

2023 California Student Career Exposure Gap Report

California students possess the talent for in-demand careers but lack exposure.



A critical economy at risk

California ranks first in many categories and serves as a predictor of the direction of the economy and education in the United States.

It's the **most populated state**, with nearly 40 million people, and it's also one of the **most diverse states**. In terms of gross domestic product (GDP), California has the best economy in the U.S. and is on pace to **surpass Germany as the world's 4th largest economy**.

With job creation increasing rapidly in the Golden State, there is an emphasis on understanding the workforce of tomorrow and how best to prepare students for their future careers.

YouScience® Aptitude & Career Discovery is a powerful resource to inform whether students are being prepared for the careers of the future.



Industry and education misalignment

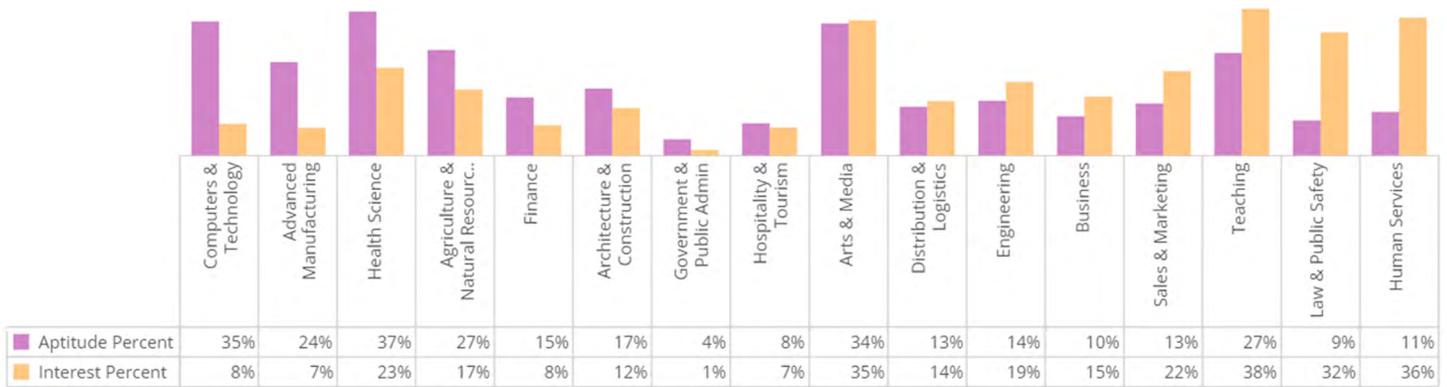
This report examines anonymized data from middle and high school students in California who completed the YouScience aptitude assessment in 2022. We outline the aptitudes and interests of California students based on National Career Clusters.

The data show that California students have the aptitudes necessary for the jobs of the future, but they lack interest and even the knowledge of possible in-demand career fields where they can excel.

Demographics:

- **19,175** - Total number of students included in the data
- **17,931** - Total number of high school students
- **1,244** - Total number of middle school students
- Ethnicity distribution for all students
 - **37%** - Hispanic/Latin
 - **33%** - White/European American
 - **13%** - Asian American/Pacific Islander
 - **10%** - Other
 - **6%** - Black/African American
 - **1%** - Native American/American Indian

California students: aptitudes vs. interests



Gaps revealed

Computers & Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, and Health Sciences are the top three industries that students have more aptitude for than interest.

Female students have:

10.7x

more aptitude for Advanced Manufacturing careers than interest.

Male students have:

2.3x

more aptitude for Health Science careers than interest.

More aptitude than interest

- Male students have nearly **2.1x** more aptitude for Advanced Manufacturing careers than interest.
- Male students have **2.8x** more aptitude for Computers & Technology careers than interest.
- Female students have nearly **8.1x** more aptitude for Computers & Technology careers than interest.

More interest than aptitude

- Female students have nearly **4x** more interest in Human Services careers than aptitude.
- Male and female students have nearly **4.5x** more interest in Law & Public Safety careers than aptitude.
- Female students have nearly **1.7x** more interest in Teaching careers than aptitude.

The path forward

California students are naturally talented in career fields that are in demand today and will continue to be in need well into the future.

What's needed is a continued focus on improving the industry and education convergence so students can broaden their perspectives and explore real careers. There is no question that students have the talents for in-demand career fields, but they need to have opportunities to find the right path. YouScience can help open those doors and give students a clear pathway to continued education and career opportunities.

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