Solutions to the Dropout Crisis
Transforming Policy, Hearts, and Minds: The Story of L.A.’s Student Recovery Day

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Student Recovery Day

Event originated 2009
Multi-School
District-wide
Multi-disciplinary
Multi- Agency
Collaboration/Partnership

Community Organization & Engagement
Catalyst to shift policies away from Punitive and toward supportive systems for students
Recovering and Re-engaging disconnected students
Accelerated gains in graduation rates and drops in drop out/push out rate
LAUSD Division
Dedicated To Bringing
Students Back To
School

KCAL Channel 9 News
9/10/15
Dropout

PREVENTION

INTERVENTION

RECOVERY

RE-ENGAGEMENT

PREVENTION
Universal Tier 1 Level Interventions

INTERVENTION
Targeted Tier 2 Level Interventions

RECOVERY
Intensive Tier 3 Level Interventions

RE-ENGAGEMENT
Re-Engage into system
Main Components of Recovery & Re-Engagement

Identification and Outreach

Assessment of Needs

Resource and Referral/Community Partnerships

Academic Support and Alternative Options

Case Management and Support
15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention

Systemic Approach

School-Community Collaboration

Family Engagement
Hearts and Minds
Timeline of Events

History: The story of a district that depended on students dropping out....

Impetus for Change:

Building Program, Bonds, Budget Crisis, Layoffs, Williams Decision (Civil Rights Case), Year round schools, Attendance identified, Public School Choice

2005- A-G policy

2006- Diploma Project Dropout Prevention Program & the District Dropout Lists began

2009- 1st Student Recovery Day (5 Schools)

2010- Eliminated School Citations for Truancy

2011- City, LAPD, County, eliminated Truancy Citations for School Attendance

2012- Prop 30 LCFF

2013- School Climate Bill of Rights

2014- Equity Index

2016- 1st graduating class A-G

2017- Graduation rate passes 80%
Transforming Minds: Belief Systems

2008-2009- Graduation rate 58%

20,000+ students on the dropout Lists

14,000 Truancy Tickets issued by LA School Police Annually

-Over 11,000 were 1st time infraction with law enforcement

75,000 days lost to suspension

-Over 70% were Black and Latino males

Rapid Enrollment Decline

$300 million budget deficit
Shifting Mindsets

Public/Media

District Leadership

School Leadership

Teachers, Counselors, Staff

Families

Students
resistance
Making Shifts

YOU vs THEM

To

US and WE

THOSE kids

THESE Families

THAT community

To

OUR students & families

OUR school/community

WE Together for Our Neighborhood
The Essential Shift

We miss you

We want to know why you left

We want to work with you to come back and be successful

We are not complete without you
Transforming Hearts

PROCESS

Who Rescues Who

The Power of Home Visits

FACE OF DROPOUT

Meaningful Connections
change minds and hearts
Action
WHO

District Leadership

School Administrators

Pupil Services & Attendance Counselors (CWA Counselors)

Civic Leadership- Mayor/ City Council

Non-Profit/Religious Leaders/Groups

Central District and School Level Staff

Families
WHAT

Home Visits Teams

Phone Banking Teams

Amnesty for Probation, Warrants and other Violations

Community Outreach Teams: Walks/Business/Church Engagement

Civic Outreach: Community Leaders/Events

Social Media, Print Media and Community Based Awareness Campaigns
Where

District and City-Wide Headquarters for Recovery Day

Targeted High Schools in every Region of the District

Community Based Organizations or Central Civic Locations

Phone Banks and Community Walks

At Door Steps, Kitchen Tables and Counseling Offices
HOW

NEED LEADERSHIP BUY IN

Planning and Coordination

Lead and support staff

Identification of schools

Identification of students

Identification of volunteers

Teams

Training

Day Of:

Organization is KEY

Welcome and Training

Teams and Leaders: Phone Banking, Home Visit, and Community Walking

Food and Water

Team Packets with specific Instructions

Home Base- Re-engagement response

Report back/Outcomes
Policy
Decriminalization of Truancy

Eliminate Truancy Citations

School Police

LAPD

LA County Sheriff

Probation
Prioritization

Assets-Based School Attendance Policies

School Board/City establish Attendance Goals and Priorities

Establish Student Attendance Month, District and City

Establish Student Recovery Day as District Policy

Fund Pupil Service & Attendance Counselor (CWA Counselor) positions & programs at school sites
Policy Transformation

The School Building Program 1999-2015


School Climate Bill of Rights (2013)

LCFF/LCAP (2013)

Student Equity Index (2014) and Arts Equity Index (2015)
LAUSD 2009 and 2017

2009:

56% graduation rate

Enrollment Free Fall

Bare Bones Student Services Staff facing lay offs and displacements

Punitive and Traditional Approaches to Discipline, Chronic Absenteeism and Drop-Out Lists

2017:

80% Graduation Rate

Multiple Programs to address recovery, re-engagement and enrollment

Family and Community Systems Approach to Chronic Absence; PBIS and Restorative Practices as District Policy

Drastic Reductions in Suspension and Push Out
IMPACT

Over 10,000 home visits

Over 5,000 Students returned to school and/or re-engaged

Over 3,000 Diplomas issued to students recovered on Student Recovery Days

Over 1500 Volunteers engaged in Recovery Work for the first time

Unprecedented Attention to the issue of Push Out, Disengaged Students and the Importance of Attendance from the Media, Local Elected Officials and The Board of Education

Concrete Changes in Policy to Support the Daily Work on Student/Family Engagement, Interventions and Chronic Absence

Recognition that Every Day needs to be Student Recovery Day
Moving Forward

BEYOND RECOVERY

Districts and Schools of

Engagement and Connection
Dropout Research

School-level tiered interventions may increase a school’s capacity to address intensive needs of some students.

Conceptualize the dropout problem as a system level failure in need of a systemic tiered intervention.

(Lee & Burkam, 2003; Lehr, et al., 2003; Mac Iver, 2011).
Equity Journey

80% Graduation Rate

54.9% Meeting College Eligibility

Aspirations Gap

76% 77% 37% 27%
Percentage of 12th graders who aspire to go to a 4-year college
Percentage of high school graduates
Percentage of students that enroll in a 2-year college immediately after high school
Percentage of students that enroll in a 4-year college immediately after high school

Source: 2014 National Student Clearinghouse

Leadership
Awareness
Education
Engagement
Connection
Collective Responsibility
Thank you!

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LAUSD Division Dedicated To Bringing Students Back To School
https://youtu.be/je2kbAhKx8E

Zero Dropout Summit 2016 Video
https://youtu.be/gAVI6q7FQaM

LAUSD tackles issue of dropouts with Student Recovery Day

LAUSD Student Recovery Day
https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/12917#spn-content

LAUSD Student Recovery Day 2011
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MoFa1waJiro

LAUSD Student Recovery Day 2013
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PgiB0W8AT9w
Media

SRD 2015 Announcement

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMQZavSaAvQ

'Recovery Day' helps bring LAUSD dropouts back to school

LAUSD Kicks Off Annual ‘Student Recovery Day’
http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2013/09/06/lausd-kicks-off-annual-student-recovery-day/

LAUSD Reaches Out to Bring Dropout Students Back to School
http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2012/09/14/2-former-dropouts-lausd-to-launch-fifth-annual-student-recovery-day/
Solutions

TO THE DROPOUT CRISIS