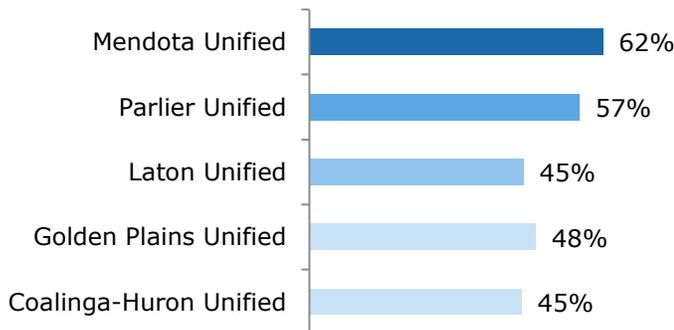


Strong parents and families are the foundation of a child’s development. Parents who understand the stages of young children’s growth are better equipped to provide for their child’s needs, and families that are connected to supportive networks and services are more likely to expose their children to activities and educational opportunities to help them succeed in school and in life.

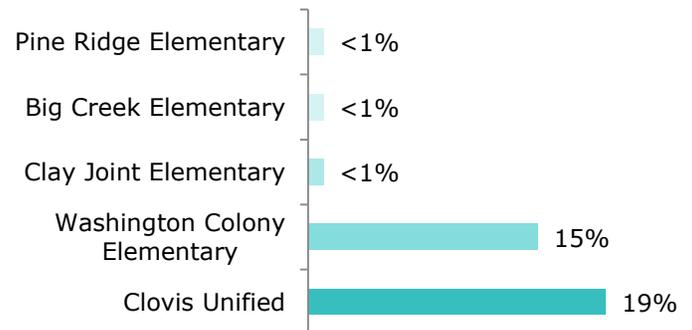
Economic Disparities

Information from the US Census finds that **43 percent of children** 0 to 5 years live in poverty in Fresno County. However, it is important to note that poverty is unevenly distributed across the county, and some areas face much higher rates than others.

Top 5 School Districts with Highest Percent of Students Living in Poverty



Top 5 Schools/Districts with the Lowest Percent of Students Living in Poverty



Housing

The cost of housing is a major economic burden facing Fresno County families, especially for those earning minimum wage. Data shows that the income needed to afford the average asking rent price **exceeds the hourly wage** many individuals are earning in common Fresno County occupations.¹



Language Access

According to US Census data, Fresno County is home to 21.4% foreign-born individuals, and approximately 44.6% of county residents speak a language other than English at home. This creates pressure for county organizations and programs to provide support in multiple languages.



The **Migrant Education Program** at the Office of Fresno County Superintendent of Schools supports migrant children and their parents. Although the program is able to enroll and serve 220 parents, they currently have 300 families on their waitlist.

¹ “Fresno County Renters in Crisis: A Call for Action” by the Fresno Housing Authority (2017).