



To: CNPA Entry
From: EdSource
Re: Enterprise/News Series: Teacher Credentials
Date: Feb. 13, 2023

Almost a fifth of all California K-12 teachers did not have the appropriate credential to teach the classes they were teaching during the 2020-21 school year.

It probably wasn't the first year there were so many underqualified teachers, but no one would have known. California trailed much of the country when it came to complying with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act requirement that states link data on teacher credentialing to school specific data on teacher assignments.

When the state finally linked the two databases last summer EdSource was the first to give readers a statewide picture of what it all meant. Our analysis revealed shocking disparities between the state's poorest and richest schools. It also offered a detailed look at the problem and the extent that districts were using substitute teachers, interns and underprepared teachers to fill classrooms during the state's pervasive teacher shortage.

We also took a close look at Oakland Unified, where some high-poverty schools had half as many fully credentialed teachers as schools with high-income families. Beside exposing enormous disparities, we delved into the causes of low teacher retention rates, including school board inattention and unaffordable housing, and the district's strategy for building a new pipeline of teachers from the community.

The stories are accompanied by a podcast, interactive maps that show readers how many teachers in each district were underprepared, and a database that includes every school in California and qualifications of its teachers and classroom assignments.

Working with a new dataset is always a challenge. It took extensive work to ensure the data was accurate and collected properly. To dig deeper into the state data EdSource merged it with other databases that included statistics on poverty, race and urban/rural demographics.

EdSource has covered the teacher shortage and its fallout closely, but we are particularly proud of the data work, analysis and interactive graphics that went into this series of stories. Readers throughout the state were able to see for themselves how many underqualified teachers were working in their children's schools.

Thank you for your consideration.

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