

# Prison-Industrial Complex? Maybe It's Time for a Schools-Industrial Complex

California has built 23 prisons since 1980. In the same period, the University of California system has opened one new campus. And although California's prison population has declined in recent years, the state's spending per prisoner has increased five times faster than its spending per K-12 student in the last two decades.

California has more than 130,000 prisoners, a huge increase from the state's 1980 prison population of about 25,000. Prisons cost California taxpayers close to \$10 billion, compared with \$604 million in 1980.

— Saki Knafo, *The Huffington Post*, 2013