

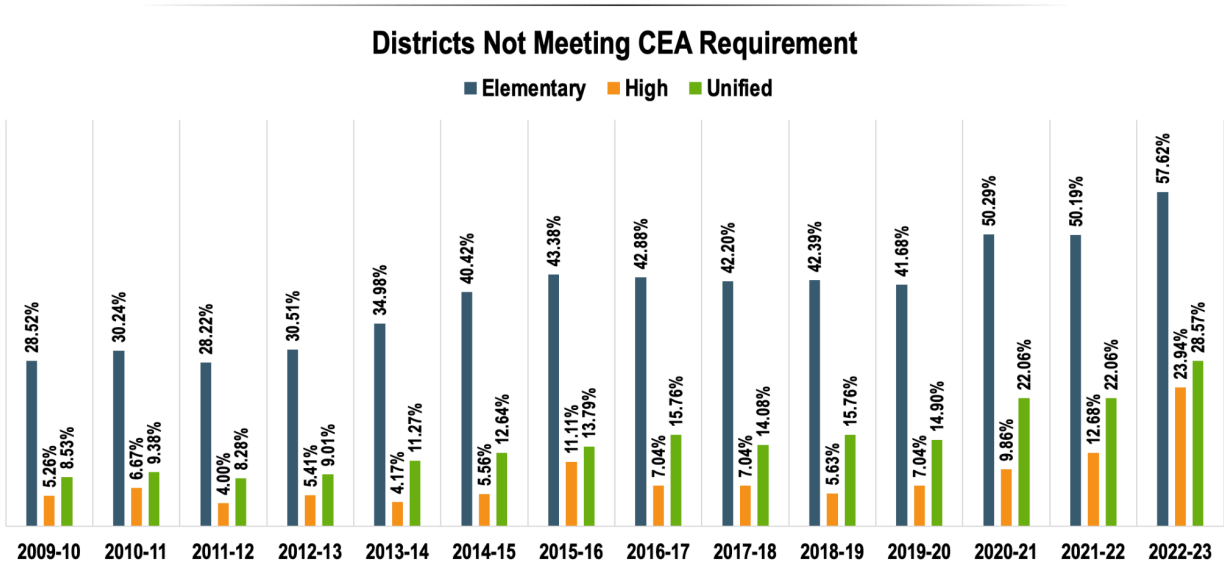
Could you provide a better explanation of consent agenda item F before the meeting or we can just have it pulled for an explanation.

This is the same exemption that we filed last year. Elementary districts are required to spend 60% of their budget on classroom salaries. Since we needed to contract out several positions, including ELOP and SpEd positions, we did not meet the 60% requirement. There are several ways districts can be granted an exemption; one is by showing that we have highly competitive salaries. This is becoming more common across the state due to programs such as ELOP, which many districts contract out.

The calculation does not include counselors, at-risk staff, school engagement facilitators, or other personnel who work directly with students. We currently spend approximately \$79,000,000 on staff salaries (not administrative).

In May 2024, School Services of California shared the information below on districts across the state. 57.8% of elementary districts did not meet the requirement in the 2022-2023 year, and the percentage of districts not meeting the requirement has steadily increased.

Are Districts Able to Meet the CEA Requirement?



It is important to note that Unified and High School districts have lower required percentages that take into account that they need more staff that are not in the classroom. Historically, high schools have had more counselors and positions such as At Risk which is why the percentages are lower. During the pandemic there was a request for the district to add more counselors and At Risk positions.

Required percentages are:

- Elementary districts—60%
- Unified districts—55%
- High school districts—50%

For this agenda and future agendas I think it would be a good idea to provide a very brief summary of any contract over \$114,000 such as 1, 4, and 9. For example, what are the services and what student population is being served. What is the difference between the Achieve Kids contract (1) and the Spectrum contract (9).

Each Non Public School sets rates based on California guidelines each year. Because Achieve Kids serves students with significant behavioral challenges that also have mental health needs it requires much lower adult to student ratios and added counseling support which increases costs. Spectrum mainly serves students that are neurodiverse and generally require less staff based on the student population they serve. They provide a variety of services, including basic education, counseling, behavioral supports and mental health, depending on the vendor and the student needs.

The Special Education Department is currently looking at all of our students in Non-Public Schools to evaluate their readiness to start returning to our schools so they can receive their education in the communities they live.