



The Schools We Deserve

Artwork by Jose Ramirez

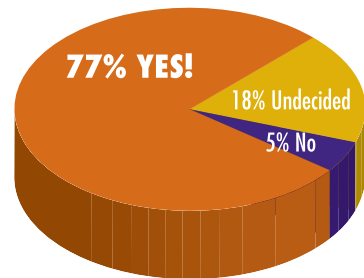
A Parent's Dream

We all dream of a bright future for our children. We want them to attend college, pursue a career and be successful and responsible adults. We encourage them to work hard so they can have a life full of opportunity.

Our children want to go to college! In a survey of students conducted at large urban high schools in Los Angeles, students expressed their desire to go to college after graduating from high school and indicated that their parents encourage them. But, this dream of attending college and creating a successful future can only be achieved if all students have access to a quality education and if our high schools adequately prepare them for college.

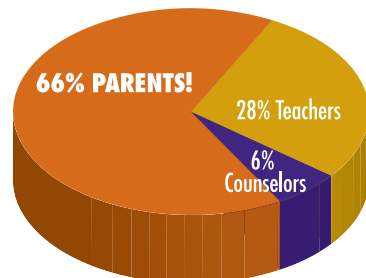
Students Want To Go To College

Do you want to go to a four-year college or university after you complete high school?



Parents & Teachers Support Students

Who encourages you to attend a four-year college or university?



Source: Inner City Struggle, Student Survey, Winter 2005



The Reality

Too many students do not complete high school and too few graduates are adequately prepared for college and good jobs. Today's jobs require a high level of education if a person wants to earn a decent living and enjoy life. Most good jobs require education beyond high school. In the next ten years, more than half of the fastest growing occupations will require a four-year college degree¹. We cannot expect our children to be prepared for less.

Too many of our high schools are failing our students! As the data reflect, the drop out rate for African American and Latino students is higher than for other groups and the number of these students prepared to go on to universities is even smaller. This is a serious problem for Los Angeles, and a horrible tragedy for our children!

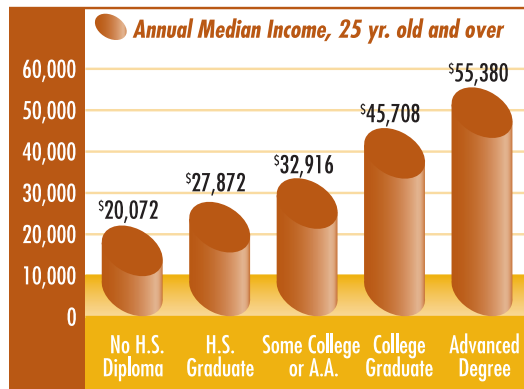
¹The Campaign for College Opportunity: Ensuring that the next generation of Californians has a chance to go to college, 2005 www.collegecampaign.org



The High Schools We Deserve

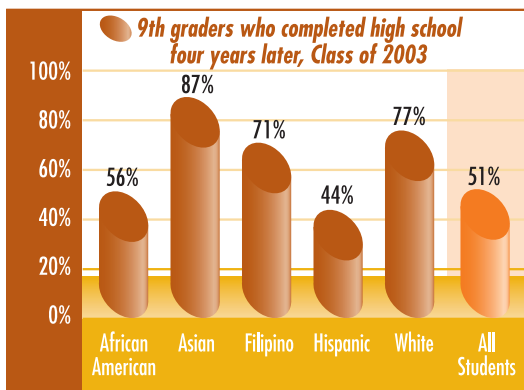
Strong evidence shows that small schools can provide higher levels of academic achievement for our students. Compared to large and overcrowded high schools, students in smaller learning units connect better to school, have a greater sense of belonging, and are more responsible for their learning. Our children deserve schools that honor and value them as learners, so that they are capable of high achievement and develop their full human potential.

Education Pays Off!



Source: Ed Trust-West using U.S. Labor Dept. analysis with April 2002 National Data
www.edtrustwest.org

Graduation Rates: Lower for Some Groups



Source: Ed Trust-West analysis of Calif. Dept. of Ed./LAUSD data, using Manhattan Institute Methodology



Small Schools for High Achievement

In quality small schools, teachers, students and parents create more authentic, personal relationships and promote a shared culture of high aspirations to ensure that all students will succeed. Small schools enroll approximately 150 to 500 students. Teachers in these schools work in teams and make sure students master the curriculum. While the curriculum may include technical courses such as graphic arts or automotive repair, the focus is on college preparation for all students so that students can choose to go to college.

Benefits of Small Schools

Students in small schools...

- Achieve at higher Levels
- Have higher attendance rate
- Have lower drop out rates
- Know their teachers and classmates well
- Engage more often in extracurricular activities
- Have a safer learning environment

Teachers in small schools...

- Know their students well
- Engage more with parents
- Work closely with each other
- Welcome parents and community partners
- Have higher job satisfaction

Parents in small schools...

- Are known well and their voices are heard
- Become allies with teachers
- Are respected as valuable resources

School Size Matters!

LAUSD high schools graduating the most students eligible for UC/CSU have significantly lower enrollments than other LAUSD high schools. These particular schools are small magnet schools, where choice is available for students and their parents.



Small LAUSD High Schools

	Total number of 9-12 students Fall 1998	Percentage of Graduates 4 years later Spring 2002	Percentage of Graduates who were UC/CSU eligible
Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies (LACES)	795	82%	74%
Foshay Learning Center	631	68%	64%
32nd Street USC Performing Arts	248	64%	64%
Large LAUSD High Schools			
Roosevelt High School	4,902	37%	12%
Belmont High School	5,296	35%	4%
Locke High School	2,264	34%	10%
North Hollywood High	3,655	48%	16%

Source: California Department of Education/Dataquest and the Report on the Education Gap in Los Angeles County, UCLA, 2004 www.idea.gseis.ucla.edu



California "A-G" Courses for UC/CSU Eligibility Upon High School Graduation

(All courses must be rigorous college preparatory level work.)

"A-G"	Subject Area	Years of Study Required
A	History/Social Science (U.S. or Civics and World, Cultures or Geography)	2 years
B	English (Includes Reading of Classic and Modern Literature, and Frequent Writing)	4 years
C	Mathematics (Minimum: Algebra I & II and Dimensional Geometry)	3 years
D	Laboratory Science (Includes Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Knowledge)	2 years
E	Foreign Language (Non-English)	2 years
F	Visual or Performing Art (Dance, Drama, Music, and/or Visual Arts)	1 year
G	College Preparatory Elective (Excess "A-F" Course or Approved Elective)	1 year

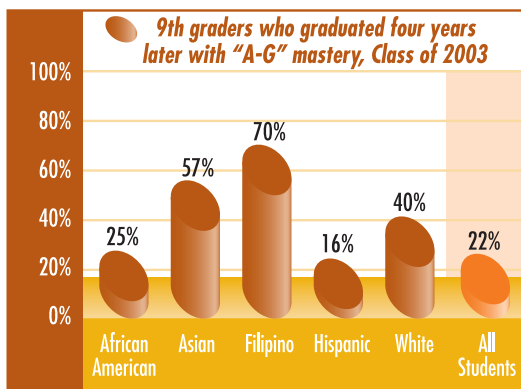
Preparing for College: The "A-G" Courses

In order to attend any of the California State University (CSU) schools, or any of the University of California (UC) schools, a student must enroll in and pass what are known as "A-G" courses while in high school. If we want our children to go to college the "A-G" courses must be required, must meet the highest standards, and must be available to all students.

These courses are the key to successful careers in entertainment, business management, teaching, medicine, accounting, marketing, technical sales, the legal profession, and other high paying careers. Without these courses, our children will end up in low paying jobs without the benefit of a living wage.



Unprepared High School Graduates



Source: Ed Trust-West Analysis of California Department of Education/LAUSD Data, using Manhattan Institute Methodology

PARENTS! Use this pamphlet to teach others about small schools and "A-G" courses for everyone.



College is Not Just a Dream, It's a Plan of ACTION!

The dream of a quality education and a successful future for our children requires a plan. Parents must guide their children's education from the earliest years and must be forever vigilant that they do well in school. Parents must also form alliances with teachers and administrators to support efforts to improve education for all children. When schools are clearly not working, as is the case with many high schools in Los Angeles, it is our shared responsibility, as parents and community members, to assume a public role on behalf of our children. This is the only way our children will have the education and schools that they deserve!

PARENTS of elementary, middle and high school students, YOU MUST:

- ✓ **Let teachers and counselors know you want your child to go to college and ask how you can help him or her succeed.**
- ✓ **Monitor your child's courses to ensure that he or she is enrolled in an "A-G" course of study.**
- ✓ **Explore careers and jobs with your children so they will know the many options they will have and how college will help them reach their dream.**
- ✓ **Inquire about your high school's plan to develop quality small schools that provide "A-G" courses for all students.**
- ✓ **Pay attention to how well your elected officials provide resources and support to develop quality small schools and require "A-G" courses for all students.**



Let the love for your children guide your efforts to ensure they get the schools they, and all of us, deserve!



We are Working Together... To Ensure Success!

A community-based campaign has been launched in Los Angeles to enroll every high school student in a **quality small school that requires college preparation "A-G" courses** for all students. Educators, policy makers, community leaders, parents and students, are joining this movement to make dramatic changes for our children's future!

Communities for Educational Equity

Collaborating Organizations

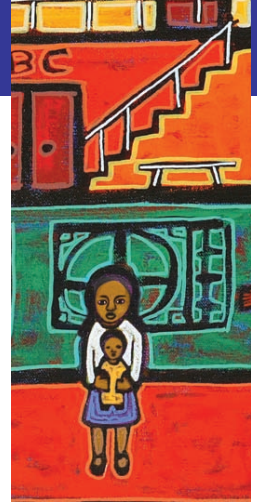
- Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)
- African American Collaborative
- African American Parent/Community Coalition for Education Equity (AAP/CCEE)*
- Alliance for a Better Community (ABC)*
- Association of Black Social Workers
- Boyle Heights Learning Collaborative
- California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE)
- Californians for Justice
- Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)
- Community Coalition*

- Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education (CADRE)
- East LA Community Corporation
- Families In Schools (FIS)*
- Inner City Struggle (ICS)*
- Los Angeles Small Schools Collective
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
- Project GRAD LA
- Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF)
- UC/ACCORD
- United Way of Greater Los Angeles*

*Steering Committee Members

FIS Partners

- Alliance for College-Ready Schools
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
- Los Angeles Coalition of Essential Schools
- LAUSD Board of Education Member José Huizar
- Urban Education Partnership (UEP)



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