YES on Prop. 47!

The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act

The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act of 2014 is a California voter initiative that will reclassify low-level, non-violent crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. State prison reductions will re-allocate $750 million to $1.25 billion into K-12 school programs, victim services, drug treatment, and mental health services to help prevent crime.

Together we can keep our neighborhoods and schools safe and healthy. Invest in policies that heal, not harm by voting Yes on Prop. 47.

For more information, please visit: http://www.safetyandschools.com

Register to vote by Tuesday, October 20th. Vote Yes on 47! on Tuesday, November 4th!

Photo: Our youth leaders organized rallies during Wellness Week to show that on-campus health resources and wellness centers improve school climate.

Investing in Youth

Youth Tell Schools, “Invest in Me!”

Eight years from now, LBUSD would have received $784 million through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) which serves to increase student outcomes and create a positive school climate especially for students in most need.

From on-campus health resources and wellness centers to alternatives to punitive discipline, KGA demonstrates that it is possible for LBUSD to create a positive school climate by investing in programs that keep youth at the core.

Studies have found that positive school climate decreases absenteeism, suspensions, substance abuse, and bullying, and increases students’ academic achievement, motivation to learn, and social emotional well-being.

This past year, the Youth at the CORE campaign secured teen only hours for Poly High School students at the new school-based health clinic at Roosevelt elementary school (set to open in 2015). In addition, we launched our first-ever Wellness Week across four Long Beach schools: Poly, Cabrillo, Wilson, and Jordan. “It was a huge success, possibly the best student-engaged fair at Poly,” says Health and AVID Teacher Danielle Sawyer*

Wellness Week resourced over a thousand students with the information, and skills needed to support their physical, emotional and mental health. Organizer Ashley Uyeda notes, “Students of all ethnic backgrounds were engaged. Addressing and improving health and wellness in our schools is an issue all students care about and benefit from”.

Investing in education and resources that support student health and wellness creates a positive school climate that encourages students to focus in the classroom, attend school, and succeed academically.

The Every Student Matters (ESM) campaign, assembled by Building Healthy Communities Youth Committee, organized for LBUSD to pass a resolution for positive programs and alternatives to suspensions and expulsions. Current statistic shows that 1 in 5 freshmen will not graduate with their cohort four years later and because 33% of Southeast Asian young men don’t finish high school as compared to only 7% of young white men, this resolution sets an alternative infrastructure for low-income, students of color to succeed and graduate on time.

Youth leader, David reflects on unnecessary punitive measures, “I know I’m not the only one who goes through this and I don’t want others to go through what I went through. We want fairness and a voice.”

KGA along-side Building Healthy Communities Youth Committee, drafted a comprehensive Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) to ensure that LBUSD prioritize community needs. The new California funding known as the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), aims to promote a positive school climate, increase overall student outcomes, and support students in most need.

The model LCAP for this year proposed that 2.4 million dollars be invested in the implementation of the Resolution on School Discipline Principles and Practices. The model LCAP also advised against spending LCFF money on building the school-to-prison pipeline and instead, “foster proactive school discipline practices that addresses the root causes of behavioral issues, restore justice and keep students learning in the classroom and on a path to success”.

Join us in this new school year to secure additional resources for low-income, English language learners and foster care students.

Investing in youth is investing in our future!  ■

*Press Telegram; **http://www.bhclongbeach.org/esm-letter/
This summer, in collaboration with the Language Access Coalition, Long Beach City Council approved $400,000 to hire staff and implement the Language Access Policy which gives limited English speakers (LES) access to City documents, web pages and phone lines translated into Spanish, Khmer and Tagalog.

1st Annual Wellness Week
More than 1000 students from Poly, Wilson, Jordan and Cabrillo engaged in workshops and week-long rallies that addressed the need for wellness centers on campus.

Youth organizers collected 600 "Invest in Me" pledges asking LBUSD to invest school funding from the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) into programs and resources that will close achievement gaps for all students especially low-income and students of color.

2014 School Board Elections Candidates Forum
Together, the ESM campaign, the Brothers, Sons, Selves Coalition, and Building Healthy Communities Long Beach, organized the first youth-focused School Board Candidates Forum to inform students about the 2014 LBUSD School Board Elections.

200 youth and community members along with Long Beach School Board Candidates, Uduak Ntuk, Megan Kerr and Diana Craighead attended.

Youth organizers of Youth at the CORE and Every Student Matters table at a school-based health fair.

We believe that community organizing and leadership development of Southeast Asian youth are key strategies that build collective power to create social change. Two of our youth leaders reflect on their growth this past year.

Our campaigns Youth at the C.O.R.E & Every Student Matters focuses on improving student wellness and it encourages students to go to school instead of pushing them out. Being the president of our on campus club this past year helped me grow as a leader. Because of my involvement on campus, I was elected to be part of our School Site Council. It is important to invest in youth because we are not only the future, we are the present leaders & our voices matter!

- Kimberly Lim

I've learned so much about myself, culture and community that I didn't know about. I have learned to communicate better too. KGA has made a huge impact on my life and motivated me to do better in school. It's a dangerous world out there and if it wasn't for KGA I would probably be out on the streets. The Brothers, Sons, Selves and Every Student Matters campaigns showed me how to become a leader for my community. Investing in youth means investing in my future.

- David Chhorn

Prior to the Long Beach School Board meeting, students organized and chanted "LBUSD: Invest in me!" as a reminder that LCFF should be used to help all students succeed.

LBUSD Resolution on Positive School Discipline
On October 8th, hundreds of community members were in attendance as the Long Beach School Board approved a resolution, organized by the Every Student Matters campaign. The resolution promotes positive alternatives to suspension and expulsion and expands programs for students-in-need to become healthy, thriving adults.

Halloween House of Horrors
Listed under local press as top-10 Halloween events to attend, our office-turned-maze incorporated a youth-led skill that exposed and offered solutions for educational and health disparities among Long Beach youth.

150 youth and community members learned about injustices lurking in schools that push students to vanish from the classroom.

This event assisted us in collecting 1500 School Wellness Surveys to identify the health and wellness needs of students.

Alumni Recognition
Paweillina Po and Linda Lath graduated with the first Cambodian Advocacy Leadership Institute (CALI) cohort, led by the Cambodian Advocacy Collaborative. They were awarded certificates from the Senate and House of Representatives.

Amanda Em completed the Seeding Change fellowship which builds and sustains a national Asian American movement.

Students and community members at Long Beach School Board meeting, students organized and chanted “LBUSD: Invest in me!” as a reminder that LCFF should be used to help all students succeed.

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Becoming a monthly sustainer is easy! Include your payment information in the envelope provided along with the amount you would like to contribute each month.

For online transactions, visit www.kgalb.org.

The ‘Donate’ button will direct you to your PayPal account where you have the option to make recurring payments. Thank you for your continued support!