

California Community College Lab School Surveys 2012

In Spring of 2012 we conducted a survey of the lab schools and children's centers affiliated with California's community colleges. Seventy-four of the estimated 98 lab schools/children's centers responded. Based on those responses we were able to gather some information and make educated guesses based on extrapolations. Because the budget scene shifted so radically during Spring we did a shorter follow-up survey when the Fall 2012 semester started. We received a total of 54 responses at that time. Here are some of the findings of these surveys.

Spring 2012 (74 colleges reporting)

1. Approximately 9,000 children are enrolled in these children's centers/lab schools.
2. Most serve students, staff, and the community. Over 2/3 are children of students.
3. At most programs student families are given priority.
4. 17 schools operated multiple sites.
5. 27 other disciplines use the labs for student assignments (nursing being the most predominant.
6. Most operate between 40-50 hrs per week.
7. 21 are NAEYC Accredited.
8. 7,500 children are on our wait lists.
9. 23 campuses have a faculty as director, 40 have management as directors, 4 have classified staff.
10. These programs employ 537 student workers.
11. 18 campuses count students workers in their licensing or Title 5 ratios.
12. 29 campuses use interns.
13. 37 campuses have cut staff prep & training time.
14. In-kind contributions from districts include: Technology (75), Facility (74), Insurance (74), Maintenance (73), Utilities (71), Rent (46) .
15. 32 other disciplines used lab schools for assignments. They were most commonly used by Nursing and Behavioral Sciences, Humanities and Language Arts.

September 2012 results (56 colleges)

1. 16 of 54 reporting programs had full or partial program closure over 3 yrs.
2. 118 classrooms closed since 2008-09.
3. There were 3812 practicum students identified at the 54 college in Fall 2012.
4. 1489 students (39%) use off-site programs.
5. Campus labs were used for assignments by 8,905 students from other disciplines.
6. There were 4,782 children on waiting lists from these colleges.
7. These programs currently employ 815 teaching staff but have laid off 239 since 2008-09.
8. 5,836 children were enrolled in this 54 campuses down from 6,061 (9.6% drop) since 2008-09.
9. **23 of 50 respondents noted discussions were currently taking place in their district regarding program closure for the lab schools.**