

WEBINAR | AUGUST 13, 2025

Redesigning Schools in an Era of Declining Enrollment: District Strategies

Welcome



Cheryl Jones-Walker

Director, Center for School and System Redesign
Learning Policy Institute

Today's Agenda

- ▷ Research Presentation
- ▷ Framing Remarks
- ▷ Panel Discussion
- ▷ Audience Q&A
- ▷ Closing Remarks



Research Presentation

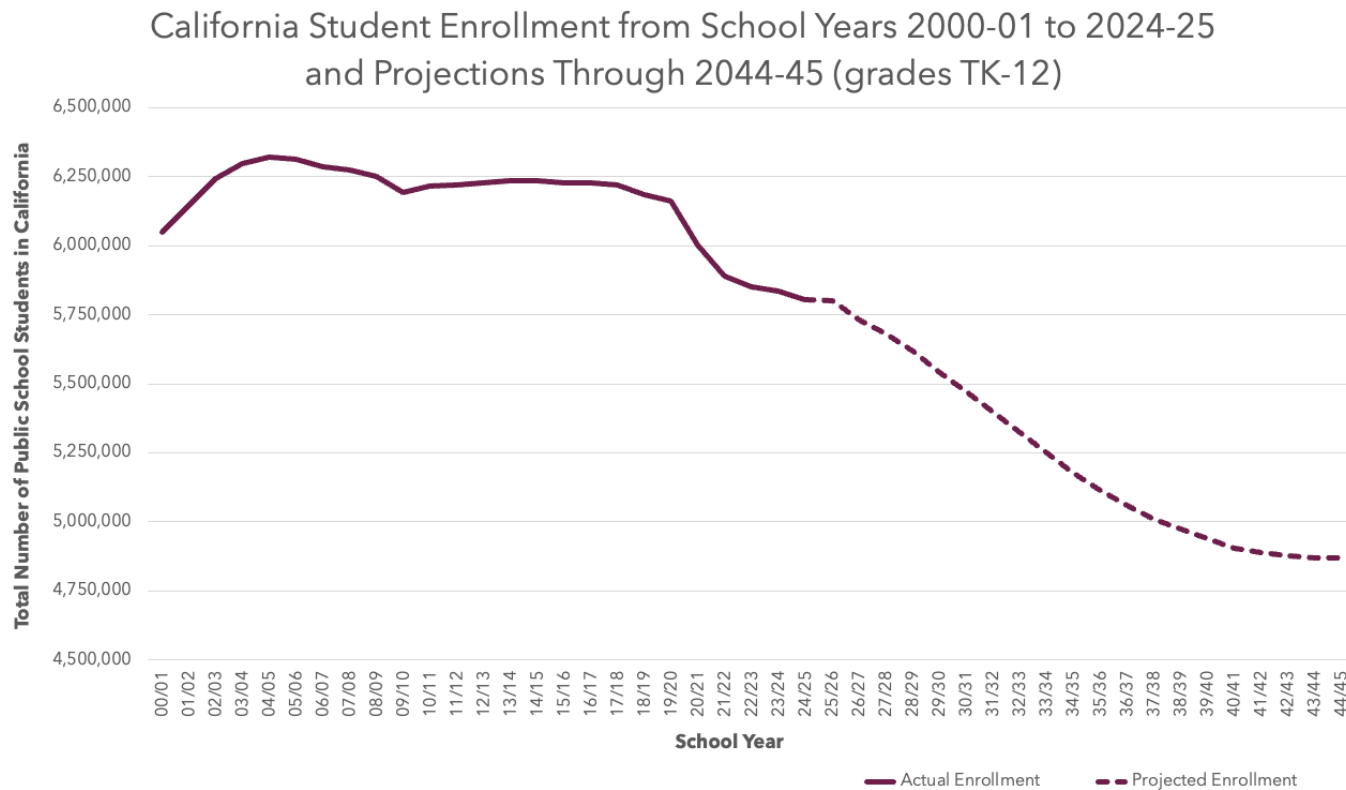


Paul Beach

Associate Partner
Bellwether

[@bellwetherorg](https://www.bellwether.org)

California has experienced 8 consecutive years of enrollment decline — and 20 more years of decline are projected



Sources: Sources: California Department of Education, [DataQuest](#), state-level annual enrollment data; California Department of Finance, "[California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment and High School Graduate Projections by County, 2024 Series](#)."

Declining enrollment will require many districts to realign budgets and adjust the distribution of resources

The Challenge

- **Declining enrollment means declining revenue** for California districts
- Less revenue forces **tough decisions about programs, staff, and schools**
- Serving fewer students while maintaining the same physical footprint and staffing levels **spreads resources thin across schools**

The Opportunity

- However, realigning budgets to account for less revenue **does not have to result in fewer or lower-quality learning opportunities** for students
- **Budget realignment almost always leads to changes in programs, schools, or systems** – whether those changes are made intentionally or not
- **Districts have an opportunity to proactively redesign schools** while realigning budgets to address declining enrollment

Why Redesign High School?

The current model of schooling was designed in the 1900s

- Designed to be efficient (rote memorization vs learning and dev)
- Teachers are isolated, instruct large numbers of students, discrete content
- Tracking facilitates the select and sort model (fixed ability mindset)

Recent surveys of high school students find:

- Less than 30% of students find school caring or supportive
- Most students don't feel well known by any adults
- 75% report feeling stressed, tired or bored by school

School structures are not aligned with SoLD nor do they facilitate deep relationships



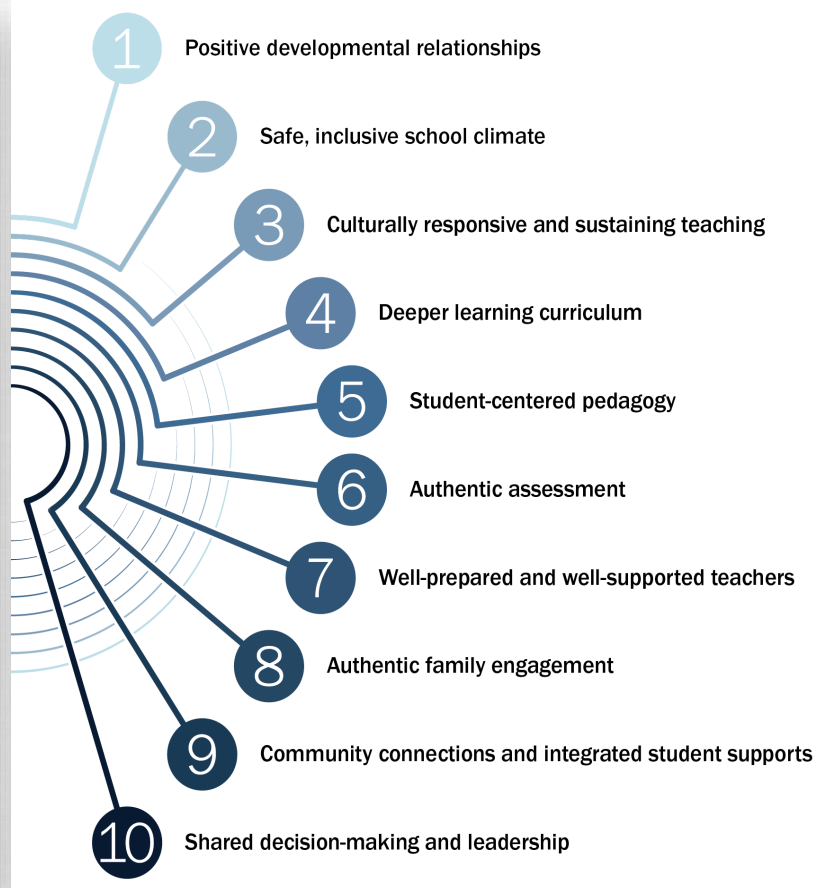
Redesigning High Schools

10 Features for Success

Linda Darling-Hammond, Matt Alexander, and Laura E. Hernández



MARCH 2024





Center for School & System Redesign

- ▶ Support and learn from schools and districts, state and national leaders transforming schools
- ▶ Share proof points, synthesize research and conduct studies
- ▶ Convene policy + practice-based orgs to share and strategize
- ▶ Publish reports, articles, policy briefs
- ▶ Document redesign processes and design of new assessment systems

Orangeview and Western Redesign Process

Redesign Team

Reframe from consolidation to redesign of Orangeview & Western

Key steps:

1. Retreat July 2024
2. September visit to Hillsdale
3. ID promising practices, bell schedule, trade-offs
4. Teacher contract/MOU
5. Opening the doors August 2025

District Leadership

- Decision to consolidate MS and HS
- Messaging around redesign
- Alignment of new school with district priorities (5Cs, PBT, CS)
- Realignment of resources (district office and school site)
- Learning goals, shifts in teacher role
- Community engagement and voice

Panel Discussion



Jessica Guerrero

Trustee, Anaheim
Union High School
District



Mara Harvey

Board Member,
California Teachers
Association



Michael B. Matsuda

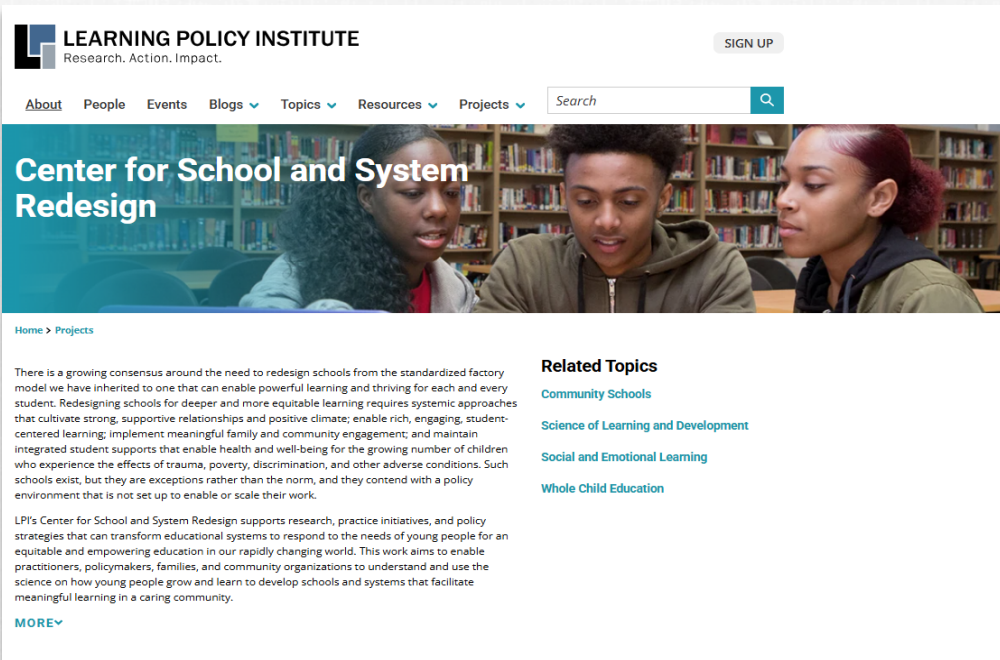
Superintendent,
Anaheim Union High
School District



Geoff Morganstern

President,
Anaheim Secondary
Teachers Association

For more information



The screenshot shows the Learning Policy Institute website. At the top, the logo and name "LEARNING POLICY INSTITUTE" are followed by the tagline "Research. Action. Impact." and a "SIGN UP" button. Below this is a navigation bar with links for "About", "People", "Events", "Blogs", "Topics", "Resources", and "Projects", along with a search bar. The main header features a large image of three students in a library setting, with the text "Center for School and System Redesign" overlaid. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail reads "Home > Projects". The main content area contains a paragraph about the growing consensus around redesigning schools, followed by a "Related Topics" section with links to "Community Schools", "Science of Learning and Development", "Social and Emotional Learning", and "Whole Child Education". At the bottom of the main content area is a "MORE" link with a downward arrow.

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Center for School and System Redesign

[Home > Projects](#)

There is a growing consensus around the need to redesign schools from the standardized factory model we have inherited to one that can enable powerful learning and thriving for each and every student. Redesigning schools for deeper and more equitable learning requires systemic approaches that cultivate strong, supportive relationships and positive climate; enable rich, engaging, student-centered learning; implement meaningful family and community engagement; and maintain integrated student supports that enable health and well-being for the growing number of children who experience the effects of trauma, poverty, discrimination, and other adverse conditions. Such schools exist, but they are exceptions rather than the norm, and they contend with a policy environment that is not set up to enable or scale their work.

LPI's Center for School and System Redesign supports research, practice initiatives, and policy strategies that can transform educational systems to respond to the needs of young people for an equitable and empowering education in our rapidly changing world. This work aims to enable practitioners, policymakers, families, and community organizations to understand and use the science on how young people grow and learn to develop schools and systems that facilitate meaningful learning in a caring community.

[MORE](#)

Related Topics

- [Community Schools](#)
- [Science of Learning and Development](#)
- [Social and Emotional Learning](#)
- [Whole Child Education](#)



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Visit learningpolicyinstitute.org/cssr

Closing Remarks



Elena Silva

President and CEO
Learning Policy Institute



Thank you for joining!