

# EDUCATION

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## Education Summary

Indicator	Measurement	California	San Luis Obispo County	County Trend
Family Reading	Percentage of parent telephone survey respondents who reported reading stories or looking at picture books every day with their child(ren) under age 12	NA	56.5%	↔
Child Care/Early Childhood Education	Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in school	48.9%	48.4%	↔
Child Care Supply	Percentage of children with parents in the labor force with licensed child care available	25.0%	31.8%	↓
Student Enrollment	Student enrollment in public K-12 schools	6,226,737	34,866	↑
School Attendance	Truancy rate	31.4%	39.8%	↑
Suspension and Expulsion	Suspension rate	3.8	3.8	↓
Test Scores – California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)	Percentage of students passing the English-Language Arts section of the CAHSEE	85%	88%	↔
Test Scores – SAT	Average total SAT score (out of 2400 possible points)	1473	1593	↔
English Learner Students	Percentage of English learner students	22.4%	14.9%	↔
High School Graduation Rates	High school graduation rate	82.3%	91.5%	↑
High School Dropout Rates	High school dropout rate	10.7%	4.9%	↑
Community College Preparation and Placement	Percentage of high school graduates completing UC/CSU required courses	43.4%	36.2%	↔

↑ Increasing (Upward) trend; ↓ Declining (Downward) trend; ↔ Inconclusive; variable; no clear trend; NA Not applicable or data unavailable. Green arrow indicates positive trend; Red arrow indicates negative trend.

Note: Data presented in table are the most recent data available.

## Family Reading

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Family reading is a crucial activity for children to learn early literacy skills. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) now advises pediatric providers to recommend that parents read to their children daily from infancy. Reading regularly to young children stimulates brain development, strengthens language skills and literacy, and strengthens parent-child relationships. Reading proficiency by third grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation success. As of 2014, two thirds of U.S. third graders lacked proficient reading skills.<sup>10</sup>

In 2016, 57% of the ACTION telephone survey respondents with families with children under the age of 12 read to their children every day, lower than in 2010 (60%).




In a usual week, about how many days do you or any other family members read stories or look at picture books with your child(ren) under 12 years old?

Response	2010	2013	2016
Every Day	60.1%	56.5%	56.5%
3 to 6 Times a Week	22.4%	25.8%	29.4%
Once or Twice a Week	13.2%	12.8%	9.8%
Never	4.3%	5.0%	4.3%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>198</b>

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities. (2010, 2013, and 2016). Telephone Survey.

<sup>10</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics POLICY STATEMENT Literacy Promotion: An Essential Component of Primary Care Pediatric Practice. Accessed September 2016. From <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/early/2014/06/19/peds.2014-1384.full.pdf>

 In a usual week, about how many days do you or any other family members read stories or look at picture books with your child(ren) under 12 years old?

Category	2010	2013	2016
<b>North Coast</b>			
Every Day	62.4%	75.9%	62.9%
3 to 6 Times a Week	19.7%	17.1%	24.7%
Once or Twice a Week	15.2%	7.0%	12.4%
Never	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>North County</b>			
Every Day	56.2%	49.8%	58.2%
3 to 6 Times a Week	28.6%	21.4%	25.4%
Once or Twice a Week	8.5%	24.3%	10.6%
Never	6.7%	4.5%	5.7%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>San Luis Obispo</b>			
Every Day	54.6%	58.0%	47.4%
3 to 6 Times a Week	24.7%	39.5%	34.5%
Once or Twice a Week	13.4%	0.0%	10.0%
Never	7.2%	2.5%	8.0%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>South County</b>			
Every Day	62.2%	57.2%	59.7%
3 to 6 Times a Week	20.5%	27.4%	29.5%
Once or Twice a Week	14.2%	6.6%	8.7%
Never	3.0%	8.8%	2.0%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>58</b>

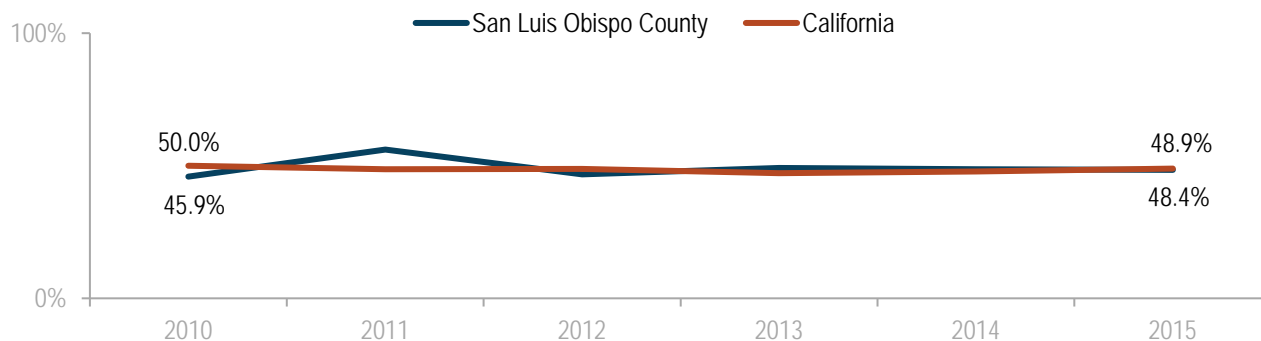
Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities. (2010, 2013, and 2016). Telephone Survey.

## Child Care/Early Childhood Education

A growing body of evidence suggests that high-quality, developmentally appropriate early childhood education (ECE) programs have a positive effect on children’s social and cognitive development.<sup>11</sup> Research has shown that the long-term benefits of high-quality ECE programs include substantial savings derived from reduced need for remedial and special education, reduced incarceration rates, and lower rates of teen pregnancy. Moreover, analysis of the costs and benefits of ECE have found significant returns on investment to the public, ranging from \$2.69 to \$7.16 per dollar invested, as well as increases in worker productivity and improvement to the business bottom line.<sup>12</sup>

Forty-eight percent of children 3 and 4 years old in San Luis Obispo County were enrolled in school in 2015, compared to 49% of all California’s 3 and 4 year olds. 360 children were on the waiting lists for the three Head Start programs in 2016.

### Percentage of Children 3 and 4 Years Old Enrolled in School



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2015 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

### Enrollment in State Funded Preschool Programs, San Luis Obispo County

Program	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
San Luis Obispo County Office of Education	262	242	225	220	179	173	175
First 5 Programs	40	40	37	40	40	40	39

Source: Personal Correspondence. (2016). San Luis Obispo County Office of Education. 2010-2016

### Head Start Program Enrollment, San Luis Obispo County

Response	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Enrollment (Children 3-5 years)	387	387	387	387	387	387
Waiting List (Children 3-5 years)	356	300	372	147	190	173

Source: Personal Correspondence. (2016). Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (CAPSLO).

Note: The Head Start Program is a federally-funded child and family development program for low-income children aged 0-5 years.

<sup>11</sup> NAEYC. A Call for Excellence in Early Childhood Education. Accessed July 29, 2016. From <https://www.naeyc.org/policy/excellence>.

<sup>12</sup> University of California, Berkeley, Center for Labor Research and Education. (2011). Economic Impacts of Early Care and Education in California.

## Early Head Start Program Enrollment, San Luis Obispo County

Response	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16
Enrollment (Children 0–3 years)	254	254	218	254	254	254
Waiting List (Children 0–3 years)	133	163	209	96	112	156

Source: Personal Correspondence. (2016). Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (CAPSLO).

Note: The Early Head Start Program is a federally-funded child and family development program for low-income children aged 0-3 years.

## Migrant/Seasonal Head Start Program Enrollment, San Luis Obispo County

Response	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16
Enrollment	61	51	52	57	58	67
Waiting List (Children 0–5 years)	11	21	20	8	13	31

Source: Personal Correspondence. (2016). Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (CAPSLO).

Note: The Migrant/Seasonal Head Start Program is a federally-funded child and family development program for children aged 0-5 years whose families are migrant or seasonal farm workers.

## Child Care Need and Availability, San Luis Obispo County

Child Care Indicator	2010	2012	2014
Children with Parents in the Labor Force <sup>1</sup>	23,139	23,230	22,466
Number of Licensed Child Care Slots	8,471	8,424	7,133
<b>San Luis Obispo County: Percentage of Children with Parents in the Labor Force with Licensed Child Care Available</b>	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>36.3%</b>	<b>31.8%</b>
California: Percentage of Children with Parents in the Labor Force with Licensed Child Care Available	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%

Source: California Child Care Resource and Network. (2016). Child Care Portfolio.

<sup>1</sup>This reflects children with either two parents or single head of household in the labor force.

### Number of Current<sup>1</sup> Children Ages 0–12 Years Needing Care and on the CAPSLO Child Care Resource Connection Waiting List by Region, San Luis Obispo County (2016)

Region	Children 0–2 Years	Children 3–5 Years	Children 6–12 Years	Total Children 0–12 Years
North County	30	45	64	139
South County	42	49	57	148
San Luis Obispo	14	21	26	61
Coastal	7	10	12	29
<b>Total Number of Children</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>377</b>

Source: San Luis Obispo County Child Care Planning Council. (2016). 2016 Child Care/Learning Program Needs Assessment.

<sup>1</sup>As of August 29, 2016.

### Number of Licensed Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes by Region, San Luis Obispo County

Region	2011	2013	2015
<b>Licensed Child Care Centers</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>153</b>
North County	41	52	62
South County	25	25	31
San Luis Obispo	25	31	38
North Coast	19	20	22
<b>Licensed Family Child Care Homes</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>256</b>
North County	147	120	127
South County	125	89	83
San Luis Obispo	42	36	35
North Coast	27	11	11
<b>Total Number of Facilities</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>409</b>

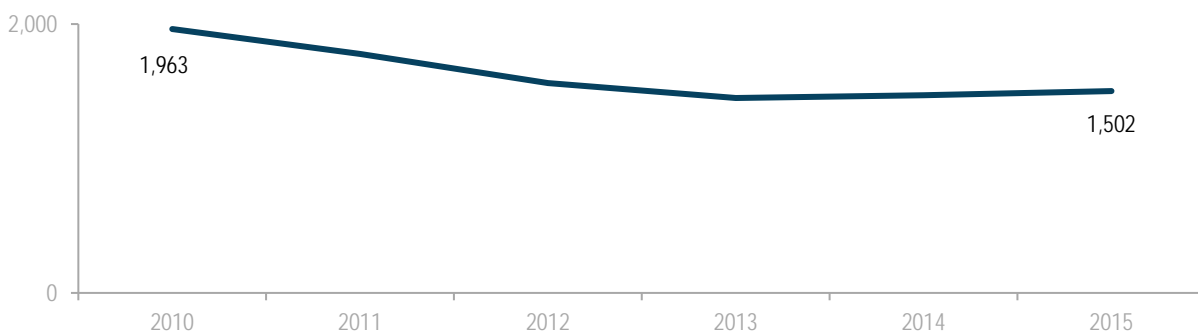
Source: Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (CAPSLO). (2016). Child Care Resource Connection.

## Number of Child Care Slots by Region, San Luis Obispo County

Region	2011	2013	2015
Licensed Child Care Centers	5,191	4,967	6,266
North County	1,861	1,765	2,198
South County	1,236	1,036	1,396
San Luis Obispo	1,401	1,507	1,853
North Coast	693	659	819
Licensed Family Child Care Homes	3,398	2,690	2,684
North County	1,594	1,356	1,400
South County	1,138	892	826
San Luis Obispo	390	324	340
North Coast	276	118	118
<b>Total Number of Slots</b>	<b>8,589</b>	<b>8,457</b>	<b>8,950</b>

Source: Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (CAPSLO). (2016). Child Care Resource Connection.

## Number of Subsidized Child Care Recipients, San Luis Obispo County



Source: Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO). (2016). Child Care Resource Connection.

## Student Enrollment

One way to track shifts in demographic composition in a region is to examine increases and decreases in student enrollment. Nationally, enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools increased from 48.5 million to 50.0 million between 2003 and 2013, and that figure is projected to continue to increase.<sup>13</sup> Moreover, the number of Caucasian students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools is decreasing while the number of Hispanic students is increasing, reflecting demographic population shifts.<sup>14</sup>

Between the 2010–11 and 2015–16 school years, the percentage of students enrolled in public K–12 schools in San Luis Obispo County increased from 34,350 to 34,866.

<sup>13</sup> National Center for Education Statistics. Accessed August 2, 2016. From [http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator\\_cge.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_cge.asp).

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*



## Student Enrollment by District, San Luis Obispo County

District	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16
County Office of Education	632	674	667	629	496	477
Atascadero Unified	4,898	4,905	4,784	4,772	4,722	4,701
Cayucos Elementary	214	226	217	213	193	210
Coast Unified	763	745	762	739	703	694
Lucia Mar Unified	10,562	10,591	10,565	10,634	10,710	10,704
Paso Robles Joint Unified	6,815	6,750	6,604	6,533	6,555	6,714
Pleasant Valley Joint Union Elementary	110	115	126	126	133	110
San Luis Coastal Unified	7,234	7,350	7,535	7,509	7,636	7,638
San Miguel Joint Union Elementary	552	610	746	830	849	882
Shandon Joint Unified	312	304	308	282	292	289
Templeton Unified	2,258	2,294	2,360	2,408	2,487	2,447
<b>San Luis Obispo County</b>	<b>34,350</b>	<b>34,564</b>	<b>34,674</b>	<b>34,747</b>	<b>34,776</b>	<b>34,866</b>
<b>California</b>	<b>6,217,002</b>	<b>6,220,993</b>	<b>6,226,989</b>	<b>6,236,672</b>	<b>6,235,520</b>	<b>6,226,737</b>

Source: California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System. (2016). CBEDS Enrollment Comparison.

 What level of school are your children in?:

Response	2010	2013	2016
Preschool	NA	NA	16.3%
Elementary School	58.7%	62.1%	48.4%
Middle School/Junior High	26.6%	31.2%	27.7%
High School	49.7%	44.6%	37.9%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>279</b>
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>397</b>

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities. (2010, 2013, and 2016). Telephone Survey.

## School Capacities

Overcrowding occurs when a school enrolls more students than it can accommodate. Students in overcrowded classrooms experience educational achievement gaps when compared to those in non-overcrowded classrooms. A study undertaken by Policy Analysis for California Education in the Los Angeles Unified School District found that achievement gains are greatest among students who move from an overcrowded to a less crowded school.<sup>15</sup> Researchers have found that students in overcrowded schools pay less attention, demonstrate lower rates of academic achievement, and experience more violence than their peers in less crowded schools. Moreover, overcrowded schools are more likely to be contained within substandard buildings.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Policy Analysis for California Education. Accessed September 2016. From [http://www.edpolicyinca.org/sites/default/files/pace\\_pb\\_08.pdf](http://www.edpolicyinca.org/sites/default/files/pace_pb_08.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> UCLA's Institute for Education, Democracy and Access. Accessed September 2016. From <http://justschools.gseis.ucla.edu/crisis/pdfs/Overcrowding-n1.pdf>

In San Luis Obispo County, Lucia Mar Unified Elementary, Coast Unified Elementary, and the Grizzly Youth Academy Challenge Program are all at 90% of capacity or higher. Fortunately, several districts in San Luis Obispo County include schools that are not projected to reach or exceed student capacity in the near future.

### Enrollment vs. Capacity 2013–2014, by School District

District	School	Enrollment	Capacity	Enrollment as percentage of capacity
Lucia Mar Unified	Elementary	5,441	5,473	99%
	Middle	1,643	2,156	76%
	High	3,549	4,836	73%
Cayucos	Elementary	213	240	89%
Coast Unified	Elementary	332	360	92%
	Middle	160	203	79%
	High	247	796	31%
Shandon Unified	Elementary	19	100	18%
	K–8	204	360	57%
	High	55	550	10%
Pleasant Valley Union	Elementary	133	175	76%
San Luis Coastal Unified	Elementary	3,882	5,625	68%
	Middle	1,140	2,091	55%
	High	1,713	3,890	44%
Paso Robles Joint Unified	Elementary	2,899	5,700	61%
	Middle	1,422	2,584	55%
	High	2,057	4,218	61%
San Miguel Joint Union	K–8	618	1,260	49%
Grizzly Youth Academy Challenge Program	High	231	250	92%
Belleview-Santa Fe Charter	K–6	146	210	70%
Templeton Unified	Elementary	1,036	1,664	62%
	Middle	532	640	83%
	High	726	1,056	69%
Atascadero Unified	Elementary	2,308	3,133	74%
	Middle	933	1,516	62%
	High	1,445	2,112	68%

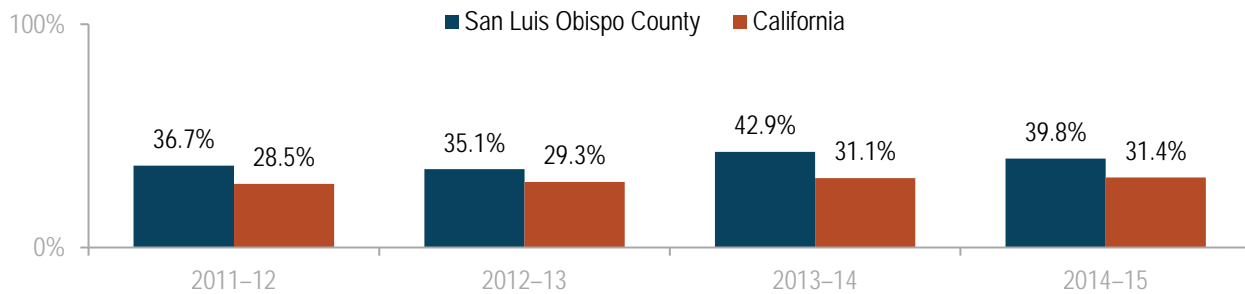
Source: County of San Luis Obispo Department of Planning and Building. (2016). Resource Management System Annual Summary Report.

## School Attendance

Chronic absenteeism is when a student misses 10% of a school year for any reason. Students who are chronically absent are more likely to fall behind in reading and math, and are less likely to graduate from high school.<sup>17</sup> Truancy refers to when a student is absent from school without a valid excuse for three full days in a year, or tardy or absent for more than a 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on three occasions in one school year. Research overwhelmingly shows that school attendance is directly correlated to student success, school attachment, and graduation rates. This is true "regardless of gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status." Frequent excused and unexcused absences lead to lower academic performance and higher dropout rates.

San Luis Obispo County has had a higher truancy rate than the state of California from 2012–12 to 2014–15.

### Truancy Rate<sup>1</sup>, Grades K–12



Source: County of San Luis Obispo Office of Education. (2016).

<sup>1</sup>Percentage of students with three or more unexcused absences.

<sup>17</sup> Johns Hopkins University, School of Education, Center for Social Organization of Schools. (2012). *The Importance of Being in School: A Report on Absenteeism in the Nation's Public Schools.*

## Suspension and Expulsion

A total of 1,365 students in San Luis Obispo County school districts were suspended and 51 students were expelled in the 2014–15 school year.

### Total Number of Students Suspended by District, San Luis Obispo County

District	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
San Luis Obispo County Office of Education	119	96	96	128
Atascadero Unified	258	202	179	151
Cayucos Elementary	1	1	0	1
Coast Unified	16	7	10	18
Lucia Mar Unified	606	538	307	372
Paso Robles Joint Unified	598	656	321	259
Pleasant Valley Joint Union Elementary	1	1	2	2
San Luis Coastal Unified	332	334	343	322
San Miguel Joint Union Elementary	42	55	74	61
Shandon Joint Unified	16	23	0	19
Templeton Unified	68	90	83	67
<b>Total Students Suspended</b>	<b>2,034</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>1,365</b>
<b>Total Number of Offenses</b>	<b>4,480</b>	<b>4,118</b>	<b>2,772</b>	<b>2,677</b>
<b>San Luis Obispo Suspension Rate</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<b>California Suspension Rate</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>3.8</b>

Source: California Department of Education. (2016). Safe & Healthy Kids Program Office.

## Total Number of Students Expelled by District, San Luis Obispo County

District	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
San Luis Obispo County Office of Education	0	0	0	0
Atascadero Unified	0	0	2	3
Cayucos Elementary	0	0	0	0
Coast Unified	1	1	0	0
Lucia Mar Unified	67	53	22	27
Paso Robles Joint Unified	1	6	0	10
Pleasant Valley Joint Union Elementary	0	0	0	0
San Luis Coastal Unified	13	20	1	11
San Miguel Joint Union Elementary	1	0	0	0
Shandon Joint Unified	2	1	0	0
Templeton Unified	5	3	1	0
<b>Total Students Expelled</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Total Number of Offenses</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>San Luis Obispo Expulsion Rate</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>California Expulsion Rate</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>

Source: California Department of Education. (2016). Safe & Healthy Kids Program Office.

## Test Scores

Student achievement and success is, in part, determined through the use of standardized tests in the subject areas of mathematics, reading, writing, and science. Standardized tests are used to promote high-quality teaching and student learning, with the goal of ensuring that all California students are prepared to enter college and careers in today's global economy.<sup>18</sup>

The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) test helps ensure that students graduate from high school with grade level skills in reading, writing, and math. Students first take this test in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. If they do not pass the test then they have more chances to take the test. In 11<sup>th</sup> grade, they can take the test two times, and in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, they have up to five times to take the test.

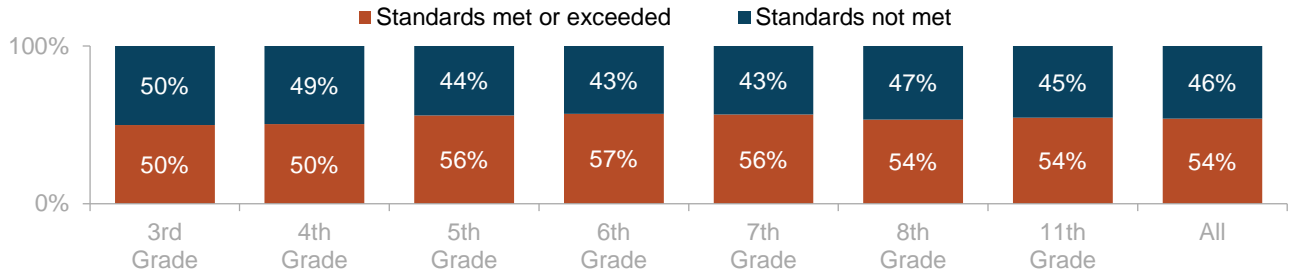
### California Assessment of Student Performance (CAASPP)

In 2014, the California Assessment of Student Performance (CAASPP) was established to replace the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program, in order to include assessments for the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS). CAASPP encompasses the Smarter Balance Assessments Consortium (SBAC)

<sup>18</sup> California Department of Education. Assessment Information. Accessed August 2, 2016. From <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ai/>.

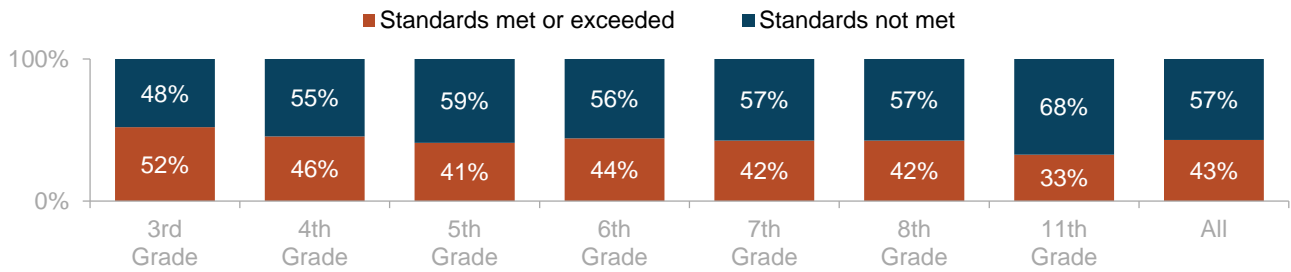
system which is based on CCSS for English language arts/literacy, and math. Fifty percent of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students met or exceeded the English Language Arts/Literacy standards in the 15-16 school year.

English Language Arts/Literacy Achievement Level Distribution, San Luis Obispo County – 2015-16



Source: California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress. (2016). 2016 Test Results for English Language Arts/Literacy.  
 Note: Standards not met includes students who nearly met standards.

Mathematics Achievement Level Distribution, San Luis Obispo County – 2015-16



Source: California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress. (2016). 2016 Test Results for Mathematics.  
 Note: Standards not met includes students who nearly met standards.

California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

Between 2010 and 2015, the percentage of San Luis Obispo County students who passed the English-Language Arts subject area of the CAHSEE has ranged from 86% to 88% and has consistently remained higher than the state overall (81%–85%). During the same time period, the percentage of San Luis Obispo County students who passed the Math subject area of the CAHSEE has ranged from 88% to 89% and has also remained higher than the state overall (81%–85%).

English-Language Arts

District	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>County Office of Education</b>						
Number Tested	91	96	87	90	101	91
Percentage Passing	54%	51%	47%	46%	49%	57%
<b>Atascadero Unified</b>						
Number Tested	437	395	372	372	361	320
Percentage Passing	86%	92%	89%	91%	88%	85%
<b>Coast Unified</b>						
Number Tested	53	61	69	59	59	59
Percentage Passing	89%	82%	91%	86%	88%	92%

Lucia Mar Unified						
Number Tested	863	872	826	845	873	913
Percentage Passing	87%	88%	88%	86%	87%	88%
Paso Robles Joint Unified						
Number Tested	549	581	540	551	528	511
Percentage Passing	81%	86%	86%	87%	88%	88%
San Luis Coastal Unified						
Number Tested	588	576	533	585	528	521
Percentage Passing	92%	91%	95%	91%	92%	92%
Shandon Joint Unified						
Number Tested	28	21	16	11	19	15
Percentage Passing	100%	57%	81%	91%	79%	87%
Templeton Unified						
Number Tested	224	203	192	231	179	183
Percentage Passing	94%	95%	94%	95%	97%	95%
San Luis Obispo County						
Number Tested	2,833	2,805	2,635	2,744	2,648	2,613
Percentage Passing	86%	88%	88%	87%	88%	88%
California						
Number Tested	478,113	475,801	467,654	461,150	460,398	458,382
Percentage Passing	81%	82%	83%	83%	83%	85%

Source: California Department of Education. (2016). High School Exit Exam Office. Note: Data are for grade 10 students.

### Math

District	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
County Office of Education						
Number Tested	90	95	80	88	99	87
Percentage Passing	52%	39%	53%	42%	55%	57%
Atascadero Unified						
Number Tested	435	405	368	368	365	317
Percentage Passing	91%	92%	88%	89%	90%	87%
Coast Unified						
Number Tested	52	59	71	59	59	59
Percentage Passing	87%	88%	92%	83%	92%	92%
Lucia Mar Unified						
Number Tested	862	871	823	850	867	906
Percentage Passing	89%	89%	89%	88%	88%	87%
Paso Robles Joint Unified						
Number Tested	553	578	539	549	522	509
Percentage Passing	83%	84%	86%	87%	88%	90%

San Luis Coastal Unified						
Number Tested	581	558	510	560	513	497
Percentage Passing	95%	93%	95%	94%	95%	94%
Shandon Joint Unified						
Number Tested	28	21	17	11	19	15
Percentage Passing	93%	62%	76%	91%	84%	80%
Templeton Unified						
Number Tested	226	207	196	231	180	186
Percentage Passing	92%	93%	94%	96%	97%	96%
San Luis Obispo County						
Number Tested	2,827	2,794	2,604	2,716	2,624	2,576
Percentage Passing	89%	88%	89%	88%	89%	89%
California						
Number Tested	475,464	473,428	465,414	459,159	458,297	456,354
Percentage Passing	81%	83%	84%	84%	85%	85%

Source: California Department of Education. (2016). High School Exit Exam Office. Note: Data are for grade 10 students.



## SAT and ACT

During the 2014–15 school year, 36% of San Luis Obispo County students who took the SAT, lower than California at 42%. In the 2014–15 school year, the average SAT score in San Luis Obispo County was 1593, over 100 points higher than the state average of 1473.

### Percentage of Students Who Took the SAT by District

District	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Atascadero Unified	33.6%	30.6%	30.1%	37.3%
Coast Unified	35.3%	48.3%	37.1%	32.7%
Lucia Mar Unified	38.1%	37.5%	39.7%	36.4%
Paso Robles Joint Unified	33.0%	32.0%	30.1%	31.5%
San Luis Coastal Unified	52.2%	47.9%	50.6%	46.9%
Templeton Unified	48.4%	49.5%	44.5%	47.8%
<b>San Luis Obispo County</b>	<b>37.1%</b>	<b>35.3%</b>	<b>35.3%</b>	<b>36.0%</b>
California	39.3%	40.4%	41.1%	42.4%

Source: California Department of Education. (2016). SAT Report.

### Average Total SAT Score, by District

District	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Atascadero Unified	1583	1599	1615	1601
Coast Unified	1603	1482	1524	1514
Lucia Mar Unified	1606	1575	1575	1578
Paso Robles Joint Unified	1525	1552	1553	1501
San Luis Coastal Unified	1649	1676	1694	1669
Templeton Unified	1624	1604	1605	1576
<b>San Luis Obispo County</b>	<b>1603</b>	<b>1602</b>	<b>1611</b>	<b>1593</b>
California	1492	1489	1487	1473

Source: California Department of Education. (2016). SAT Report.

### Percentage of Students Who Took the ACT by District

District	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Atascadero Unified	16.5%	17.4%	16.2%	20.5%
Coast Unified	NA	18.3%	17.1%	3.6%
Lucia Mar Unified	26.7%	29.4%	28.1%	26.8%
Paso Robles Joint Unified	12.1%	13.4%	15.9%	14.2%
San Luis Coastal Unified	36.4%	37.6%	38.4%	36.4%
Templeton Unified	33.9%	35.8%	25.6%	35.6%
<b>San Luis Obispo County</b>	<b>22.6%</b>	<b>23.9%</b>	<b>23.2%</b>	<b>24.0%</b>
California	17.6%	18.3%	19.6%	21.0%

Source: California Department of Education. (2016). ACT Report.

## Percentage of Students Who Scored 21 or Better on the ACT, by District

District	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Atascadero Unified	80.8%	78.6%	80.7%	83.3%
Coast Unified	NA	63.6%	58.3%	NA
Lucia Mar Unified	75.9%	69.5%	70.0%	73.0%
Paso Robles Joint Unified	82.4%	79.0%	76.5%	61.3%
San Luis Coastal Unified	82.6%	86.8%	88.8%	85.5%
Templeton Unified	79.1%	69.9%	87.0%	71.1%
<b>San Luis Obispo County</b>	<b>79.3%</b>	<b>76.9%</b>	<b>79.1%</b>	<b>76.7%</b>
California	56.7%	57.0%	56.6%	57.5%

Source: California Department of Education. (2016). ACT Report.

## English Learners

America's schools are tasked with meeting the educational needs of an increasingly diverse student body. English learners (ELs) are the fastest growing student population within the United States, with a large academic achievement gap between ELs and their non-EL classmates.<sup>19</sup> Among these various student groups are English language learners, students with disabilities, homeless students, Native American students, neglected or delinquent children, and children of migrant workers. Migrant students face unique and significant challenges in school as a result of their mobility, poverty, and often limited English proficiency. Schools strive to provide a wide range of resources and support to ensure that the needs of all students are met and that they graduate from high school with the skills needed to succeed in college and/or with career-ready skills.

The percentage of EL students in San Luis Obispo County has remained around 15% over the past six years, while the percentage of EL students in California has ranged from 17% to 22% over the same time period.

<sup>19</sup> U.S. Department of Education. 2010. *Diverse Learners*.

## Percentage of English Learner Students by District, San Luis Obispo County

District	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2014–15	2015–16
County Office of Education	19.5%	18.6%	20.3%	20.0%	22.4%	21.0%
Atascadero Unified	7.6%	7.4%	6.9%	7.6%	7.7%	7.8%
Cayucos Elementary	0.0%	4.0%	3.2%	2.8%	2.1%	4.8%
Coast Unified	35.3%	37.9%	37.4%	40.9%	41.3%	40.9%
Lucia Mar Unified	15.5%	14.4%	13.8%	15.3%	14.8%	13.5%
Paso Robles Joint Unified	19.7%	20.3%	20.0%	22.3%	21.9%	21.7%
Pleasant Valley Joint Union	26.4%	26.1%	28.6%	22.2%	27.8%	32.7%
San Luis Coastal Unified	14.3%	14.6%	14.4%	14.1%	14.5%	12.8%
San Miguel Joint Union Elementary	31.1%	29.8%	25.5%	25.9%	26.4%	27.4%
Shandon Joint Unified	32.9%	33.2%	36.0%	43.3%	45.2%	45.3%
Templeton Unified	3.6%	3.9%	5.2%	5.9%	5.5%	5.3%
<b>San Luis Obispo County</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>15.6%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>
California	17.0%	22.3%	21.6%	22.7%	22.3%	22.4%

Source: California Department of Education. (2016). Data Quest.

## High School

High school graduation and college readiness are important measures of how well a region or community prepares its young people for future success and well-being. Young people who graduate from high school earn higher salaries, have fewer health problems, are less involved in criminal activity, and have better self-esteem and more personal life satisfaction than high school dropouts.<sup>20</sup> High school graduation can be measured by the cohort graduation rate at which students enter ninth grade and graduate within four years (including GED or special education certificate of completion). The cohort dropout rate is the rate of students that leave the 9–12 instructional system without a high school diploma, GED, or special education certificate of completion and do not remain enrolled after the end of the fourth year.

### High School Graduation Rates

The high school graduation rate in San Luis Obispo County has increased from 87% in 2010–11 to 92% in 2014–15, and has consistently been higher than the state overall.

<sup>20</sup> Math and Reading Help. (n.d.). The Importance of a High School Diploma. Accessed May 9, 2016. From [http://mathandreadinghelp.org/articles/The\\_Importance\\_of\\_a\\_High\\_School\\_Diploma.html](http://mathandreadinghelp.org/articles/The_Importance_of_a_High_School_Diploma.html).

### Cohort High School Graduation Rate by District and High School

District	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2011–12
Atascadero Unified	92.7%	93.6%	96.4%	94.7%	95.7%
Coast Unified	92.7%	95.9%	91.9%	98.5%	96.3%
Lucia Mar Unified	89.6%	89.9%	90.8%	90.6%	90.5%
Paso Robles Joint Unified	87.1%	85.9%	87.5%	86.9%	90.9%
San Luis Coastal Unified	95.8%	95.3%	96.5%	96.8%	94.9%
Shandon Joint Unified	90.5%	96.0%	88.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Templeton Unified	99.0%	98.9%	97.9%	98.0%	99.2%
<b>San Luis Obispo County</b>	<b>87.3%</b>	<b>87.6%</b>	<b>88.7%</b>	<b>89.3%</b>	<b>91.5%</b>
California	77.1%	78.7%	80.4%	81.0%	82.3%

Source: California Department of Education. (2016). Educational Demographics Office.

### High School Dropout Rates

From the 2010–2011 to 2014–2015 school year, San Luis Obispo County experienced a decrease in the cohort dropout rate (8% to 5%). The rate remained lower than the state during this same time period (15% to 11%).

#### Cohort Dropout Rates by District, San Luis Obispo County

District	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2011–12
Atascadero Unified	4.6%	4.6%	1.7%	3.1%	2.1%
Coast Unified	4.9%	4.1%	4.8%	0.0%	1.9%
Lucia Mar Unified	7.6%	5.5%	6.1%	6.4%	7.0%
Paso Robles Joint Unified	9.1%	10.0%	9.7%	8.8%	5.5%
San Luis Coastal Unified	1.9%	2.2%	1.4%	1.3%	2.4%
Shandon Joint Unified	9.5%	4.0%	8.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Templeton Unified	0.5%	1.2%	1.6%	1.5%	0.0%
<b>San Luis Obispo County</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
California	14.7%	13.1%	11.4%	11.5%	10.7%

Source: California Department of Education. (2016). Educational Demographics Office.

## Higher Education

Higher education is an important driver of economic and intergenerational mobility and socioeconomic advancement in our society. Children born into the lowest income quintile have a 45% chance of never receiving a college degree. In contrast, with a college degree, they have a less than 20% chance of staying in the bottom quintile of the income distribution and a roughly equal chance of ending up in any of the higher income quintiles.<sup>21</sup> A well-educated workforce is vital to our nation's economic growth. Employers need a highly skilled workforce to meet the demands of today's increasingly competitive global economy.

One measure of college readiness is the proportion of students that complete high school and meet entrance requirements for the University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU). Assessing high school graduation rates and college readiness by socioeconomic variables sheds light on the educational achievement gaps in a region.

### College Preparation Courses

The percentage of San Luis Obispo County high school graduates completing all UC/CSU required courses has decreased slightly from 38% in 2010–11 to 36% in 2014–15, while that percentage across the state of California increased during the same period (37% to 43%). The percentage of San Luis Obispo County students who took the English placement test and placed into college-level English courses at Cuesta College decreased from 67% in 2013 to 64% in 2016. The percentage of San Luis Obispo County students who took a placement test and placed into college-level math courses decreased from 27% to 25%.

#### Percentage of High School Graduates with UC/CSU Required Courses Completed

District	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16
Atascadero Unified	42.9%	41.2%	37.9%	36.7%	40.4%
Coast Unified	46.1%	38.0%	47.4%	38.2%	38.9%
Lucia Mar Unified	33.1%	37.1%	37.3%	39.2%	35.6%
Paso Robles Joint Unified	31.9%	32.8%	29.7%	29.1%	26.4%
San Luis Coastal Unified	54.6%	54.3%	49.6%	58.9%	51.2%
Shandon Joint Unified	15.0%	25.0%	18.2%	8.3%	8.3%
Templeton Unified	44.3%	41.6%	43.4%	49.5%	53.4%
<b>San Luis Obispo County</b>	<b>37.7%</b>	<b>38.2%</b>	<b>36.2%</b>	<b>37.9%</b>	<b>36.2%</b>
California	36.9%	38.3%	39.4%	41.9%	43.4%

Source: California Department of Education. (2016). Educational Demographics Office.

<sup>21</sup> U.S. Department of the Treasury with the U.S. Department of Education. (2012). *The Economics of Higher Education*.

English and Math Placement Tests – College Level (Cuesta College)

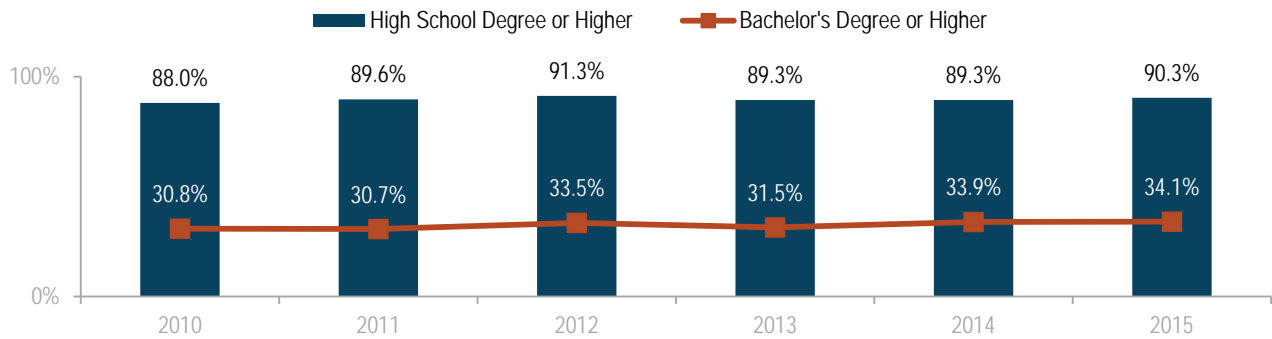
Response	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Percentage of San Luis Obispo County High School Graduates<sup>1</sup></b>				
English Placement Test	66.9%	64.3%	65.5%	64.1%
Math Placement Test	26.9%	24.9%	26.6%	25.3%
<b>Percentage of All Students</b>				
English Placement Test	66.9%	64.5%	65.2%	65.0%
Math Placement Test	28.8%	26.3%	27.5%	25.6%

Source: College Institutional Research and Assessment. (2016).

Educational Attainment

The percentage of San Luis Obispo County residents with a bachelor's degree or higher increased from 31% in 2010 to 34% in 2015, while those without a high school degree decreased from 12% to 10% over the same time period.

Adult (Ages 25 Years and Older) Educational Attainment, San Luis Obispo County



Attainment Level	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Less than 9th Grade	4.8%	4.7%	3.3%	5.4%	4.5%	4.3%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	7.1%	5.7%	5.4%	5.3%	6.3%	5.4%
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	21.8%	21.3%	19.2%	19.1%	18.8%	20.5%
Some College, No Degree	26.0%	28.9%	28.0%	30.5%	26.2%	25.6%
Associate's Degree	9.4%	8.8%	10.5%	8.2%	10.4%	10.1%
Bachelor's Degree	17.8%	18.8%	21.7%	20.7%	20.3%	21.3%
Graduate or Professional Degree	13.0%	11.9%	11.8%	10.8%	13.5%	12.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2015 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.