New state data reveals latest trends*

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MARCH 28, 2019 | THERESA HARRINGTON

California's K-12 public schools this year experienced the biggest drop in enrollment in the past five years, according to new state data released Thursday.

While the number of students at traditional public schools has steadily declined, the number attending charter schools in the state continues to increase.

"This data provides a critical snapshot of all students in California, highlighting trends that show areas where students are improving, where they're struggling and where additional resources are needed," Tony Thurmond, state superintendent of public instruction, said Thursday.

A total of 34,135 fewer students were enrolled this school year compared to last, more than four times the drop experienced the prior year. **Until this year, the biggest single-year decline in the past five years had been 8,783 from the 2014-15 to 2015-16 school year.**

Significant trends over the last five years show an overall 0.8 percent decline in student enrollment statewide, from 6.2 million in 2014-15 to 6.19 million in 2018-19. Meanwhile, charter school enrollment grew from 544,980 students to 652,933 students during the same time period.

Research shows that by 2030, only 1 out of every 5 Californians will be a child, as a result of declining birth rates, said Samantha Tran, senior managing director for

This article details that exempting parents are very committed to their decision and largely impervious to a rule change, and will instead homeschool. Bill supporters misrepresented that ending exemptions will “raise” vaccination rates. The schools may measure higher, but mostly because exempting families will have left, and there will be very few new vaccinations.

LOCAL NEWS

<http://www.redding.com/news/local/new-state-vaccine-law-could-cause-enrollment-problems-3a6fb524-67bc-3ae7-e053-0100007fcab1-390814921.html>

# New state vaccine law could cause enrollment problems

"There's a public perception out there that suddenly and magically, starting with this school year, everybody is going to be in vaccination compliance, and it's just not true," Rice said.

"People have moved out of the state as a result of this; the whole notion of government mandating vaccines, I think, created a turning point for some people," said Jeff Rice, founder and director of APLUS+, an association of personalized learning schools and resources.

But for others — particularly very small schools — even what would be a small drop in enrollment at other schools could pose a financial crisis.

Stethoscope wrapped around hundred dollar bills

By Alayna Shulman of the Redding Record Searchlight

But Rice said most of these families won't be so easily swayed by a new law.

"If ... they believe that the school is now forcing them, then it's likely that they will make a different choice rather than comply," he said. "I think there's a higher concentration of families who are ... more of the mind to say, regardless of what the government says, my principles tell me that I should have the choice, and therefore I'm going to make a choice based on principle rather than simply complying with the government says."

**Action Item-** Notify your Professional Association, State Senator & Representatives-  
We don't need this bill, and don't let Medical Trade Groups set education policy.

**Oppose legislation that restricts or eliminates non-medical vaccine exemptions**

Vacaville school district is setting up a parallel education system for those that do not wish to comply to 16/16 injections or 17/17 injections, attempting to avoid litigation and to keep the FTE funding within their district. <http://www.dailyrepublic.com/news/vacaville/vacaville-schools-provide-learning-options-for-children-not-vaccinated/>

**Parents are going so far as to move out of state to avoid the impact of SB277**

June 23 at 10:56pm

Shortly after SB277 passed my husband and I decided we would start the process of leaving California. After 3 days on the market, 7 offers, and countless hours of preparation, we have sold our home. Tomorrow we make the big move into a short term rental before leaving California for good. Please keep our family in your thoughts and prayers. We know we are making the right decision for our 2 children, but it doesn't make selling our first home any easier. Thank you!

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# DAILY REPUBLIC

FAIRFIELD-SUISUN, CALIF.

## Education

### Vacaville schools provide learning options for children not vaccinated

By Daily Republic staff From page A4 | March 24, 2016

VACAVILLE — School officials in Vacaville are making plans for families who have unvaccinated children to continue their children's education.

The changes prompted by Senate Bill 277 will take effect July 1, which means that children without current vaccinations will no longer be able to attend California schools or day care centers.

The Vacaville School District's Independent Study Program is an alternative offered for children in the area. The district recently created a school principal position for the Independent Study Program and appointed Manolo Garcia as principal, according to a school district press release.

Today is the day!!! Here is the passion project I've been working on for the past few months. This tool has come out of my deep desire that all California families find the support and care they need during this difficult time of dealing with sb277. I don't want any family to have to cave on their wishes and standards regarding their child's health and safety while we battle this thing in the courts, so if the only way to help families stay strong in their desires for delayed... See More

**Other parents are now homeschooling in record numbers to avoid the mandates.**

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**CA SB 277 Pushes students out of schools and hurts districts.**

This article describes administrator angst at now being the “vaccination police”, a small district potentially losing \$215,000 in funding, a family electing for a spouse to stop working to homeschool, and school districts trying to meet IEP student requirements.

**CA SB 277  
Pushes students out of  
schools and hurts districts.**

Article describing the issues with SB277 Implementation  
“And, almost assuredly, they will be turning some children away.  
That’s a new and uncomfortable position for many of them.”



**"We are very frustrated that we are now the immunization police,"** said Julia Anderson, the executive director of Beginnings in BriceLand, which includes Skyfish elementary school and a child care center. **"This new law has a lot of parents in a total uproar."**

**"(Lawmakers) definitely put it in the laps of the schools when they made that law,"** said Steffano-Davis reflectively. **"I'm hoping children can go to school. That's what I want to see. I want to educate kids."**

*It's not difficult to understand why administrators would be on edge given what's at stake. In California, school funding is tightly tied to enrollment and attendance. That means parents' deciding that homeschooling their children is preferable to vaccinating them has a direct impact on school budgets and, consequently, staffing...*

*Consider the case of Coastal Grove Charter School in Arcata, a Waldorf inspired school that serves about 230 students in kindergarten through eighth grade... 19 Kindergartners and nine 7<sup>th</sup> graders had PBE's... If those numbers carried over to this year, the school would have to turn away 28 students, or about 12 percent of its student body...*

*Going back to Coastal Grove, if the school were to see those 28 students vanish from its rolls this year, that would represent a funding reduction of more than \$215,000...*

*Of course, the hope with the new law is that parents will opt to vaccinate their children and send them to school. But there's a lot of uncertainty, in Humboldt County, anyway, as to whether that will happen. Some families clearly are not going to do it. Take Tenae LaPorte, who has quit her job in a local dermatologist's office to homeschool her children. She had planned on sending them to Fieldbrook Elementary but is dead set against vaccinating them. "We can do this," LaPorte said of homeschooling and shifting her family from a two- to a one-income household, "because it's currently our only option we are willing to take."*

*Sitting in her office at the Humboldt County Office of Education, Special Education Director Tess Ives said there's one other large issue looming with the new vaccination law: What to do with the thousands of kids in Humboldt County who receive some sort of special education through what's called an individualized education plan, or an IEP. Under the law, districts and the county are responsible for providing the specialized services these kids need to get an education, a huge spectrum of offerings that range from special day classes to a bit of extra instruction or therapy. Even though schools might not be able to admit unvaccinated children under S.B. 277, that doesn't alleviate their special education obligations.*

**A**s the first day of school approaches, there's an anxiety building in many administrative offices throughout Humboldt County. The anxiety doesn't seem to be pervasive, but cloistered in different pockets throughout the region. And it centers around a simple question: Will students show up?



***"It's easy to understand the controversy. After all, the bill mandated a medical treatment for children that some fear has adverse health impacts, with state lawmakers essentially telling parents: We're putting public health before your concerns for your immediate family."***