

High Needs Defined

The term “high need local educational agency” as defined in section 201 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021), means a district that serves an elementary or secondary school that meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. It has at least one school in which 50 percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for participation in the free and reduced price lunch program.
2. It has at least one school in which: (i) more than 34 percent of the academic classroom teachers at the secondary level (across all academic subjects) do not have an undergraduate degree with a major or minor in, or a graduate degree in, the academic field in which they teach the largest percentage of their classes; or (ii) more than 34 percent of the teachers in two of the academic departments do not have an undergraduate degree with a major or minor in, or a graduate degree in, the academic field in which they teach the largest percentage of their classes.
3. It has at least one school whose teacher attrition rate has been 15 percent or more over the last three school years.

To verify if a school meets criterion 1, search for it in the [Teacher Cancellation Low Income Directory](#). To assess criteria 2 and 3, see the [School Accountability Report Card](#) for the school of interest. Contact Cal Teach for help, if you are not sure.