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Pension Tracker Adds 1,700 School Districts to Cover 3,400 California Public Agencies

Stanford, CA (Aug. 16, 2019). [PensionTracker](#), a Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR) project, has added nearly 1,700 California school districts to its database and now contains pension data for more than 3,400 public agencies across California. The project is directed by Joe Nation, a former state lawmaker, SIEPR researcher, and Professor of the Practice of Public Policy at Stanford.

Included with this addition and update:

- PensionTracker’s revised 2017 estimate of the state’s total unfunded liability (liabilities minus assets), or “pension debt,” is now \$308.5 billion on an actuarial basis, equivalent to \$23,632 per household. On a market basis, the state’s total pension debt is \$1.052 trillion, more than \$80,600 per household. This is represented by market pension debt by each pension system as follows:
 - CalPERS: \$464.5 billion
 - CalSTRS: \$292.3 billion
 - Independent (many large cities and counties): \$229.5 billion
 - University of California: \$61.1 billion
 - Pension Obligation Bonds: \$5.3 billion.
- More than 600 of the 1,666 school districts included on PensionTracker have market pension debt per household of greater than \$10,000; more than 50 school districts have a market pension debt per household of greater than \$30,000.
- The median market pension debt per household for school districts is \$4,569, this is in addition to pension debt for households that are associated with counties, cities, and special districts.
- Dollar contributions from school districts are also substantially higher over time. For example, the San Diego Unified School District’s total pension contribution in 2017 is \$509.3 million, nearly \$200 million higher than in 2014 (\$332.1 million).
- Despite increased contributions from school districts and employees, school district pension debt is in most cases higher in 2017 than in 2014-2016. For example, the Sacramento City School District’s actuarial pension debt in 2017 is \$466.5 million, higher than in 2016 (\$396.7 million), 2015 (\$358.6 million), and 2014 (\$365.8 million).

Data for all states are available at [Pension Tracker](#). PensionTracker provides detailed data on local government agency [pensions in California](#). For more information about SIEPR and other SIEPR projects, see <http://siepr.stanford.edu>.

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