

# School Engagement and Suspension Alternatives Project

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# Suspensions and Expulsions

- According to UCLA's The Civil Rights Project, more than 400,000 students were suspended in the state of California representing more than 750,000 total suspensions for the 2009–2010 school year.
- ▶ 2009–2010 School Year
  - Enrollment 263,984
  - 547 Expulsions
    - 508 for Violence and Drugs (93%)
  - 21,417 Suspensions
    - 9,303 Suspensions for Violence and Drugs (43%)
- ▶ 2010–2011 School Year
  - Enrollment 265,618
  - 508 Expulsions
    - 426 Expulsions for Violence or Drugs (84%)
  - 19,770 Suspensions
    - 9,545 for Violence and Drugs (48%)

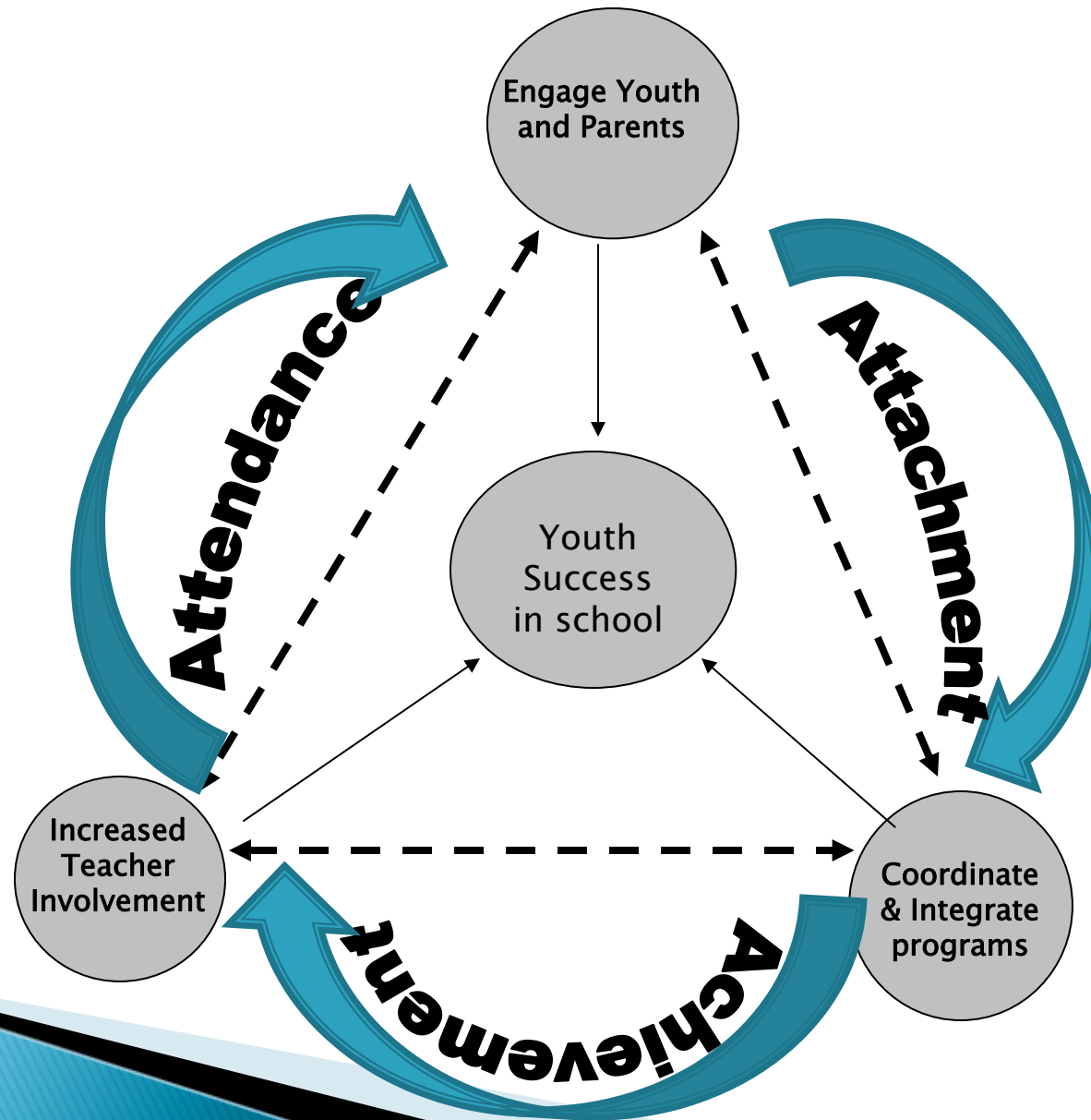
# Policy Implications

- ▶ "You might ask, 'Why is school discipline a justice issue?' The answer is obvious -- when children are not in school, studies show they are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. Studies show that one suspension triples the likelihood of a juvenile justice contact within that year." – California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye
- ▶ Students who were suspended or expelled were at a higher risk of repeating a grade, coming in contact with the juvenile justice system and dropping out of school.
- ▶ Children with juvenile court involvement are as much as 4 times more likely to drop out of schools
- ▶ More than 40 percent of suspensions in California are for "willful defiance"
- ▶ Nationwide and Statewide these policies are disproportionately used against African American and Latino boys and alienate the students who need most to stay in school.

# Workshops

- ▶ May 13, 2011 – Effective School Engagement for High Risk Youth: Less Punitive Alternatives to Zero Tolerance Policies and Practices
  - 100 Participants
    - CBO Providers, Youth Advocates, Probation, SJPD, school districts, other law enforcement.
- ▶ September 18, 2012 – Keeping on track to HS Graduation through Suspension Alternatives and School Engagement
  - 2 Sessions – Representatives from 12 High Schools at East Side Union High School District
  - 120 Participants
    - Principals , Assistant Principals, Teachers, Student Advisors, Social Workers and MST staff, CBO & Community members


# NCSE Model – The Three As




# Alternatives to Suspension

- ▶ In-school alternatives:
  - “Intervention” room for students to use to “cool off”
  - Individual counseling
  - Space for “offending” student to work privately
  - Before/after-school detentions or Saturday school
- ▶ In-school community service (e.g., assisting teachers with preparatory work, grounds clean-up, etc.)

# Continued

- ▶ Disciplinary systems that:
    - Have graduated levels of disciplinary actions – consequences are matched to the seriousness of the infraction with suspension as last resort instead of default
    - Shorter suspensions to mitigate new or exacerbated academic struggles
  - ▶ Use data management system to record and analyze student misconduct; develop suspension alternatives tailored to individual schools' discipline challenges
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# No Cost and Low Cost Alternatives to Punitive Discipline

- ▶ School Based Teen/Youth Court
  - ▶ School–Community Review Boards
  - ▶ Service Learning –Community Service Consequences
  - ▶ Teach a class on anger mgmt during lunch detention
  - ▶ Use AmeriCorps and City Year volunteers to mentor
  - ▶ Online Credit Recovery – implemented by COE at Ranch and Juvenile Hall
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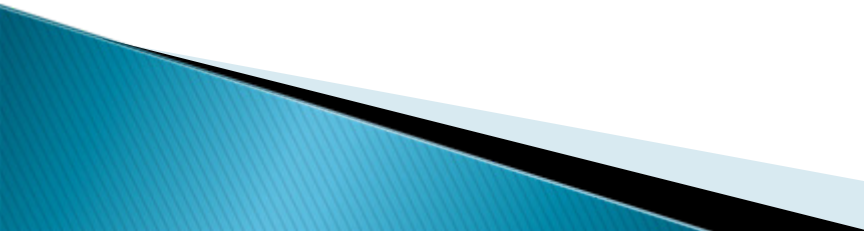
# Restorative Justice Strategies for Schools

“ Restorative justice is a method of bringing together the parties who identify as stakeholders in a communal, non- hierarchical dialogue about the consequences of a harm, providing them an opportunity to discuss what is to be done to repair the situation .”(Braithewaite, 2002)

The main objectives are for the community to:

- ▶ Hold the offenders accountable,
- ▶ Repair harm to victims,
- ▶ Provide support to the offenders to encourage their reintegration into the community

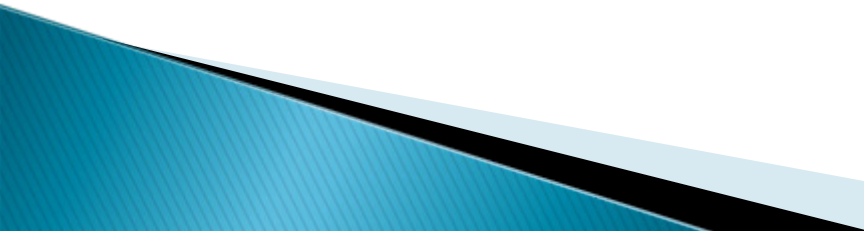
# Partnerships

- ▶ SCC Office of the Public Defender
    - Juvenile Justice Systems Collaborative Prevention and Programs Workgroup
      - CBOs serving youth
  - ▶ National Center on School Engagement
  - ▶ SCC Probation Department
  - ▶ SJ MGPTF Interagency Collaborative
    - PRNS & SJPD
  - ▶ School Linked Services
    - Mental Health Department and school districts
  - ▶ County Office of Education – Alternative and Court Schools, PBIS Technical Assistance
  - ▶ East Side Union High School District
  - ▶ South County Youth Task Force
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# Resources and Reports

- ▶ Suspended Education in CA – The Civil Rights Project of UCLA April 10, 2012
- ▶ Understanding School Discipline In California: Perceptions and Practice – EdSource September 10, 2012
- ▶ United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. Civil Rights Data Collection: Revealing New Truths About Our Nation's Schools – March 2012
- ▶ Many more available at the SCC PDO Website:  
<http://www.sccgov.org/sites/opd>

# CA Legislative Actions

- ▶ AB 1729 (Ammiano) – Pupil rights: suspension or expulsion: alternatives and other means of correction – Approved by Gov. Brown
  - ▶ AB 2537 (Perez) – Pupil discipline: suspensions and expulsions
  - ▶ SB 1235 (Stienberg) – Alternatives to off-campus suspension – Vetoed by Gov. Brown
  - ▶ AB 2145 (Alejo) – Disaggregation of suspension and expulsion data by subgroup – Dead in Committee
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# Next Steps & Questions

- ▶ Four ESUHSD high schools will receive additional technical support from PDO and National Center for School Engagement
    - Have schools develop plans to reduce suspensions
    - Track data
  - ▶ Apply for grants to continue doing this work
  - ▶ Increase collaboration and communication between schools, CBOs and JJ community.
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