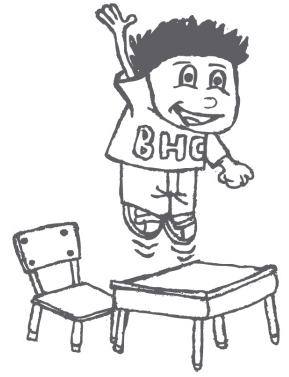


EVERY STUDENT MATTERS!

July 2014



Every Student Matters (ESM) is a youth-led policy advocacy campaign by **Building Healthy Communities: Long Beach Youth Committee** to promote practices & policies in the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) that help every student get on a path to college and career. We believe that to build a vibrant future for Long Beach where every young person has a fair chance to thrive and succeed, we need to invest in our youth and in the health of our school communities.

Every day students are pushed out of school because of severe disciplinary practices. We advocate using more effective, fair, and positive approaches to address discipline and keep students in the classroom where they belong.

On any given school day, one student is suspended every 6.4 minutes.¹ Every minute counts.

EVERY STUDENT MATTERS!

WHY WE NEED MORE SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS



1 in 5 LBUSD high school freshmen will NOT graduate with their classmates four years later²

- Of those who graduate, only 40% will have completed coursework necessary to enroll in a CA 4-year university³
 - For Blacks, Latinos, and Pacific Islander students, this figure decreases to **only 30%**⁴
- In 2011-12, LBUSD issued in-school suspensions to **746 students** & out-of-school suspensions to **4,817 students**⁵
- **152** LBUSD students surveyed by ESM reported being arrested on or near school grounds⁶

WE WANT: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE & OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO EXCLUSIONARY PRACTICES

Restorative Justice (RJ) programs address student behavior without denying students' access to education. RJ utilizes "dialogue in circles" to proactively prevent conflict and build community, as well as respond to conflict and address disciplinary matters.

- Staff need it. **40%** of LBUSD staff agree they need professional development on positive behavior support and classroom management⁷
- RJ works. After a single year of implementing RJ in an Oakland middle school, suspensions decreased by **87%**⁸
- RJ is already being piloted in LBUSD. The California Conference for Equality and Justice is piloting RJ at Beach, Reid, and Poly Academy of Achievers and Leaders (PAAL) high schools

WE WANT: A FAIR AND CONSISTENT DISCIPLINE POLICY FOR ALL SCHOOLS

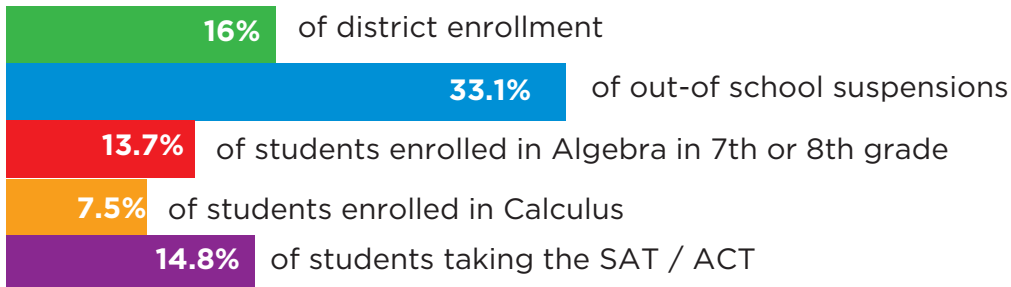
LBUSD lacks consistent discipline policies. Though the LBUSD Guidelines for Parents and Students contains excerpts from the CA Education Code, it does not guide schools on how to apply these generic state laws. As a result, schools implement a variety of discipline policies, and some are harsher than others.

DISPARITIES OF EXCLUSIONARY PRACTICES

Black students make up **15.2%** of LBUSD's enrollment⁹, but **34.7%** of all suspensions.¹⁰ White students make up **14.7%** of enrollment¹¹, but only **7.1%** of all suspensions.¹²

Black students are overrepresented when it comes to exclusionary discipline, but are underrepresented when it comes to indicators of college preparedness.¹³

Black students are...



SCHOOLS WITH THE HIGHEST SUSPENSION RATES

17 schools in LBUSD suspended **10% or more** of their student body in 2012-13.¹⁴
11 out of 17 of these schools were middle or K-8 schools.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT!

EVERY STUDENT in LBUSD **MATTERS**, but not all students experience the same chances to succeed. We want to work with LBUSD to ensure that **every** student is supported in a healthy, disciplined, and productive learning environment. In our diverse community, it is critical that we value, harness, and nurture the talent, skills and hopes of all young people, because every student plays a vital role in making our neighborhoods safer, making our economy stronger, and steering our city and state towards success.

1. This figure was calculated by the Children's Defense Fund-California [hereafter, CDF-CA] based on the Suspension, and Expulsion Report for 2012-13, Suspension by Federal Offense from the California Department of Education's DataQuest Website, for Long Beach Unified, available at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/SuspExp/suspbyeth.asp?c-Year=2012-13&cType=ALL&cCDS=19647250000000&cName=Long+Beach+Unified&cLevel=District&cChoice=dSusEthOff>.
2. California Department of Education, DataQuest [hereafter, CDE DataQuest], Cohort Outcome Data for the Class of 2012-2013, for Long Beach Unified available at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/CohortRates/GradRates.aspx?Ag-g=D&Topic=Dropouts&TheYear=2012-13&cds=19647250000000&RC=District&SubGroup=Ethnic/Racial>.
3. CDE DataQuest, 12th Grade Graduates Completing all Courses Required for UC and/or CSU Entrance, Long Beach Unified (2012-2013), available at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/DistGrad.asp?cSelect=19647250000000--Long+Beach+Unified&cChoice=DstGrdEth&cYear=2012-13&cLevel=District&cTopic=Graduates&myTimeFrame=S&submit1=Submit>.
4. Id. The average completion rate for Black, Latino, and Pacific Islander students was calculated by CDF-CA.
5. U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights, Civil Rights Data Collection, 2011-12, Discipline, Restraints/Seclusion Harassment/Bullying, Long Beach Unified [hereafter, OCR CRDC], available at <http://ocrdata.ed.gov/Page?t=d&eid=30385&syk=6&pid=961>
6. This figure is based on student responses to the Every Student Matters School Climate Survey conducted in the fall of 2012 by the Long Beach Building Healthy Communities: Youth Committee.
7. California School Climate Survey, 2010-11: Main Report. San Francisco: WestEd Health & Human Development Program for the California Department of Education, p. 35, Table 7.4, available at http://cscs.wested.org/resources/long_beach_unified_cscs1011_main.pdf.
8. Shelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice (Boalt Hall) (2010), School-Based Restorative Justice As An Alternative to Zero-Tolerance Policies: Lessons from West Oakland, p.33, available at http://www.law.berkeley.edu/files/11-2010--School-based_Restorative_Justice_As_an_Alternative_to_Zero-Tolerance_Policies.pdf
9. CDE DataQuest, Enrollment by Ethnicity for 2012-2013, Long Beach Unified, available at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/Enrollment/EthnicEnr.asp?cChoice=DistEnrEth&cYear=2012-13&cSelect=1964725--LONG%20BEACH%20UNIFIED&TheCounty=&cLevel=District&cTopic=Enrollment&myTimeFrame=S&cType=ALL&cGender=B>.
10. CDE DataQuest, Suspension and Expulsion Report For 2012-13, Suspension by Federal Offense, Long Beach Unified, available at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/SuspExp/suspbyeth.asp?c-Year=2012-13&cType=ALL&cCDS=19647250000000&cName=Long+Beach+Unified&cLevel=District&cChoice=dSusEthOff>.
11. Id.
12. Id.
13. OCR CRDC, 2011-2012 Long Beach Unified Pathways to College and Career Readiness, and College and Career Readiness, available at http://ocrdata.ed.gov/flex/Reports.aspx?type=district#/action=addSearchParams&tbSearchSchool=Long%20Beach&btnSearchParams=Search&cbiYears_4=1.
14. CDE DataQuest, Suspension and Expulsion Report For 2012-13, Suspension and Expulsion Rates, available at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/SuspExp/suspexplrate.asp?c-Year=2012-13&cType=ALL&cCDS=19647250000000&cName=Long+Beach+Unified&cLevel=District&cChoice=dSusExpRt>.