

APPENDIX A

SCHOOL BIAS & PUSHOUT FACT SHEET

BIAS/HARASSMENT

- ◆ In 2002, 75% of the harassment reported by California middle and high school students surveyed was bias-related harassment.¹
- ◆ California students who reported being victims of harassment were more likely to miss school, have low grades, abuse substances and suffer from depression than students who were not harassed.²
- ◆ The majority of students in the 2005 National Climate Survey reported experiencing harassment and violence at school.³ Three quarters of students participating in the survey reported feeling unsafe in school because of personal characteristics, including race, ethnicity, religion, gender and sexual orientation.⁴

LGBT STUDENTS

- ◆ Almost four out of five students participating in the 2005 National Climate Survey reported hearing homophobic comments at school.⁵ Only 16.5% of students reported that staff who were present when homophobic comments were made intervened frequently.⁶
- ◆ According to a 2002 California student survey, 7.5% of California students report being harassed on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation.⁷
- ◆ 46% of students said their schools were not safe for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students.⁸
- ◆ Four out of five gay and lesbian youth report feeling severe social isolation.⁹
- ◆ According to a 2002 California student survey, students who are harassed based on actual or perceived sexual orientation are more than three times as likely to carry a weapon to school more than twice as likely to report depression, more likely to report low grades and more than three times as likely to report missing school in the last 30 days because they felt unsafe.¹⁰

STUDENTS OF COLOR

- ◆ In 2007, almost 35% of Latinos and 38% of African Americans attended overcrowded high schools, nearly twice the rate of white students.¹¹
- ◆ African-American children in state-funded pre-kindergarten are expelled at about twice the rate of Latinos and whites, and over five times the rate for Asian-American children.¹²
- ◆ African-American students are suspended at a rate two to three times that of other students.¹³ African-American students receive harsher and more frequent punishment even when controlling for socio-economic status.¹⁴
- ◆ African American students are more likely than their white peers to be suspended or expelled for the same kind of conduct at school.¹⁵
- ◆ In 2007, 31% of Native Americans, 30% of Latinos, 42% of African Americans, 28% of Pacific Islanders, 15% of Whites, and 10% of Asian Americans dropped out.¹⁶

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

- ◆ Although only 8% of the nation's teens are born outside of the United States, nearly 25% of teen school dropouts were born outside the United States.¹⁷
- ◆ As of 2005, 24.8% of students in California were Limited English Proficiency, and of these only 68.8 - 79.5% graduated from high school.¹⁸
- ◆ Latino English Language Learners are over represented over-represented in special education and have the lowest graduation rates of all students.¹⁹

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

- ◆ According to the U.S. Department of Education (2006), approximately 13.5% of all students in K–12 schools receive special education services.²⁰
- ◆ In 2006-2007, California enrolled 677,875 students who received special education services.²¹
- ◆ In 2002, only 51% of students with disabilities received a standard diploma upon exiting school.²²
- ◆ Approximately 61.2% of students who do not complete high school are students with emotional/behavioral disabilities, 35% are students with learning disabilities.²³
- ◆ One-third of students with disabilities who drop out of high school have spent a night in jail; a rate three times that of students with disabilities who complete high school.²⁴

FOSTER YOUTH

- ◆ California has more children in foster care than any state in the country²⁵ 26,000 of whom are 16 or older.²⁶
- ◆ In one survey of foster care alumni, more than 68% attended three or more elementary schools; 33% attended five or more.²⁷
- ◆ Foster youth tend to lag behind their non-foster peers academically and are more likely to have behavior and discipline problems.²⁸
- ◆ A 2006 report by the EPE Research Center found that changing schools, repeating grades, and behavior problems indicate that a student is likely to leave school without a regular diploma.²⁹
- ◆ Studies indicate that youth in out-of-home care have dropout, truancy, and disciplinary rates far higher than the general student population.³⁰
- ◆ According to the May 12, 2006, Select Committee of the State Legislature (California), over 70% of all State Penitentiary inmates have spent time in the foster care system.³¹

PREGNANT AND PARENTING YOUTH

- ◆ California has the second highest rate of teen pregnancy in the nation.³² Of all births in California, approximately one in ten births were to teen mothers.³³
- ◆ In California the teen birth rate per 1,000 is 39 for African Americans, 13 for Asian Americans, 67 for Hispanics and 19 for Native Americans.³⁴
- ◆ Teen mothers are less likely to finish school, have higher rates of poverty, and are more likely to be dependent on public assistance than their peers.³⁵
- ◆ The leading reason for teen girls to drop out of high school is parenthood.³⁶ Various studies report that up to 70% of teen mothers drop out of high school.³⁷
- ◆ 30% of teen mothers never earn their high school diploma.³⁸
- ◆ Men who have a child with a teen mother complete fewer years of education than their peers do other men, and are less likely to receive a traditional high school diploma or GED.³⁹

MULTIPLE IDENTITIES

- ◆ Black, Hispanic, Native American, and ELL students with disabilities are more likely to be taught in separate classrooms or schools than students who are White or Asian/Pacific Islanders.⁴⁰
- ◆ Students with disabilities who were from Black, Hispanic, and American Indian backgrounds were 67% more likely to be removed from school by a hearing officer on the grounds that they were dangerous during the 1999 - 2000 school year than their White peers.⁴¹
- ◆ By age 19, almost 50% of women in foster care have been pregnant, whereas only 20% of young women who have not been in foster care have been pregnant.⁴²

- ◆ A study of youth who have been in foster care found that more than half of those studied had mental health problems, compared with 22% of the general population. 25% of the youth with mental health problems had post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) compared to 4% of the general population. 20% also experienced major depression, compared to 10% of the general population.⁴³
- ◆ It is estimated that between 30 and 40% of foster youth are in the special education system.⁴⁴
- ◆ African American and Native American children are overrepresented in foster care. African American children make up 15% of the U.S. population, but 41% of the foster care population. Native American children are 1% of the U.S. population, but 2% of the foster care population.⁴⁵

DROPOUT

- ◆ As of 2007, only 70% of all entering freshmen nationwide—and just half of students of color—finish high school within four years with a regular diploma. Nearly 7,000 American high school students drop out of school each day.⁴⁶
- ◆ In 2004, the dropout rate in California for males was 14.9% and 11.7% for females.⁴⁷
- ◆ In 2007, 24% of students in California dropped out of high school.⁴⁸
- ◆ Dropout rates are higher for students with disabilities, sexual minority youth and among low income ethnic and linguistic minorities in overcrowded schools.⁴⁹

SUSPENSION/EXPULSION AND SCHOOL VIOLENCE

- ◆ In 2002, one out of every five expelled students in the United States attended a California school.⁵⁰
- ◆ In 2003, more than 396,000 students in California were suspended and another 18,682 were expelled.⁵¹
- ◆ According to the California Department of Education in 2006-2007 there were 19,460 expulsions and 347,528 suspensions in California.⁵²
- ◆ According to the California Department of Education, disruption of school activities or willfully defying the authority of school personnel is the number one offense leading to expulsion.⁵³
- ◆ In 1998, more than 3.1 million children in America were suspended and another 87,000 were expelled, mostly for minor offenses.⁵⁴
- ◆ Between 1992 and 2002, violent crimes against students aged 12 - 18 at schools dropped by 50%.⁵⁵

CONSEQUENCES OF PUSHOUT

- ◆ Suspension and expulsion reduce the likelihood of graduating on time and often lead to student drop-out.⁵⁶
- ◆ Students who do not graduate from high school have reduced earning capacity, are more likely to be unemployed, and are over-represented in the criminal justice system.⁵⁷
- ◆ In California, every cohort of dropouts costs state and local government \$9.5 billion in fiscal losses.⁵⁸
- ◆ Suspension and expulsion are linked to increased likelihood of involvement in the juvenile justice system and higher rates of juvenile incarceration.⁵⁹
- ◆ Students who are suspended are more likely to drop out; students who drop out are more likely to be incarcerated.⁶⁰
- ◆ 68% of prison inmates do not have a high school diploma.⁶¹
- ◆ Reducing the high school dropout rate by 50% for one year in California would save the state and local government 3.2 billion. The value of social gains would amount to 23.2 billion.⁶²
- ◆ High school graduates are 68% less likely than dropouts to participate in any welfare programs.⁶³
- ◆ High school graduation reduces violent crime by 20%, property crimes by 11% and drug crimes by 12%.⁶⁴

ENDNOTES FOR FACT SHEET

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