



Last October, we had to go back to distance learning because I ran out of substitutes. Not because we didn't have enough protective equipment. I ran out of adults.

~ Brett McFadden, superintendent of Nevada Joint Union High
CalMatters, September 1, 2021

California is in a Growing Teacher Crisis

- Closed classrooms and increased stress as the state experiences a **widening teacher shortage gap with 75% of school districts short** of the needed fully trained teachers and increases in teacher retirements. [Source](#)
- Just last year, there was a **30% gap in the number of teachers** receiving credentials who are needed to keep up with staffing according to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.
- California's **substandard teaching credentials in 2017-2018 skyrocketed three times** higher than were permitted five years earlier. [Source](#)
- **Nearly eight out of 10 California schools need additional teachers trained in special education.** [Source](#)
- California's **gap in substitute teachers is also widening with nearly a 26% drop** from three years ago, according to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. [Source](#)

California is Failing Adult Learners

- **California ranks last in the nation with 57% of adults in need of higher education.** (Source: *Strada-Gallup Education Consumer Survey 2018-2019*) With 6.8 million Californians 25-64 with a high school diploma but not a college degree.
- The **need to overcome financial barriers and provide 24/7 flexibility** in educational courses are the biggest changes needed to enable California adults to return or enroll in a higher education program.
- Adults with some college experience but no degree cite **the single most common reason for stopping their education is the need for flexibility** and difficulty of balancing school and work. [Source](#)
- If these barriers are addressed, **50% of these adult learners expressed strong interest in returning or enrolling in higher education.***

Without State Action, California Youth Will Suffer with Fewer and Fewer Qualified Teachers Available

- **Time to eliminate barriers for financial support and inflexible higher education schedules** by creating an Adult Learner Workforce Opportunity Grant specific to adult learners who need 100% flexibility to earn a degree or a teaching credential.
- **The grant will open opportunities to adult learners who need financial relief and the flexibility to earn a teaching credential around their work and family schedules.**
- **Support Legislation to Create the Adult Learner Workforce Opportunity Grant.**

For more information, go to www.CALNetwork.org.

* Heart+Mind Strategies completed n=1065 interviews with a representative sample of Californians with some or no college matching age, gender, and ethnicity of the US Census for California. Additional oversample interviews were conducted with key groups, including: veterans, single mothers/fathers, foster children, rural residents, low-income rural residents, Asians, 1st and 2nd generation immigrants. Respondents participated via an online survey conducted June 15 to July 20, 2021.