

## EVERY STUDENT MATTERS!

**Every Student Matters** (ESM) is a youth-led policy advocacy campaign organized by the **Long Beach Building Healthy Communities 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 and positive practices to address discipline and keep students in the classroom where they belong.**

**One LBUSD student is suspended every 19 minutes. Every second 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 later

- Of those who graduate, **only 42%** will have completed the coursework necessary to enroll in a CA 4-year university
  - For Blacks, Latinos, and Pacific Islanders, this figure decreases to **only 33%**
- In 2009-10, LBUSD issued **in-school suspensions** to **4,045 students** & **out-of-school suspensions** to **4,010 students**
- **152** LBUSD students surveyed by ESM reported being **arrested** on or near school grounds

### 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 management
- **RJ Works.** After a single year of implementing RJ in an Oakland middle school, suspensions decreased by **87%**
- **RJ is already being piloted in LBUSD.** The California Conference for Equality and Justice is piloting RJ at Reid High School

### WE WANT: ONE CONSISTENT DISCIPLINE POLICY FOR ALL SCHOOLS

LBUSD lacks a uniform discipline policy. 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.

### 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.

## DIFFERENT POLICIES LEAD TO DIFFERENT OUTCOMES

An inconsistent discipline policy creates a school environment in which students face different consequences for the same behavior. For example, the **first instance** of “**willful defiance**” could be addressed in the following ways:

**Cabrillo HS** -- students can receive a number of consequences, including a phone call home, possible in-school suspension for the class period or day, parent-teacher conference, or referral to a social worker or school psychologist



**Jordan HS** -- students can receive a 1 to 5 day suspension, or a parent conference



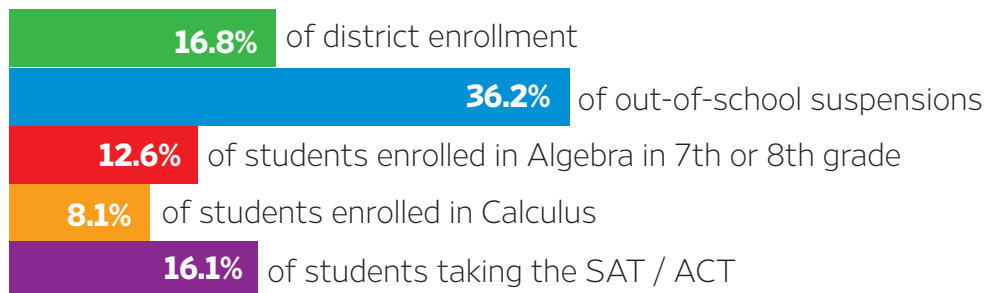
**Hamilton MS** -- students can receive a suspension or expulsion



## DISPARITIES OF EXCLUSIONARY PRACTICES

Black students make up **16.8%** of LBUSD’s enrollment, but **36.2%** of all out-of-school suspensions. White students make up **15.8%** of enrollment, but only **8.2%** of all out-of-school suspensions.

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



## SCHOOLS WITH HIGHEST SUSPENSIONS RATES

LBUSD’s highest suspending schools suspend **10% or more** of their student body populations:

School	% of student body suspd.	% students of color	% Free or Reduced Price Lunch
Jefferson Leadership Academies	23 %	95.0 %	87.5 %
Marshall Middle	19 %	94.6 %	87.6 %
Butler (Mary) Elementary	18 %	98.4 %	92.2 %
Franklin Middle	18 %	98.4 %	95.6 %
Jordan High	15 %	97.3 %	77.5 %
Stephens Middle	14 %	97.5 %	87.6 %
Hoover Middle	12 %	88.8 %	61.4 %
Bancroft Middle	11 %	72.9 %	53.4 %
Hamilton Middle	11 %	98.6 %	91.1 %

**8 out of the 9 schools with the highest suspension rates are elementary or middle schools.**