

Rancho Santiago Community College District Environmental Scan: Local School Districts Data

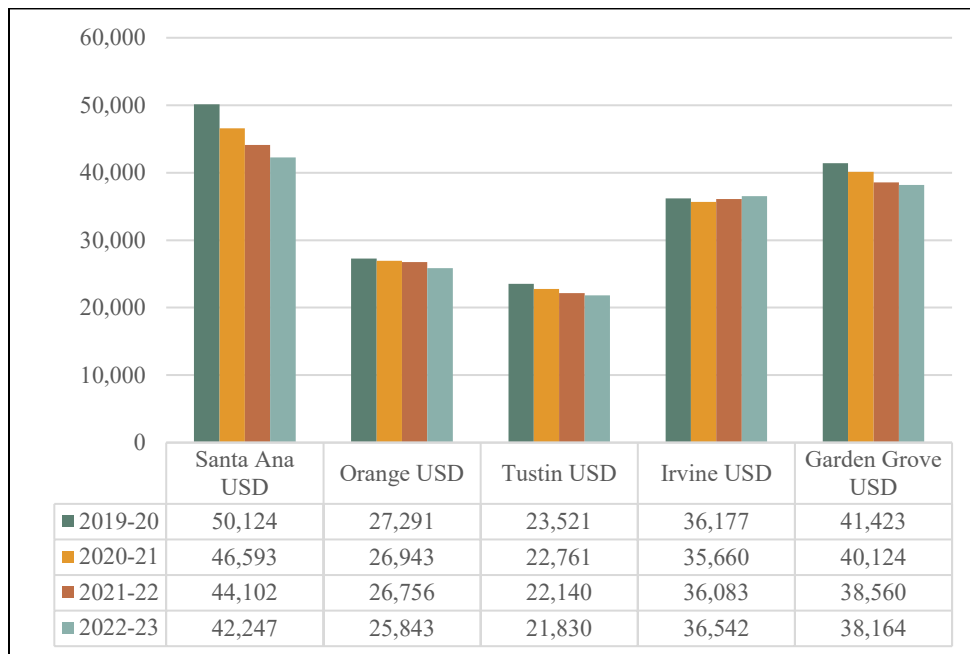
Understanding trends in K–12 enrollment is essential for effective planning for the Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) and its colleges. As we prepare for upcoming years, having a clear picture of the students moving through our local school systems allows us to anticipate future demand for programs, services, and resources. These data help us understand the size, diversity, and evolving needs of our incoming student pipeline, ensuring that we remain responsive to our community and aligned with our mission. By examining K–12 enrollment patterns alongside other environmental factors, we strengthen our ability to make informed decisions that support equitable access, strategic growth, and long-term institutional effectiveness

K-12 Enrollments

Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) and Garden Grove Unified School District (GGUSD) are the largest K-12 school districts within the RSCCD service area, with enrollments of 53,131 and 43,163 students, respectively, in 2017-18. Nevertheless, both districts have experienced a decline in K-12 student enrollments in recent years.

- Santa Ana USD (-15.7%), Garden Grove USD (-7.86%), Tustin USD (-7.20%) and Orange USD (-5.30%) enrollment dropped from 2019-20 to 2022-23.
- Irvine USD enrollment fluctuated but remained relatively stable with 36,177 in 2019-20 and 36,542 in 2022-23.

**Local Unified School Districts
K-12 Enrollments
2019-20 to 2022-23**



Source: [California Department of Education](https://www.cde.ca.gov/da/ed/st/enr/)

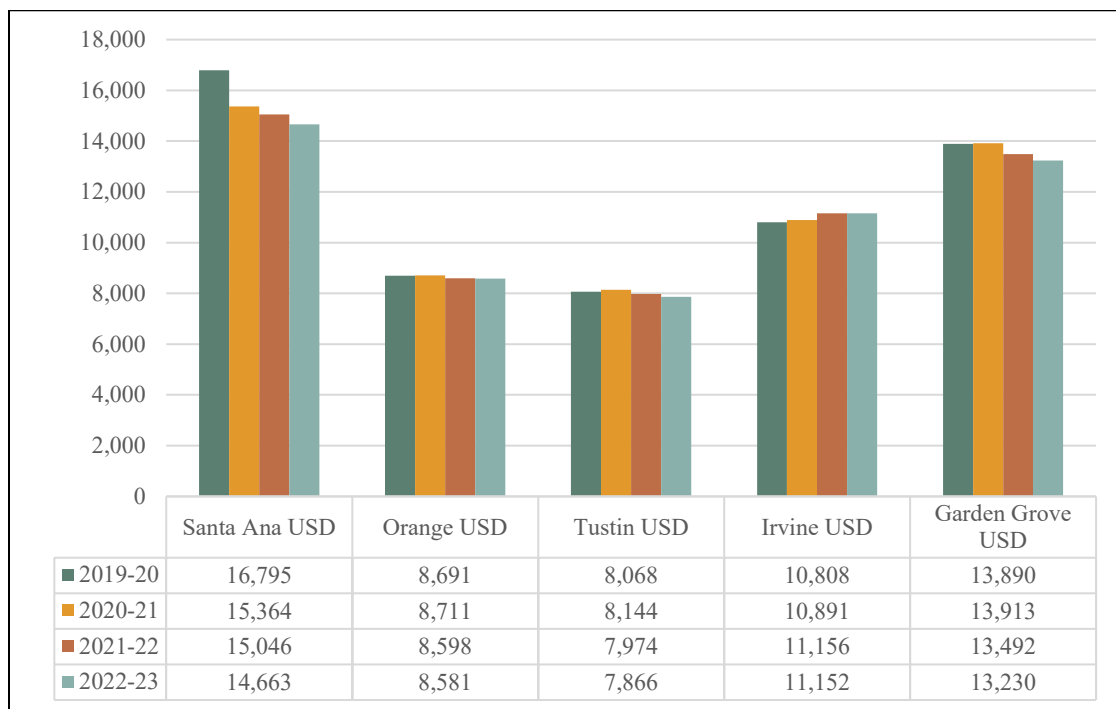
Local School Districts

High School Enrollments

Santa Ana USD and Garden Grove USD have the highest student enrollments (14,538 and 14,129, respectively in 2017-18) among the five local school districts within the RSCCD service area.

- Santa Ana USD and Garden Grove USD experienced a decline in their high school enrollments (-12.7% and -4.8% respectively) from 2019-20 to 2022-23).
- High school enrollment for Orange USD and Tustin USD has been relatively stabled in the four years shown.
- Irvine Unified School District high school enrollments increased from 10,808 in 2019-20 to 11,152 in 2022-23.

**Local High School District Enrollments*
2019-20 to 2022-23**



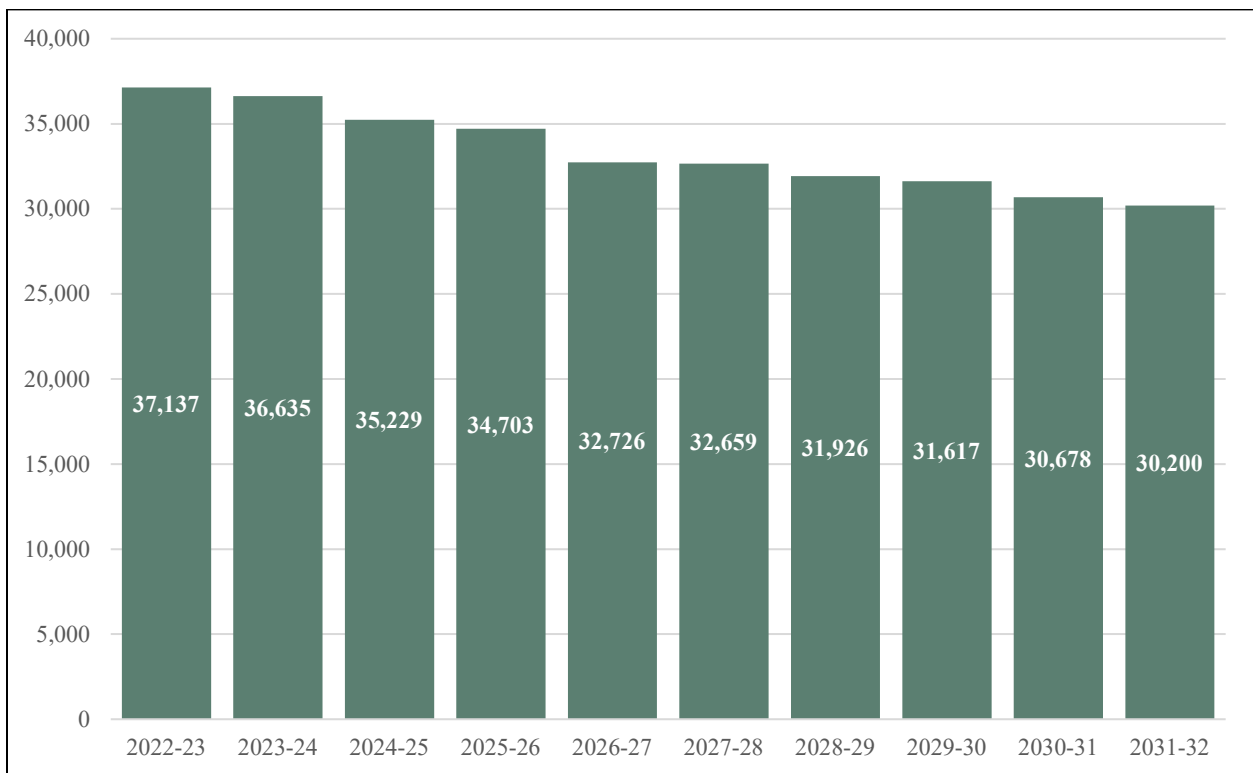
Source: [California Department of Education](#)
*Charter schools were not included in the count

Local School Districts

High School Graduates Projection

The number of high school graduates is expected to decrease steadily over this period. It starts at 37,137 in 2022-23 and declines to 30,200 by 2031-32.

**Orange County
High School Graduate Projection
2022-23 to 2031-32**



Source: [California Department of Finance](#)

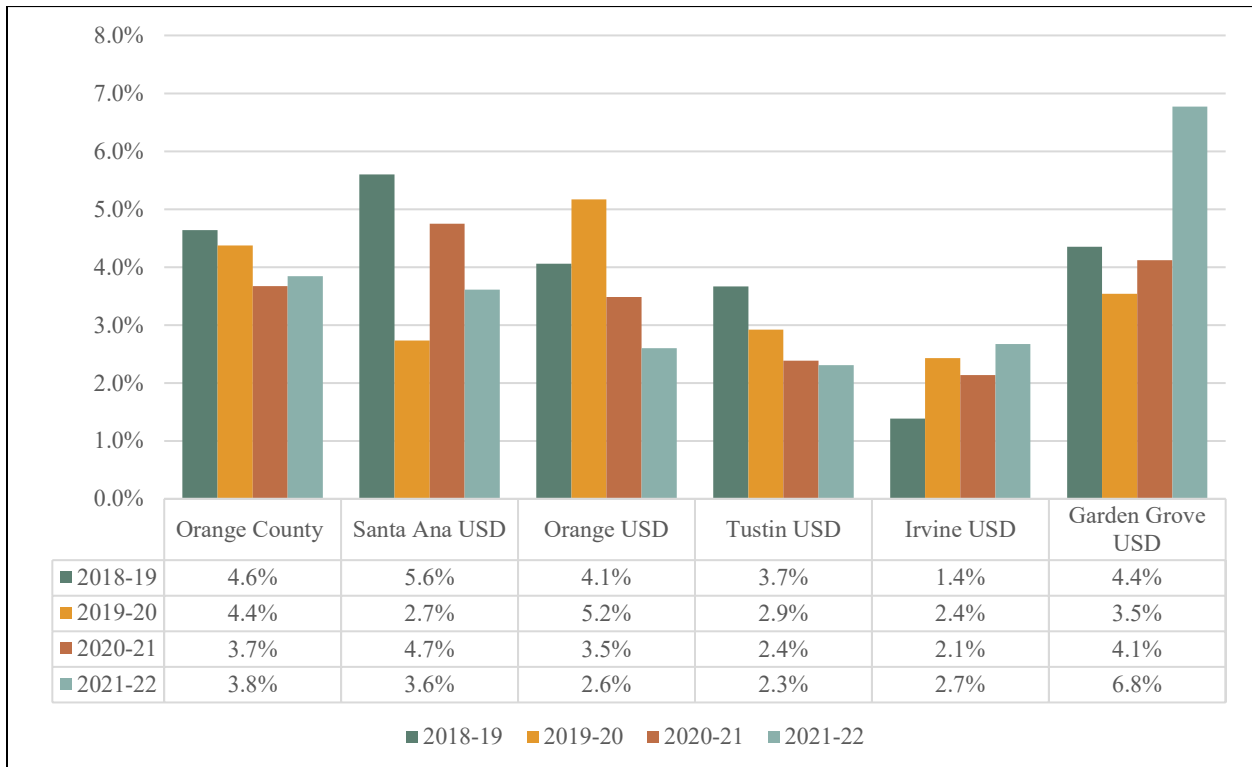
Local School Districts

High School Dropout Rates

These dropout rates serve as critical metrics for assessing the educational outcomes and challenges faced by different districts, as well as highlighting improvements or areas of concern.

- The dropout rate for schools in Orange County ranges from 3.7% to 4.6% within the four years displayed.
- Santa Ana USD experienced much fluctuation between each cohort, from 5.6% to 2.5% to 4.7% and then 3.6%.
- Orange USD dropout rate has improved from 4.1% and 5.2% in 2018-19 and 2019-20 to 2.6% in 2021-22.
- Tustin USD dropout rate had a high of 3.7% in 2018-19 and steadily decreased to 2.3% in 2021-22.
- Irvine USD consistently had lower dropout rates of the district reviewed (1.4% to 2.7%).
- Garden Grove USD dropout rate ranges from 3.5% in 2019-20 but has since increased to 6.8% in 2021-22.

**High School Dropout Rate by Unified School District
2018-19 to 2021-22**



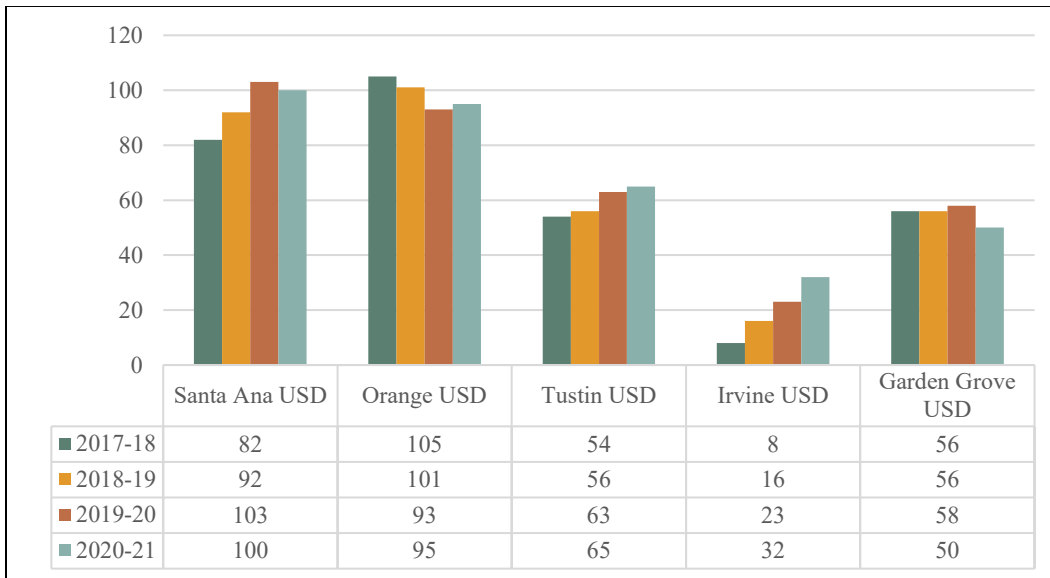
Source: [California Department of Education](#)

Local School Districts

High School Special Students

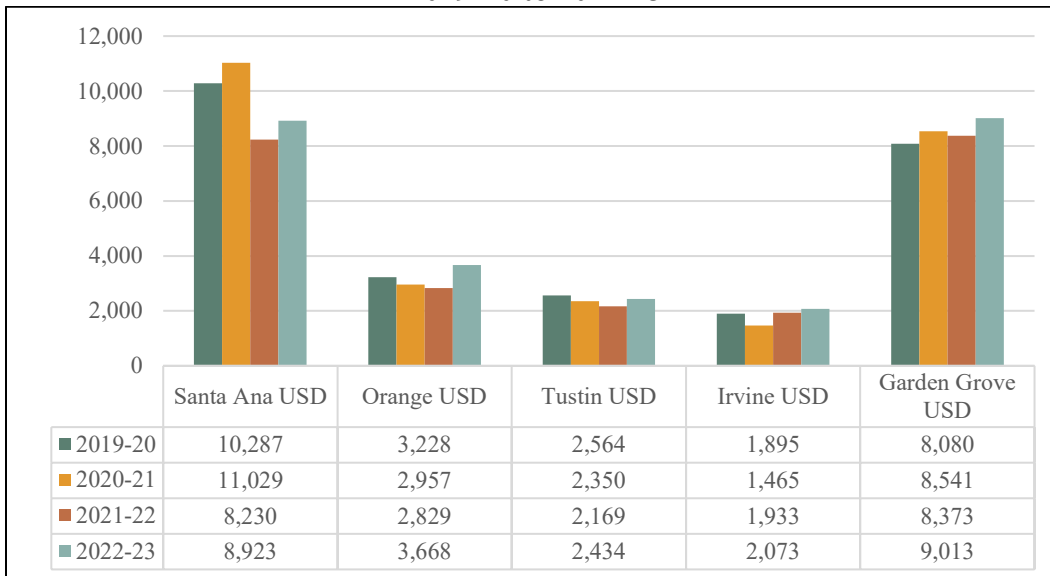
Santa Ana USD had the highest numbers of foster students and the highest number of students on free and reduced meal programs.

**Foster Students* by Local High School District
2017-18 to 2020-21***



*Most recent data available

**Free & Reduced Meal Program Students* by Local High School District
2019-20 to 2022-23**



Source: [California Department of Education](https://www.cde.ca.gov/fo/fo/fo.asp)

*Charter schools are not included in the count.

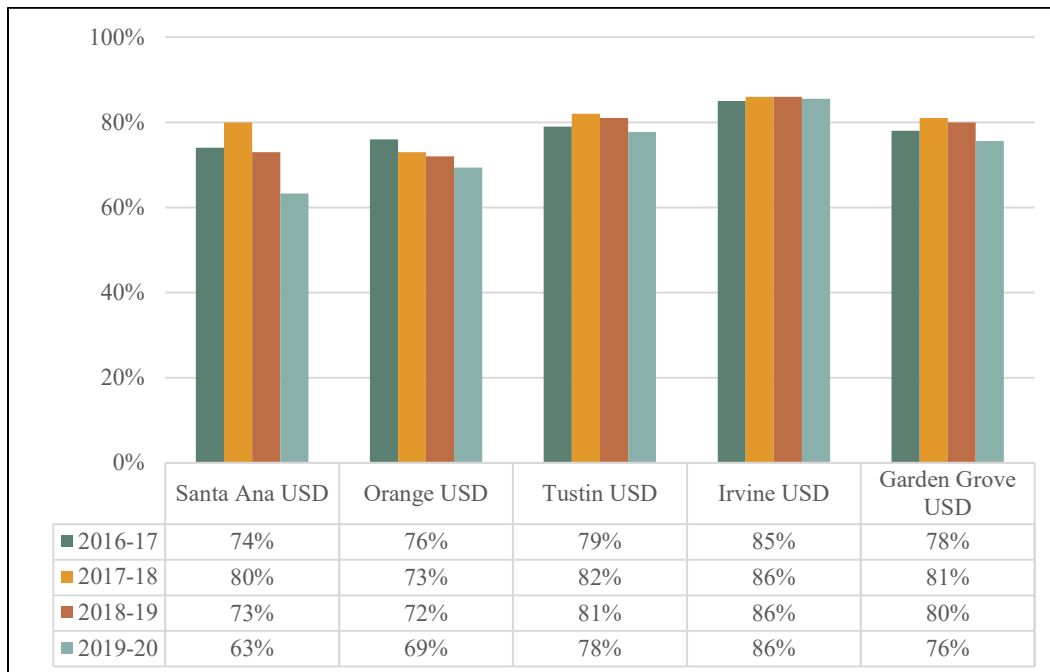
Local School Districts

College-Going Rates

These college-going rates serve as crucial indicators of the educational pathways pursued by students in each district, reflecting changes and trends in post-secondary education choices. By examining this data, we can gain valuable insights into the evolving educational landscape and the factors influencing students' decisions regarding higher education.

- Santa Ana USD's college-going rate ranges from a high of 80% in 2017-18 to a low of 63% in 2019-20.
- Orange USD had a college-going rate of 76% in 2016-17, which decreased to 73% in 2017-18, then to 72% in 2018-19, and 69% in 2019-20.
- Tustin USD's college-going rate was 79% in 2016-17, increased to 82% in 2017-18, decreased slightly to 81% in 2018-19, and then to 78% in 2019-20.
- Irvine USD consistently had higher college-going rates from among the five local unified school districts, starting at 85% in 2016-17 and remaining at 86% in the next three years.
- Garden Grove USD's college-going rate was 78% in 2016-17, increased to 81% in 2017-18, remained at 80% in 2018-19, and then decreased to 76% in 2019-20.

**College Going Rates by Local High School District
2016-17 to 2019-20***



Source: [California Department of Education](#)

*Most recent data available is 2019-20, and does not include charter schools

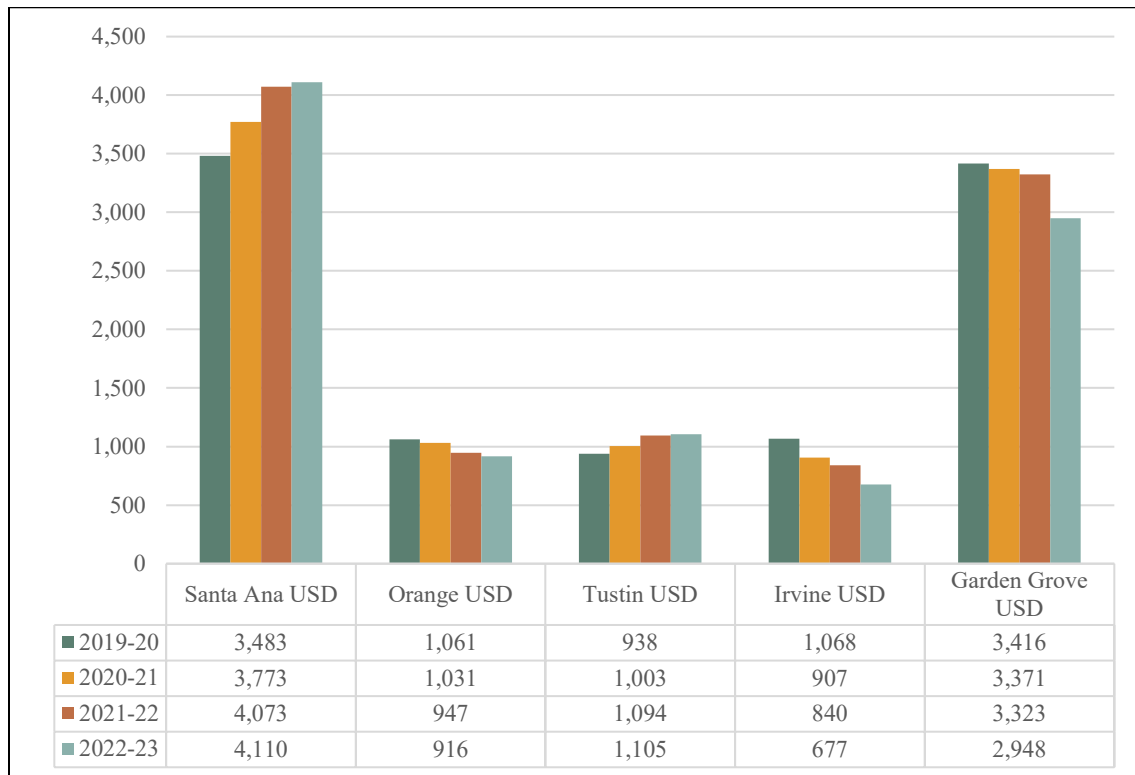
Local School Districts

High School English Learner Students

English learners are students who are unable to communicate fluently or learn effectively in English and typically require specialized or modified instruction in both the English language and in their academic courses.

- Santa Ana USD and Tustin USD each experienced an 18% increase in English Learners from 2019-20 to 2022-23.
- In contrast, the unified school districts of Irvine (-35.6%), Garden Grove (-15.6%), and Orange (-13.7%) experienced declines in their English Learner populations over the four years shown.

**English Learner Students* by Local High School Districts
2019-20 to 2022-23**



Source: [California Department of Education](#)
*Charter schools are not included in the count