



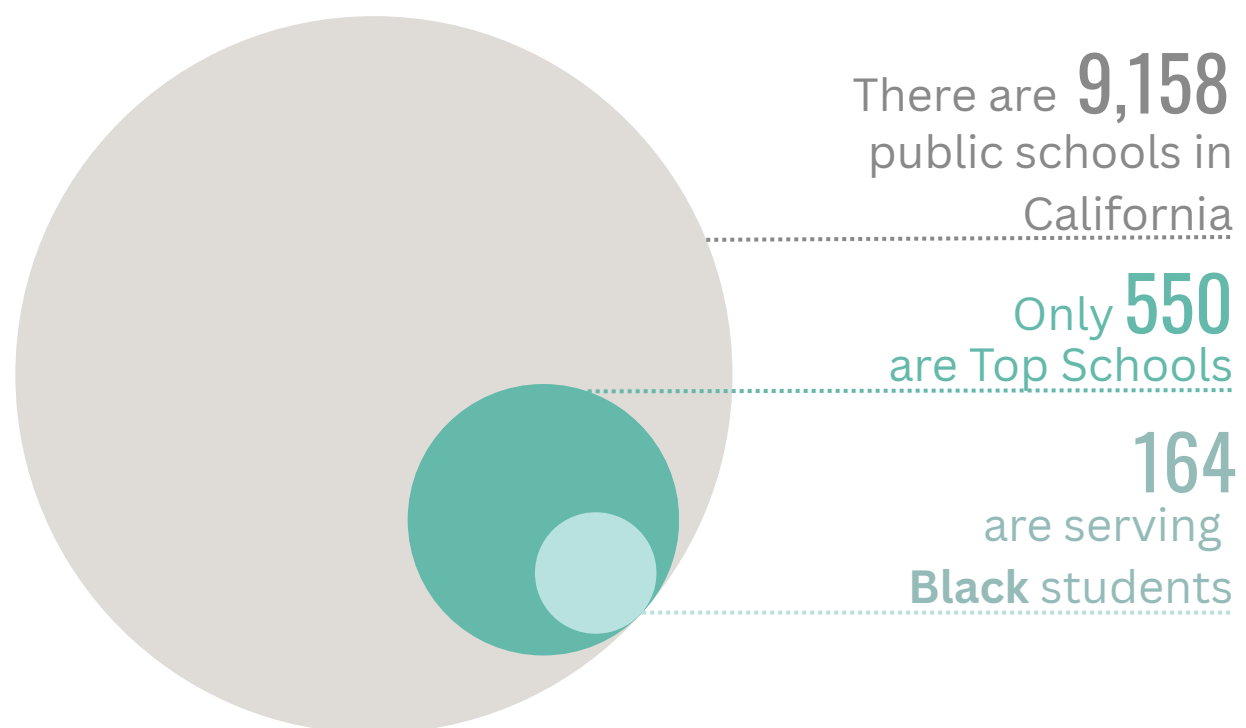
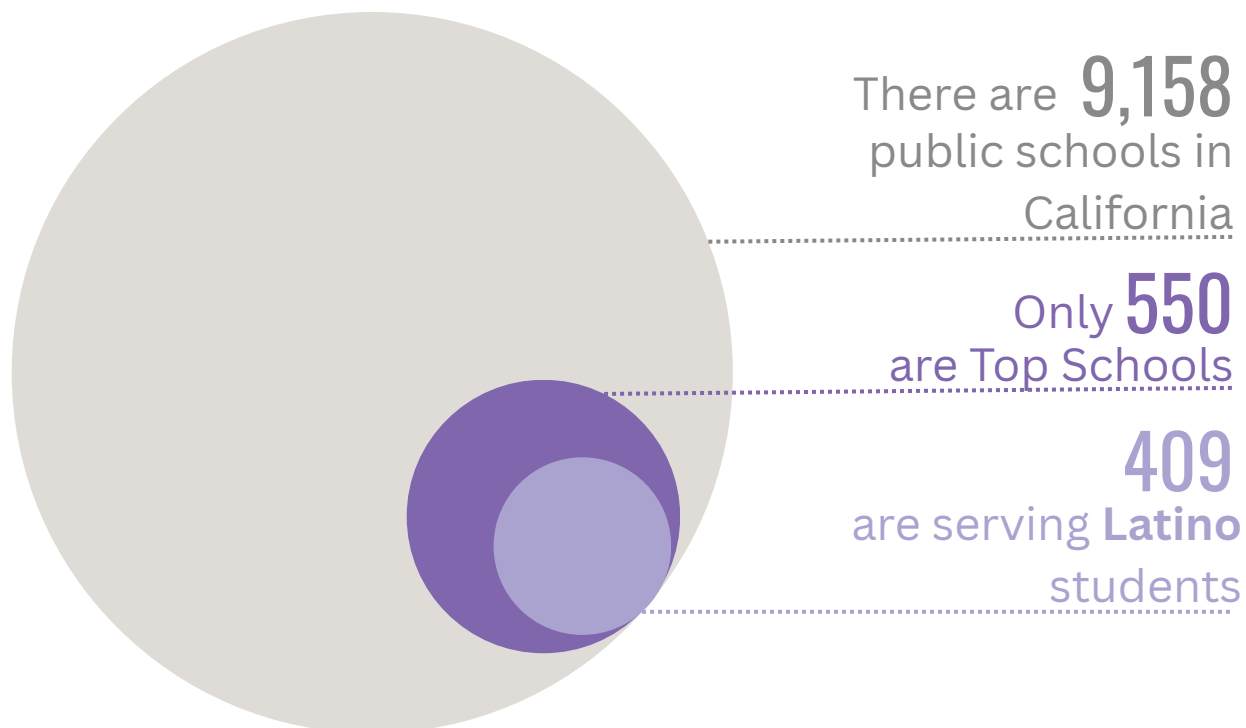
Top Schools 2025

Schools closing opportunity gaps
for Black and Latino students in
California



Innovate
Public Schools

Few schools in California are closing the opportunity gap for Latino and Black students.
Only 6% of public schools in California are Top Schools.



Across California, these schools are closing opportunity gaps and setting **Latino and **Black** students on a path to college.**

51% (279) of the Top Schools are in the LA county

4% (20) of the Top Schools are in the Bay Area

Latino and Black students attending Top Schools have a better chance of getting into college.

62%

of Latino and Black students from **Top Schools** are eligible for public universities in California



39%

of Latino and Black students from **Non Top Schools** are eligible for public universities in California



Every student deserves a high quality education that prepares them for college.

Attendance Matters

Students who are chronically absent often struggle to read by 3rd grade, reach grade-level standards in middle school, and graduate from high school.

High levels of chronic absenteeism are associated with lower performance on math and ELA.

3 in 10

of **Top Schools** have high absenteeism*



5 in 10

of **Non Top Schools** have high absenteeism



Education has the power to transform lives, but for too long, Latino and Black students have been denied the opportunity to achieve their full potential. A systemically racist education system is holding many back. These Top Schools are leading the way towards a more equitable future.

*Chronic absenteeism is not part of the Top Schools methodology. However, given its impact on student success, this report highlights chronic absenteeism as well.

Chang, H. N.-L., Chavez, B., & Hough, H. J. (2025). Unpacking California's Chronic Absence Crisis Through 2023-24. Policy Analysis for California Education. [https://edpolicyinca.org/publications/unpacking-californias-chronic-absence-crisis-through-2023-24#:~:text=Chronic%20absence%20rates%20increased%20from%2012%20percent,in%202023%E2%80%9324%20to%2020%20percent%20\(1%2C216%2C528%20students\)](https://edpolicyinca.org/publications/unpacking-californias-chronic-absence-crisis-through-2023-24#:~:text=Chronic%20absence%20rates%20increased%20from%2012%20percent,in%202023%E2%80%9324%20to%2020%20percent%20(1%2C216%2C528%20students))

May, H., Bailes, L. P., & Riser, D. M. (2024). Absenteeism and Achievement in Early Elementary Grades: A Multilevel Organizational Analysis. Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk (JESPAR), 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10824669.2024.2413483> <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10824669.2024.2413483?scroll=top&needAccess=true>



Public schools should serve all children, guaranteeing equitable access to high quality education.

What is Top Schools?

The Top Schools report identifies and celebrates schools across California that are closing opportunity gaps for Black and Latino students. By highlighting these schools, we not only **demonstrate what is possible but also encourage all schools to improve outcomes for historically underserved students**. The report also makes data on school quality and equity publicly accessible to families and educators. The Top Schools report provides a critical perspective on how effectively California's schools are serving historically underserved communities.

How do we come up with the list of schools?

The report analyzes traditional public district schools, charter schools, and alternative schools across the TK-12 continuum, using a set of inclusion and exclusion criteria. For example, we include schools that test at least 95% of students and enroll a significant share of Black and Latino students. We exclude schools with selective admissions, low performance, or high suspension rates. This ensures our list highlights schools that are serving Black and Latino students and support college readiness.

To access the list of Top Schools, [click here](#)

Is your child's school on the Top Schools list?

If not, ask your school board for a clear plan to improve student outcomes, with goals and timelines for raising achievement and closing gaps. Demand investments in what works—like early literacy, high-impact tutoring, and culturally responsive teaching—especially for students who need it most.

How to navigate the Top Schools report?

This report is organized into six tabs. Each tab highlights a list of Top Schools by student subgroup (Black and Latino), subject (ELA and Math), and grade level. Click through the tabs at the bottom of the spreadsheet to view the schools for each category.

[For the detailed inclusion and exclusion criteria, refer to the methodology.](#)



What comes next?

This report is just one part of a much larger movement.

At Innovate, we believe that families deserve clear, accessible data to make informed decisions—and to demand better from the systems meant to serve their children. This Top Schools snapshot lifts up schools making real progress, especially for Black and Latino students, but **the work doesn't stop here.**

Our vision is to build a future where:

- Every family can access data that truly reflects the experiences and outcomes of their children.
- Every school system is held accountable for equity—not just overall performance.
- Every year, we release updated, community-centered reports that highlight both the bright spots and the opportunity gaps.

We're investing in long-term tools and systems to make this work sustainable, transparent, and more accessible than ever before. But to reach more families, build stronger coalitions, and drive meaningful change—we need your voice and your partnership.

Here's how you can take action:

- Share this report with your school community, school board, or local media.
- Connect with our organizers to learn how families are using this data to lead campaigns.
- Partner with us to expand this work into new districts and regions.
- Advocate for better data practices and more transparent reporting at your district or state level.

Together, we can build an education system that works for all families—not just the lucky few.



About Innovate Public Schools:

Innovate exists to help parents take power over the decisions that affect their children's education. We do this by driving systems change directly in the communities we work, and nationally through training other organizations to replicate our model of building proximate power. By building the capacity of parents and families to organize, advocate, and demand high-quality schools for their children, our vision is a high-quality school experience that prepares every student, particularly Black and Brown students for a lifetime of opportunity and choice. To learn more about how Innovate Public Schools organizes families locally and across the state visit www.innovateschools.org.

Building parent power, locally, and nationally.

[Click here to keep an eye out for our data reports](#)