

2011
CALIFORNIA
EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY REPORT

Los Angeles
County



*“I think our kids are
more on their own
to succeed and
navigate their way
through school
than they have ever,
ever been.”*

— California high
school principal

Los Angeles County



Los Angeles County Educational Opportunities in 2011

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For the past five years, UCLA's Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access (IDEA) and UC/ACCORD All Campus Consortium on Research for Diversity have produced a series of reports that examine the quality and distribution of educational opportunities across California's public schools. The Educational Opportunity series and our online educational search engine allow policymakers, educators, and community members to look across the state and see, for every high school and middle school, the relationships among California's educational infrastructure, rates of high school completion, and preparation for and enrollment in the state's four-year colleges and universities.

This year, we have produced a state report and reports for each assembly, senate, and congressional districts. Additionally, the supplemental *Conditions, Opportunities, and Outcomes in California Public Schools Series* analyzes the most recent publically available state educational data to highlight differences in school resources and outcomes across different groups of California public schools.

The annual state report, *Free Fall: Educational Opportunities in 2011*, highlights results from a statewide survey and interviews with a representative sample of California high school principals. The report describes the effects of the budget cuts and economic crisis on educational opportunities across the state.

This document reports on educational opportunities in the county and helps answer three important questions:

- Are schools in this county providing an adequate level of education to meet the state's goals?
- How do schools in this county compare to schools in other California counties?
- What are the economic conditions in the neighborhoods around public schools?

This report includes:

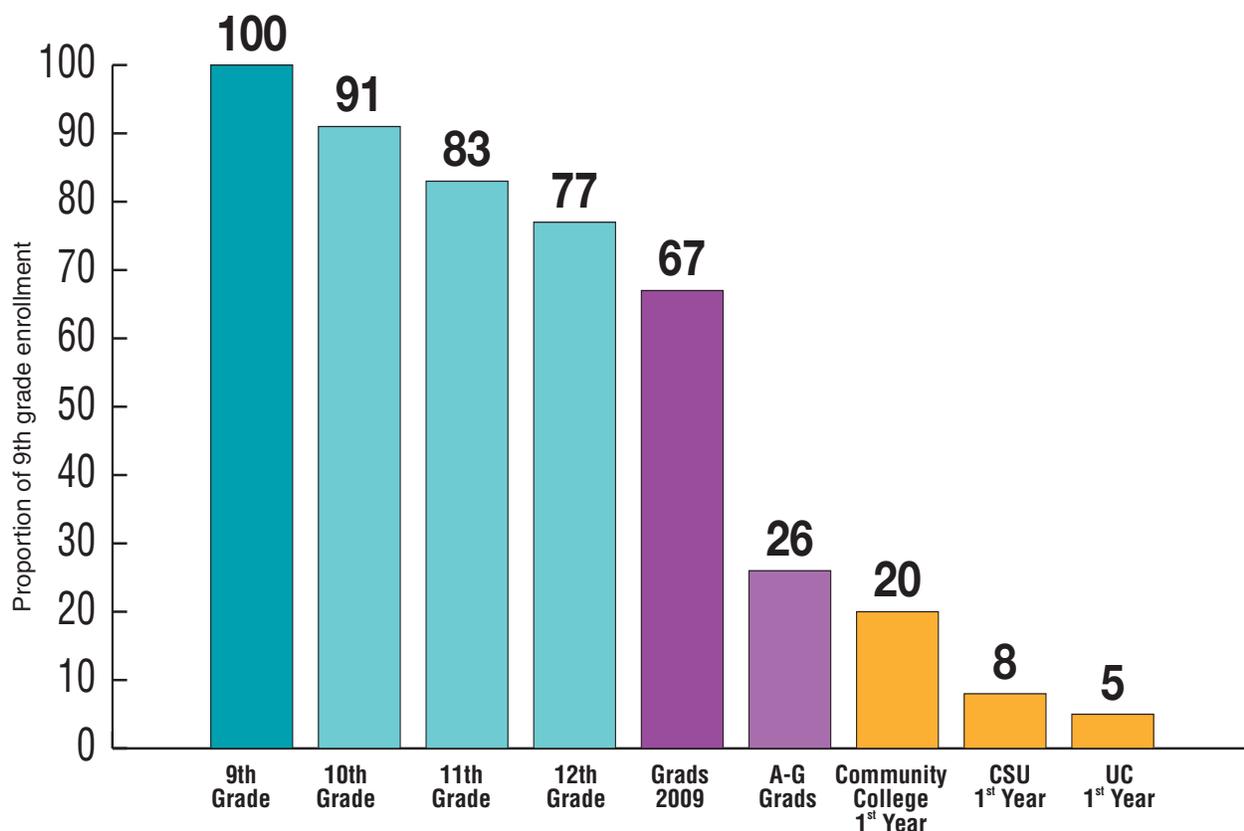
- A comparison of public school demographics, conditions, and outcomes between this county and California overall.
- A profile of the Class of 2009's progress toward high school graduation and college. This profile follows the group of students in this county who enrolled as 9th graders in fall of 2005, graduated in June 2009, and enrolled in California Community Colleges, California State Universities, or University of California Campuses in fall 2009.
- A new set of indicators about the economic conditions in the county.
- A summary of middle and high school conditions and outcomes for each middle school and high school in the county.

Pathways to College

Many California students are not successfully completing their K-12 education and moving on to college. The state's most recent data reports on the progress of the Class of 2009. More than half a million students enrolled as 9th graders in California public high schools in the fall of 2005. In June 2009, 344,936 students graduated. The original class shrunk by more than a third in four years. California now graduates a smaller proportion of its 9th grade class than most other states.

The pathway chart below displays how the cohort of students enrolled as 9th graders in fall 2005 shrank as it moved through the system. **The 9th Grade column** represents a cohort of 100 students who were California 9th graders in fall 2005. **The next three columns** show that the number of students in this group diminished every year, until only 77 remained by 12th grade. **The Grads 2009 and A-G Grads columns** indicate that only 67 members of the original group of 9th graders graduated from high school in 2009 and only 26 of them completed the "A-G" courses required to attend a four-year California public university. **The final three columns** show how many California public high school graduates enrolled in a California Community College, a California State University, or a University of California campus.

California Class of 2009: Pathway to College



Source: California Basic Education Data System (CBEDS) and California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC)

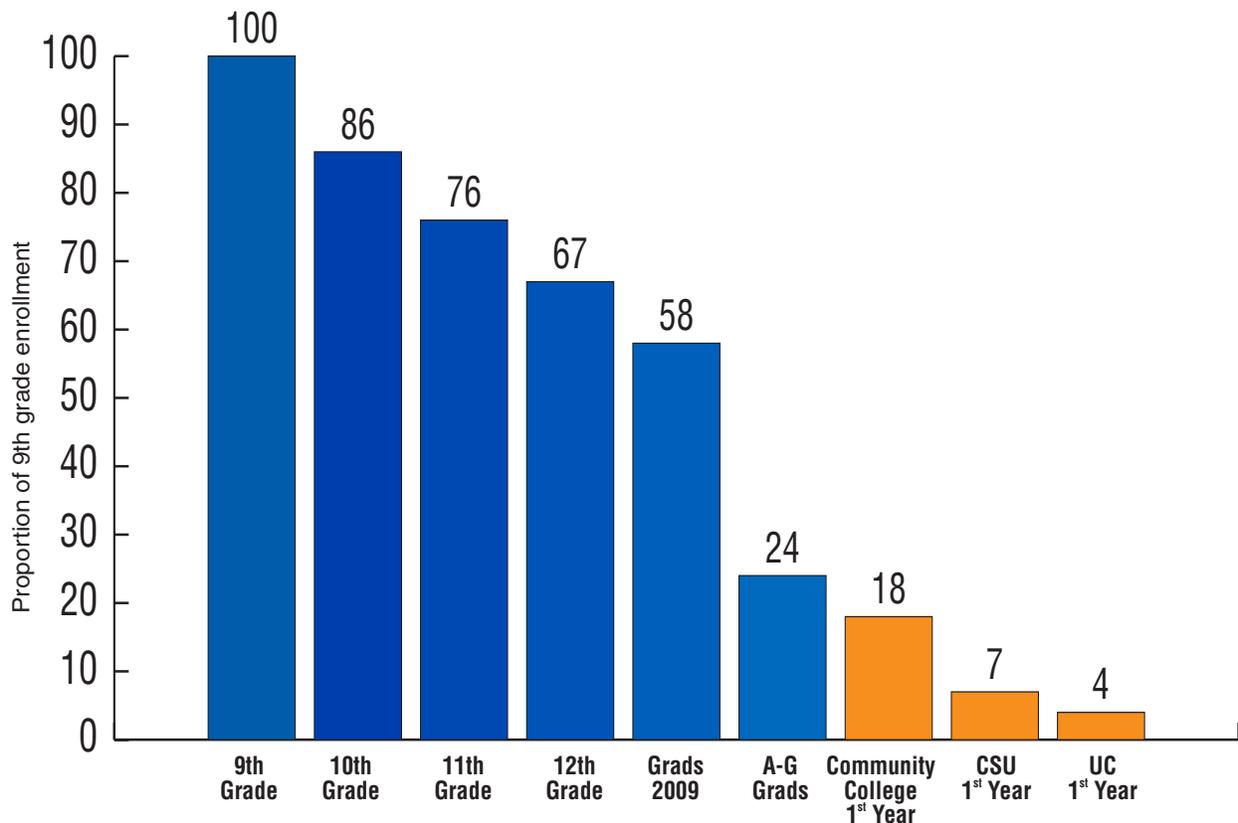
California Class of 2009



The chart below shows the progress of students in this county. Similar to the California chart, this chart shows that the size of the original group of one hundred 9th graders in 2005 decreased at every step along the pathway to high school graduation and college enrollment.

Los Angeles County

Class of 2009: Pathway to College



Source: California Basic Education Data System (CBEDS) and California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC)

Los Angeles County Report

Los Angeles County enrolls 1,610,578 students in 1,969 public schools.

Demographics

California public schools enroll a diverse student body. Information about school demographics allows Californians to know whether schools serving different groups of students receive the same educational opportunities.

Schools in which:	% of Schools in County	% of Schools in State
50% or more of the students receive free or reduced-priced lunch	72%	60%
33% or more of the students are English learners	40%	32%
90% or more of the students are from underrepresented groups*	41%	17%

Educational Conditions in California Schools

This chart compares the educational resources provided by schools in Los Angeles County, and California. The indicators below provide information on school spending, the availability of qualified teachers and overcrowding.

Schools that:	% of Schools in County	% of Schools in State
spend less per student than the national average (when cost of living is taken into account)	99%	88%
have severe shortages of qualified teachers	7%	4%
are overcrowded according to the state's definition	35%	13%

Educational Conditions in California High Schools

This chart compares the educational resources provided by high schools in Los Angeles County, and California. The indicators below show the availability of counselors, qualified teachers, and challenging coursework.

Schools in which:	% of Schools in County	% of Schools in State
the student-teacher ratio is higher than the national average	98%	93%
the student-counselor ratio is higher than the national average	98%	93%
the number of college prep (A-G) courses is insufficient	17%	24%
more than 20% of college prep (A-G) courses are taught by unqualified teachers	22%	18%
more than 20% of college prep (A-G) math courses are taught by unqualified teachers	27%	26%
less than 50% of 11th and 12th graders are enrolled in advanced math courses	80%	78%
less than 50% of 11th and 12th graders are enrolled in advanced science courses	44%	57%
less than 10% of 9th graders end up taking AP math in 12th grade	31%	27%

NCLB Compliance

This chart shows how Los Angeles County and California are fairing with NCLB requirements. Schools that have not improved students' test scores in both math and English for two years in a row are placed in "Program Improvement" status and face harsh sanctions. The indicators below show that NCLB's requirements are generally not being met.

Schools that:	% of Schools in County	% of Schools in State
met NCLB's requirement for math proficiency in 2009	71%	71%
are on track to meet NCLB's requirement of 100% proficiency in math by 2014	0%	0%
were in Program Improvement in the 2010-2011 school year	44%	35%
have been in Program Improvement for five years or more	19%	15%

Economic Conditions in Los Angeles County

The diminished capacity of California public schools due to budget cuts coincides with the growing social welfare needs of families amidst the economic crisis. Just like California as a whole, the communities around the state's high schools have suffered since the recession began.

Currently the California Department of Education reports on the number of students at each school receiving free or reduced price lunch, but does not provide other economic information. Here, we present indicators of the economic conditions in Los Angeles County.

County Unemployment Rate reports the average unemployment rate for Los Angeles County for September 2007 (before the recession) and for the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. We compare this county's unemployment rate to the state average.

County Affluence Rate reports the percent of households in Los Angeles County whose income is equal to or greater than \$125,000 a year. Affluent households have more capacity to contribute resources to public schools and purchase educational services for children and youth.

County Unemployment Rate:	County	State
Year 2007	5.3%	5.4%
Year 2010	12.5%	12.5%

County Affluence Rate:	County	State
Percent of county households whose income is above \$125,000	16.2%	18.3%

Economic Conditions in School Neighborhoods in Los Angeles County

School Neighborhood Unemployment Rate reports the unemployment rate in neighborhoods within a one-mile radius of a high school.

School Neighborhood Affluence Rate reports the percent of households earning more than \$125,000 a year (or more than twice the median family income in California) that live within a one-mile radius of a school.

% of High Schools in County with:	
High School Neighborhood Unemployment Rate (above State average or 12.5%)	45.49% of Schools
Very High School Neighborhood Unemployment Rate (above 15%)	32.79% of Schools
Extremely High School Neighborhood Unemployment Rate (above 20%)	6.97% of Schools

% of High Schools in County with:	
Low School Neighborhood Affluence Rate (Less than 10%)	43.03% of Schools
High School Neighborhood Affluence Rate (Greater than 25%)	18.03% of Schools

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UCLA IDEA is a research institute seeking to understand and challenge pervasive racial and social class inequalities in education. In addition to conducting independent research and policy analysis, IDEA supports educators, public officials, advocates, community activists, and young people as they design, conduct, and use research to make high-quality public schools and successful college participation routine occurrences in all communities. IDEA also studies how research combines with strategic communications and public engagement to promote widespread participation in civic life. www.ucla-idea.org



UC/ACCORD (University of California's All Campus Consortium on Research for Diversity) is an interdisciplinary, multi-campus research center. UC/ACCORD serves as an information and research clearinghouse and catalyst for promoting the delivery of high-quality, equitable schooling to all students. UC/ACCORD harnesses the research expertise of the University of California to identify strategies that will increase college preparation, access, and retention. www.ucaccord.org

Data contained in this report can be accessed online at www.edopp.org

For information about the sources used for this legislative report, please see the Data and Definitions: A Technical Appendix document online at <http://www.edopp.org>

For further information, contact UCLA IDEA
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Data Sources:

This report draws on data from the California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) of the California Department of Education (CDE). Like any large data system, CBEDS includes some data that reflect reporting errors or other discrepancies. Economic indicators sources include the California Employment Development Department and U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates. If you see data in this report that is not correct, please contact us at: idea@ucla.edu.

*The term "underrepresented groups" refers to Latino, African American, and American Indian students. These students are underrepresented in the University of California system.