



Education

Young people in San Pablo are served by the West Contra Costa Unified School District. The District serves the cities of Richmond, El Cerrito, San Pablo, Pinole, and Hercules, and the unincorporated areas of Bayview-Montalvin Manor, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, North Richmond, and Tara Hills.

Access to High Quality Child Care and Preschools

In 2017, San Pablo had 43 family child care homes, 11 licensed child care centers, and 7 license-exempt child care centers that provide a total of 1,582 child care slots for children 12 years and under. These slots only meet 56% of the total child care demand of 2,840 slots, which includes out-of-school-time care for school-aged children.¹¹

In 2017, San Pablo needed 848 preschool slots to serve all preschool age children; however, there were only 428 available slots meeting only 50% of the total need. This is significantly lower the Contra Costa County as a whole where 88% of the total preschool need was met.¹²

Schools that are located in or serve the majority of San Pablo youth are as follows:

- Bayview Elementary
- Dover Elementary
- Downer Elementary
- Lake Elementary
- Riverside Elementary
- Helms Middle
- Richmond High
- Middle College High

Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism

The West Contra Costa Unified School District has a goal for all schools to achieve a 95% attendance rate. Among the schools serving San Pablo children and youth, Downer and Bayview Elementary schools had the lowest attendance rates ranging from 92.0% to 93.7%. All other schools were very close to the 95% goal, with attendance rates between 94.2% and 98.4%.¹³

Figure 10. 2016-17 through 2018-19 Attendance Rates by School

	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19
Bayview ES	93.0	↑	93.2	↓	92.0
Dover ES	95.1	↓	94.8	↓	94.4
Downer ES	93.7	↓	92.9	↑	93.5
Lake ES	94.5	↑	94.8	↑	95.2
Riverside ES	94.9	↓	94.5	↓	94.4
Helms MS	94.6	↑	94.9	↓	94.0
Middle College HS	98.4	→	98.4	↓	98.3
Richmond HS	94.2	↑	94.9	→	94.9

Source: 2018-19 West Contra Costa Unified School District

Chronic absenteeism is defined as the percent of students who miss more than 10 days of school per year. Chronic absenteeism rates at most of the San Pablo schools are much higher than the statewide

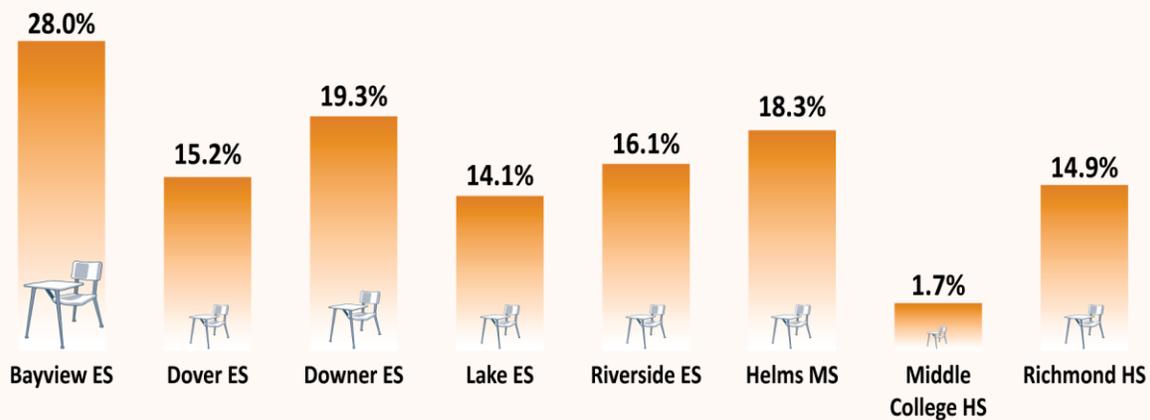
¹¹ 2018. Contra Costa County Comprehensive Countywide Child Care Needs Assessment: 2017 to 2027

¹² 2018. Contra Costa County Comprehensive Countywide Child Care Needs Assessment: 2017 to 2027

¹³ West Contra Costa Unified School District, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 School Year

rate of 12.0% and the Contra Costa County rate of 12.1%. Moreover, four of the San Pablo schools have seen substantial increases in chronic absenteeism from the 2016-17 school year to the 2018-19 school year. The rate of students who are chronically absent at Bayview Elementary increased from 23% to 28%, Dover Elementary increased from 12.4% to 15.2%, Helms Middle increased from 16.3% to 18.3%, and Riverside Elementary increased from 11.4% to 16.1%. Districtwide, the chronic absenteeism rate for West Contra Costa Unified schools is 17.3%, which is also higher than the state-wide and county-wide rates.¹⁴

Figure 11. 2018-19 Chronic Absenteeism by School



Source: 2018-19 California Department of Education

Students with excessive or ongoing absences or tardiness over time are referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). The SARB is a community-based effort to bring together resources to assist families with attendance, truancy and behavior issues, and is not merely a punitive body but rather serves as another safety net to help students stay in school. It is the last chance to keep students and families out of the court system.

In the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years there were 12 Richmond High youth who live in San Pablo seen by the SARB. None of them had ongoing medical issues or were referred to the Courts.

Of Helms Middle school students there were 18 San Pablo youth seen by the SARB. Of those 18, two youth had ongoing medical issues and three youth were referred to the courts.

From the five elementary schools there were 15 San Pablo youth seen by the SARB. One of those youth had an ongoing medical issue and one youth was referred to the courts.¹⁵

English Language Learners

San Pablo schools serve large numbers of English Language Learners. This is the case for over 60% of the students at Dover, Downer, and Lake Elementary Schools. At Helms Middle, 38% of students are English Language Learners. Of the English Language Learners at Richmond High, 33% are classified as being at-risk for a lifetime English Language Learner status.

¹⁴ California Department of Education 2018-19, 2017-18, and 2016-17 School Years

¹⁵ 2018-19 and 2019-20. West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Figure 12. 2018-19 English Learners by School

	English Only	Initial Fluent English Proficient	English Learner	Reclassified Fluent English Proficient	At-Risk or Life Time English Learners (Percent of English Learners)
Bayview Elementary	42.4%	2.5%	46.3%	8.4%	27.2%
Dover Elementary	17.5%	3.3%	65.4%	13.7%	27.7%
Downer Elementary	23.1%	3.4%	61.8%	11.7%	25.9%
Lake Elementary	25.9%	3.2%	60.5%	10.4%	24.1%
Riverside Elementary	42.3%	5.1%	41.0%	11.5%	23.9%
Helms Middle	18.5%	4.1%	37.3%	40.2%	37.7%
Richmond High	12.4%	3.3%	39.6%	44.7%	33.2%
Middle College High	31.6%	10.4%	2.4%	55.6%	4.2%

Source: 2018-19 California Department of Education

Suspension/Expulsion Rates

The suspension rate at schools serving San Pablo students range from 0% to 9.7%, with the highest rates at Helms Middle, Bayview Elementary, and Richmond High. See Figure 13 below. The majority of students suspended in 2018-19 were only suspended one time.

Figure 13. 2018-19 Suspensions Rates by School

	Total Suspensions	Unduplicated Count of Students Suspended	Suspension Rate	% of Students Suspended with One Suspension	% of Students Suspended with Multiple Suspensions	% of Suspensions for Violent Incidents or Weapon Possession
Bayview ES	76	56	9.5%	68%	32%	88%
Dover ES	37	27	3.9%	85%	15%	68%
Downer ES	70	38	6.0%	68%	32%	93%
Lake ES	29	19	4.5%	68%	32%	69%
Riverside ES	8	7	1.6%	86%	14%	100%
Helms MS	127	92	9.7%	72%	28%	87%
Richmond HS	226	150	8.8%	76%	24%	62%
Middle College HS	0	0	0.0%	0%	0%	0%

Source: 2018-19 California Department of Education

West Contra Costa schools avoid expulsions and work with youth and their families to continue serving all students. In the 2018-19 school year, there was only one student expelled in the District and no students expelled from any of the San Pablo schools. In the 2017-18 school year, there were 10 students expelled district-wide, of which three attended a San Pablo school.¹⁶

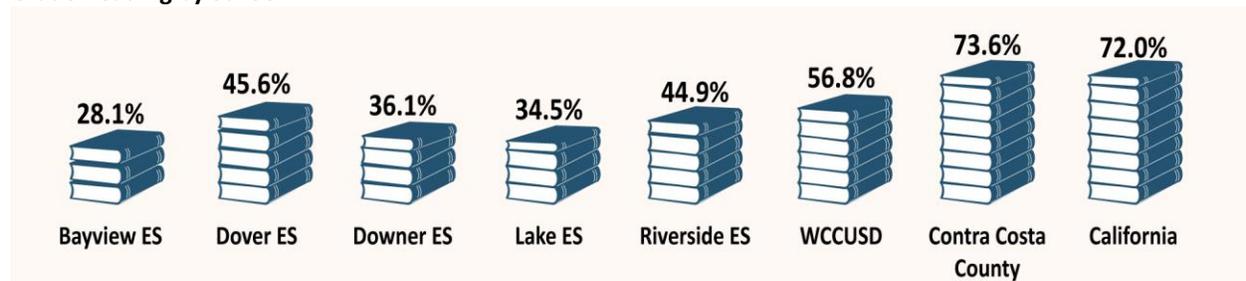
¹⁶ California Department of Education 2018-19 and 2017-18 School Years

Academic Success



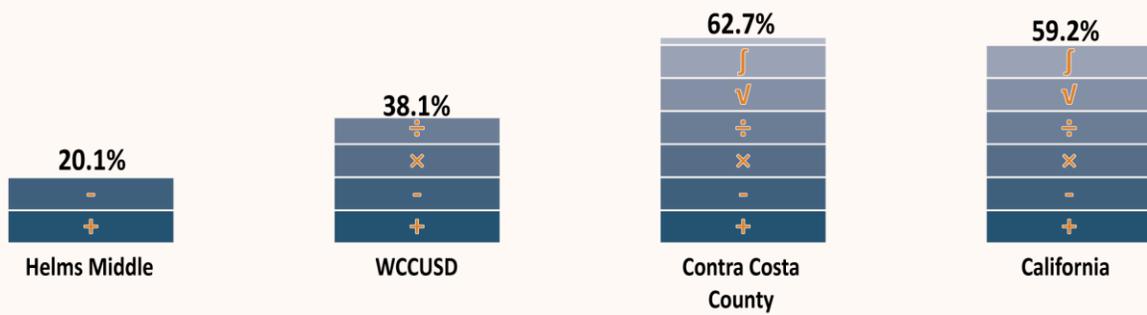
Two commonly-cited predictors of a young person’s academic success are 3rd grade literacy and 8th grade math proficiency. The California Assessment of Student Performance and Academic Progress determines if students are performing at grade level; results are reported as Standard Exceeded, Standard Met, Standard Nearly Met, and Standard Not Met. For the purposes of this report we looked at students who exceeded, met, or nearly met the grade level standards. As shown in the Figure 14, none of the San Pablo elementary schools had a majority of 3rd graders who scored “nearly met” or higher. Students as an aggregate at these schools are performing lower in 3rd grade literacy than their peers district-, county-, and state-wide. The same is true of students in 8th grade at Helms Middle School, in math (Figure 14).

Figure 14. 2018-19 Percent of Students Who Exceeded, Met, or Nearly Met the Grade Level Standard for Third Grade Reading by School



Source: 2018-19 California Department of Education

Figure 15. 2018-19 Percent of Students Who Exceeded, Met, or Nearly Met the Grade Level Standard for Eighth Grade Math by School



Source: 2018-19 California Department of Education

High School Graduation Rate

Almost half (44%) of San Pablo residents over the age of 18 are not high school graduates.¹⁷

The majority of youth in San Pablo attend Richmond High School (located on the boundary of Richmond and San Pablo). The 2018-19 high school graduation rate for Richmond High is 83.7%. Compared to other WCCUSD high schools, this percentage is only higher than the graduation rate at the



district’s two alternative high schools and Kennedy High. The graduation rate at Richmond High is lower than the Contra Costa county-wide rate of 89.2% and the statewide rate of 84.5%.

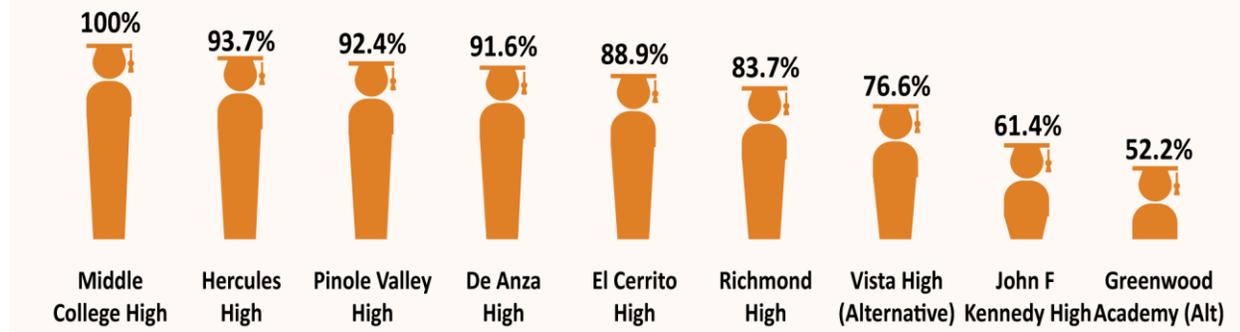
The only high school located within San Pablo is Middle College High¹⁸ on the Contra Costa College campus, which is attended by students from across West Contra Costa Unified School District. Middle College High had a 100% graduation rate in 2018-19, by far the highest in the district.¹⁹

¹⁷ 2018 American Community Survey Five Year Estimates

¹⁸ Middle College High Schools are secondary schools located on a college campus. These schools offer challenging academic programs designed to serve high-potential, high-risk students. Middle Collee High Schools feature effective support services, small class size, and the opportunity for students to concurrently take some college classes at typically minor cost to the student. (California Department of Education: www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs/midcolhs.asp)

¹⁹ 2018-19 California Department of Education

Figure 16. 2018-19 High School Graduation Rates for West Contra Costa Unified School District by School



Source: 2018-19 California Department of Education

The Youth Truth Survey was administered at Richmond High in February 2019; 23% of respondents reported seriously considering dropping out of high school.

The “A-G” requirements are a sequence of high school courses that students must complete (with a C grade or better) to be minimally eligible for admission to the University of California and California State University systems. These requirements represent the basic level of academic preparation that high school students should achieve to undertake university work.²⁰ From the 2016-17 school year to 2018-19, the percent of graduating students at Richmond High meeting the A-G requirements increased from 34% to 39%. During this same time frame, there was a corresponding rise from 46% to 48% of graduates across the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Academic Support

Many of the youth survey respondents reported using academic support services and needing additional academic support. Opportunities to learn about going to college and support for going to college were the two most used and needed services reported by students. Additionally, two students suggested a need for better sports and physical education programs, and four students reported needs for mental health or counseling services. Finally, one student suggested there should be more life skills classes (e.g., how to file taxes, prepare for interviews, etc.).

I need more help on scholarships and guidance after high school.
 ~ Youth Survey Respondents

²⁰ West Contra Costa Unified School District. www.wccusd.net/Page/13496

Figure 17. Youth Survey Respondents Use and Need for Academic Supports

Services	Use this Service	Need More of this Service
Homework help	61%	39%
Tutoring	61%	39%
Computer classes	51%	23%
Access to or better access to internet at home	50%	18%
Opportunities to learn about going to college	80%	58%
Support to apply for college	71%	60%
Summer, evening, and weekend programs	53%	38%

Source: 2020 San Pablo Youth Survey



Participants in the family focus groups cited the need for more tutoring services and support for parents to assist their children with homework. They also stated that services for parents need to be offered at varying times especially because many families work during the morning when parent activities are offered.