

EdSource

To: CNPA Entry
From: EdSource
Re: Visual Storytelling: “California’s Enrollment Rollercoaster.”

To The Judges,

Enrollment trends can be pretty dry unless you design a data visualization that brings the data to life. That's what Yuxuan Xie accomplished in two sets of data interactives for the special report, "[California's Enrollment Rollercoaster.](#)"

The visual storytelling started with an [overview of school enrollment](#) in California over two decades with regional changes. The map combined with a time slider allows readers to see changes across years region by region. At the same time, readers can see the region’s enrollment change rate in the bar chart. The most creative part about showing the trend across the region is the colored-dots table. It shows an overview of enrollment changes. The more warmer color dots a region has, the more enrollment loss it has suffered. If readers want to look at their own region, they can use the line charts. The project is using React library and the design idea is original.

The second set of visual displays took readers to different regions in sprawling California where reporters had found districts and schools to tell the enrollment story. While the state's school enrollment had dropped statewide, there were pockets like the Central Valley and Sacramento where enrollment was booming. The visual accompanies each of the six stories.

Xie used StoryMapJS which is a free tool developed by Knightlab to highlight different school district locations featured in the enrollment stories. Each slide shows a graphic of the district's enrollment change and gives readers a brief overview. Readers can fly to different school districts on the map by clicking the next slide button offering a creative, yet straightforward and interesting way to follow the reporters' story journey.

Entry URLs:

<https://edsource.org/2022/california-school-enrollment-over-two-decades-gains-and-losses-by-region-with-pandemic-year-drops/669058>

<https://edsource.org/2022/empty-classrooms-and-quiet-hallways-californias-rural-far-north-grapples-with-declining-enrollment/670597>

<https://edsource.org/2022/a-new-chapter-for-charter-schools-in-california-as-enrollment-drops-for-first-time-in-3-decades/670868>

<https://edsource.org/2022/new-homes-bring-increased-enrollment-for-some-suburban-school-districts-in-sacramento-region/671146>

<https://edsource.org/2022/in-the-san-joaquin-valley-rapidly-growing-school-districts-endure-overcrowding/672175>

<https://edsource.org/2022/bay-area-sees-families-leave-cities-flock-to-suburbs/671454>

<https://edsource.org/2022/schools-adapt-in-a-shrinking-los-angeles-unified/672760>

Thank you for your consideration.
Rose Ciotta
Investigations and Projects Editor
EdSource