# THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE FOR BLACK CALIFORNIANS

California's Black students attend public schools across the entire Golden State

- 0% – 3%
- 4% – 7%
- 8% – 12%

**FIGURE 1. BLACK STUDENTS' SHARE OF TK-12 ENROLLMENT BY COUNTY (2023-24)**

*Source: California Department of Education*

With more than 2 million Black residents, California is home to the sixth largest Black population in the United States. Because of the state's staggering size, its Black population is sometimes minimized in policy discussions and given less consideration than groups that make up a bigger share of the overall population. In reality, the Black population in California is large and widely dispersed across the state and should be neither ignored nor dismissed.

To put things in perspective, at 635,000, the number of Black Californians who are under the age of 25 alone is nearly equal to the entire population of the state of Vermont. About 287,400 of these young people attend transitional kindergarten through 12th grade, representing 5% of our public school population. Another 150,000 attend college in California, either at a public or private institution.

As has long been the case, the population of Black Californians is more highly concentrated in some cities and counties than in others. Solano County has the largest share of Black TK-12 students at 12%, closely followed by Sacramento, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, and San Bernardino counties, where Black students constitute 8% to 10% of the total student population (Figure 1). Although Black students make up a smaller share of the student population in Los Angeles County (7%), the county serves a third of the state's Black students (88,638 in 2023-24).

The past decade has seen high rates of migration among Black Californians, as Black families leave large cities to seek more affordable housing options in the face of gentrification and skyrocketing rents and home prices, either relocating within California or leaving the state entirely in search of a more reasonable cost of living and brighter economic prospects.

To read the full Black Minds Matter 2025 report, access data sources, and for more advocacy resources to support Black students in California, scan the QR code.

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