

# A LOOK AT BLACK STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN THE CSU

Enrollment in the California State University System has been increasing steadily, going from about 324,000 students in 1985 to more than 480,000 in 2019.

Something that is talked about a lot in this context is the increased diversity of the CSU student body. In 1985, among students who identify, 70% of CSU students were white. In 2019, 75% of students identified as students of color. This is not the entire story though.

TOTAL ENROLLMENT, FALL 1985

324,626

STUDENTS OF COLOR, 1985

86,992

PERCENT OF STUDENT BODY\*

30%

TOTAL ENROLLMENT, FALL 2019

481,929

STUDENTS OF COLOR, 2019

303,512

PERCENT OF STUDENT BODY\*

74%

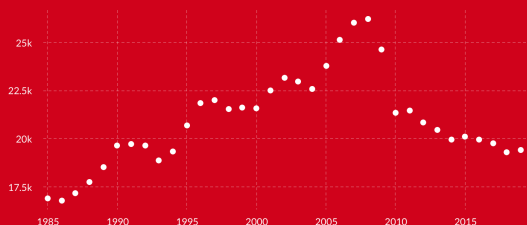
\* Among students who identify a race/ethnicity

## BLACK STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Total Enrollment, by Headcount, 1985-2019



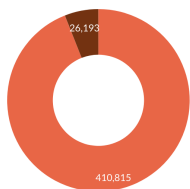
Black Student Enrollment, by Headcount, 1985-2019



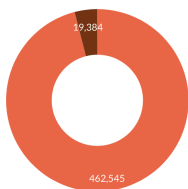
## ENROLLMENT SINCE 2008

The number of Black students attending the CSU peaked in 2008, at 26,193. Since then, the number of Black students enrolled in the CSU has declined by nearly 7,000. Total enrollment is up almost 46,000.

2008



2019



Other Students (94.01%) Black (5.99%)

Other Students (95.98%) Black (4.02%)

## DEMANDING CHANGE FOR OUR STUDENTS

This is why CFA demands that every campus' strategic plan prioritize enrollment and retention rates for marginalized students, particularly Black students. Strategic plans should:

- Prioritize the promotion and expansion of Ethnic Studies curriculum
- Establish Black Student/Resource Centers on every CSU campus, and increases in funding, resources, and personnel for centers that already exist.
- Ensure consistent campuswide training on unconscious bias for all university personnel who interact with students and faculty.
- To ensure retention of Black, Native, and Indigenous students, each strategic plan should prioritize the creation of a safe and inclusive campus environment that does not rely on police for safety.

