

The Game-Changing Opportunity from API Reform

Castle Redmond, The California Endowment

*Presented at the
California Department of Education's
Public Schools Accountability Act Advisory Committee Meeting
October 22, 2013*

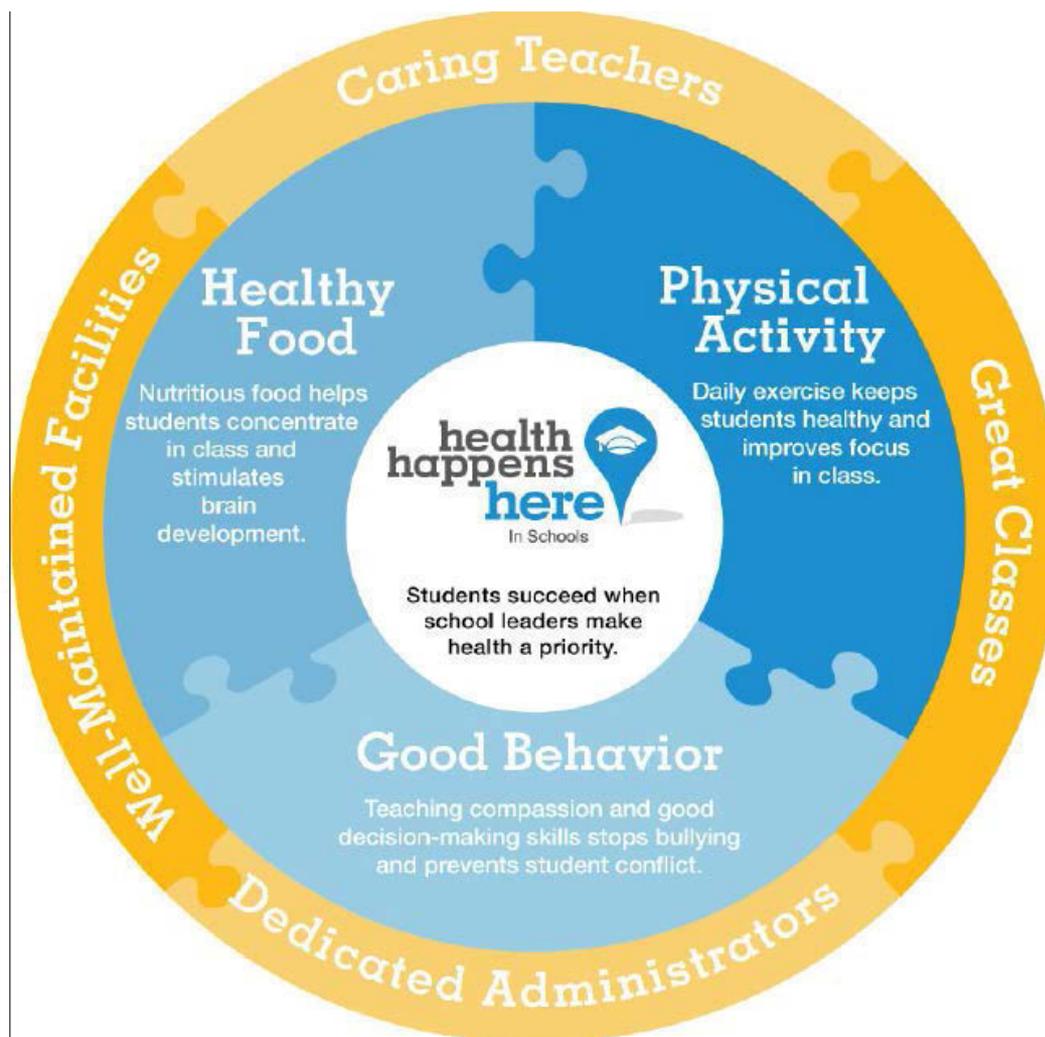


Historic Time for California Schools



- API Reform
- LCFF/Fair School Funding
- Common Core Standards
- CORE Waiver Plan
- New Teacher Credentialing Standards

Our Philosophy



BHC Communities

- Del Norte and ATL
- South Sacramento
- Richmond
- East Oakland
- Southwest/East Merced Count
- East Salinas
- Central/West Fresno
- South Kern
- Boyle Heights
- Central Long Beach
- South Los Angeles
- Central Santa Ana
- Coachella
- City Heights (San Diego)



Petition on Change.org



Petitioning California Department of Education ▾

California Department of Education: Health is Part of School Success!

Sponsored by
 Health Happens in Schools

For more than a decade, California has measured school achievement solely through standardized tests. I've been teaching in California high schools and middle schools for 15 years, and I know: our test-heavy system doesn't work for students or teachers.

- Led by Karen Junker, Davidson Middle School
- 15,000+ signatures in two weeks
- Hundreds more completed CDE survey
- Parents are energized!

Our Recommendations for API Inclusion

- **Suspension Rates**
- **Chronic Absence Rates**
- **FitnessGram Results**

They Fit the Criteria

- **Measureable**
- **Student Focused**
- **Affect Academic Achievement and College and Career Readiness**
- **Good Guidance for School Improvement**

The National Trend

- **Georgia's new *College and Career Readiness Performance Index* includes School Climate indicators**
- **CORE Waiver to NCLB includes a Social and Emotional Learning domain**
 - **Suspensions are a primary indicator**

The Facts About Suspension

- **Last year, California issued more than 700,000 suspensions**
 - More students suspended than graduated
 - Most not related to weapons or drugs
 - 340,000 in catch-all category of “Willful Defiance”
- **More than 100,000 suspensions in K-5**
- **Significant inequities:**
 - African Americans are 3x more likely to be suspended
 - Students in poverty are 2x more likely to be suspended
 - Special Ed students have double the suspension risk

Suspensions Make Matters Worse



High rates of **suspensions correlate with lower achievement scores**, even after controlling for race and poverty.

Suspended students are...

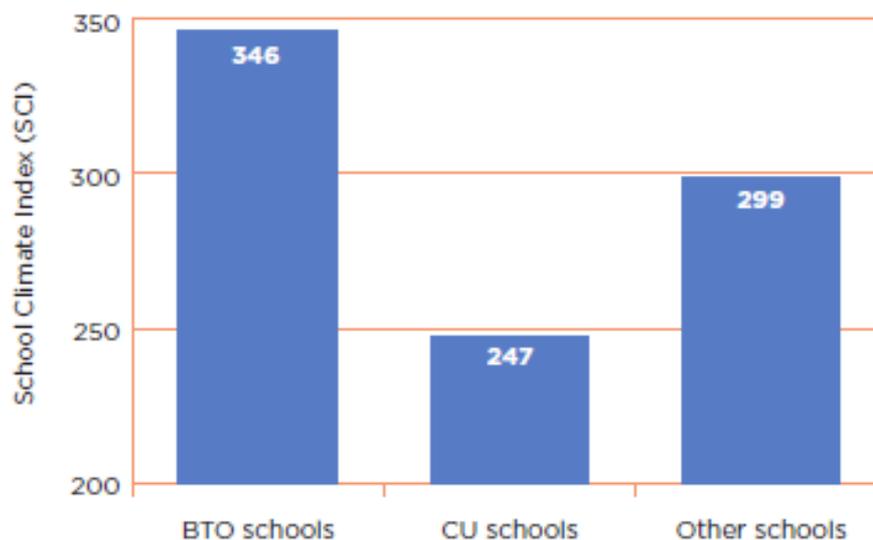
- **6 times more likely** to repeat a grade
- **5 times more likely** to dropout
- **3 times more likely** to have contact with juvenile justice system

Suspensions Affect Academic Achievement

- **Schools with the highest graduation rates have the lowest suspension rates**
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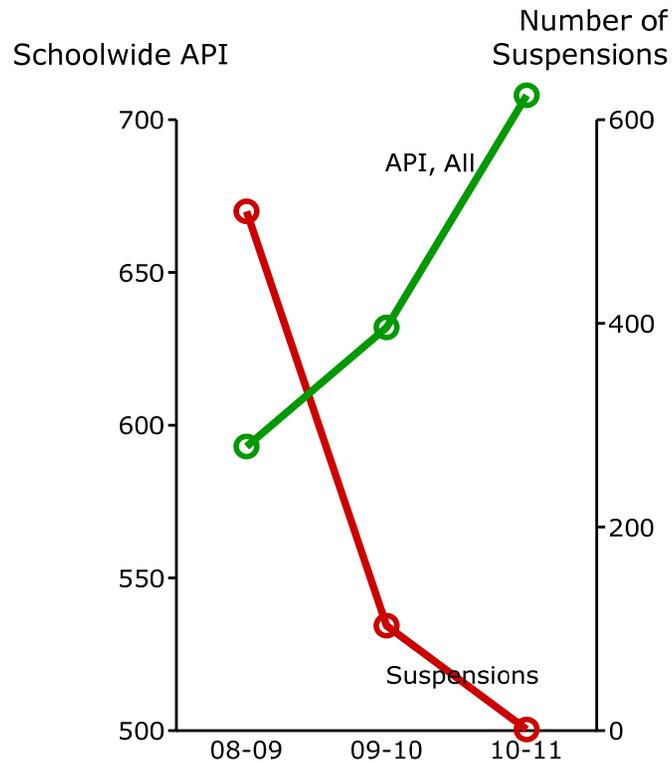
School Climate Affects Academic Achievement

Figure 1. School Climate in Beating-the-Odds, Chronically Underperforming, and Other Schools



Garfield High School

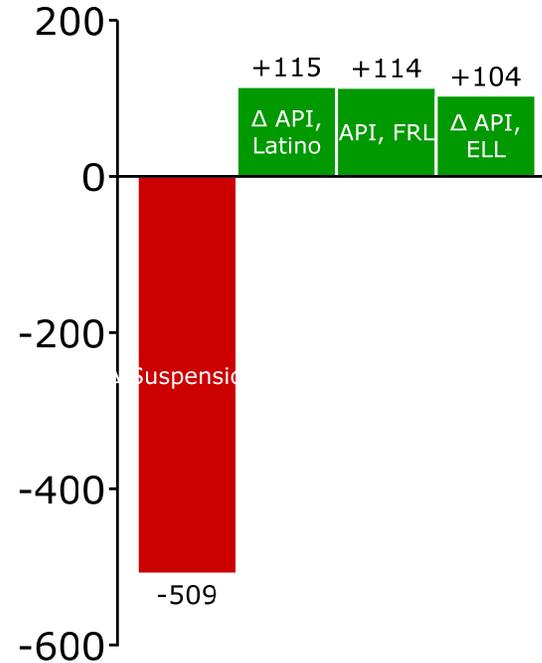
SUSPENSIONS DROP, SCHOOL WIDE API CLIMBS...



Pre-reform Post-reform

...INCREASE IN API STEEP ACROSS ALL GROUPS

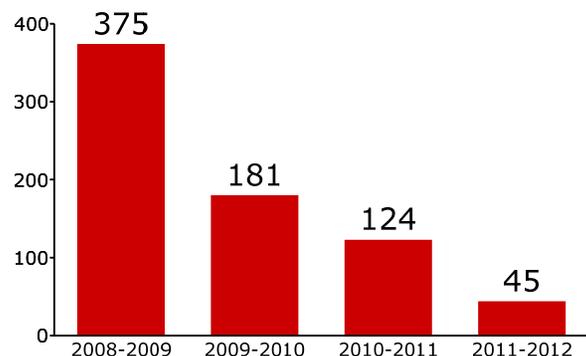
Pre/post change in suspensions and API



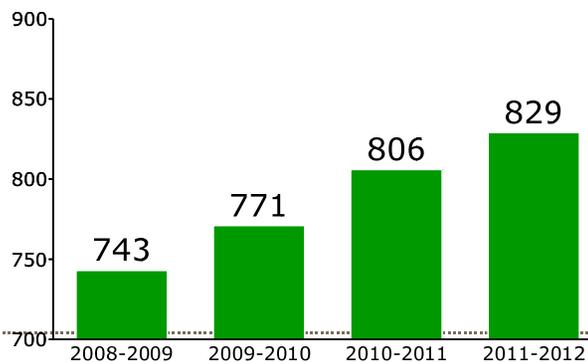
Davidson Middle School

SUSPENSIONS DROP, SCHOOL WIDE API CLIMBS...

Number of Suspensions

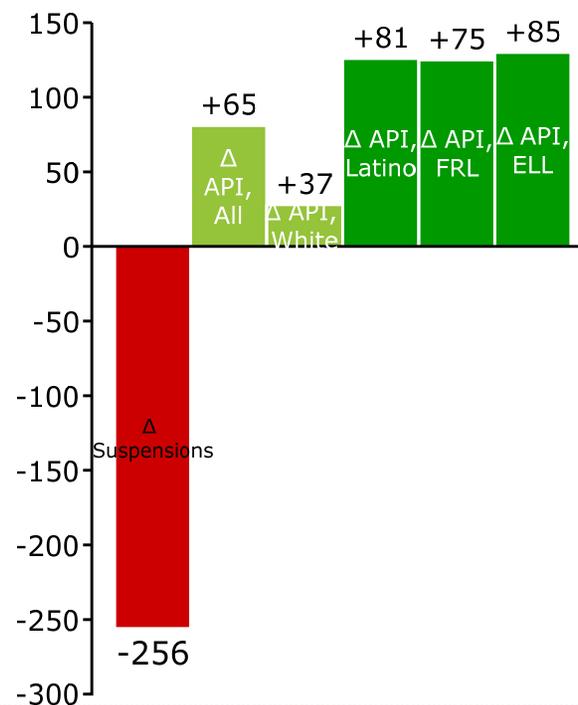


Academic Performance Index

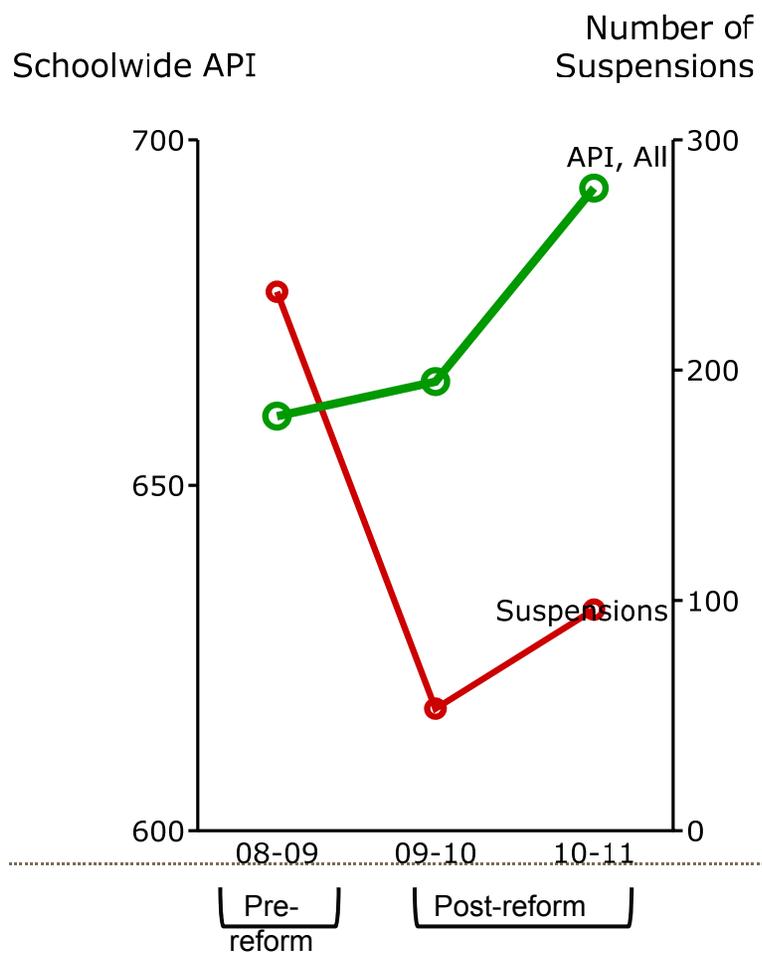


...INCREASE IN API STEEPEST FOR LATINO, LOW INCOME, AND ELL STUDENTS

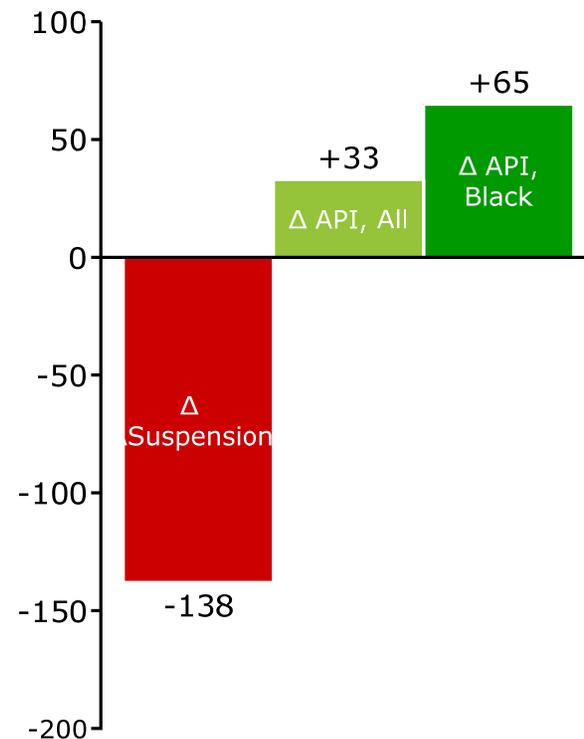
Pre/post change in suspensions and API, 08-09 to 11-12



Leataata Floyd Elementary School



Pre/post change in suspensions and API



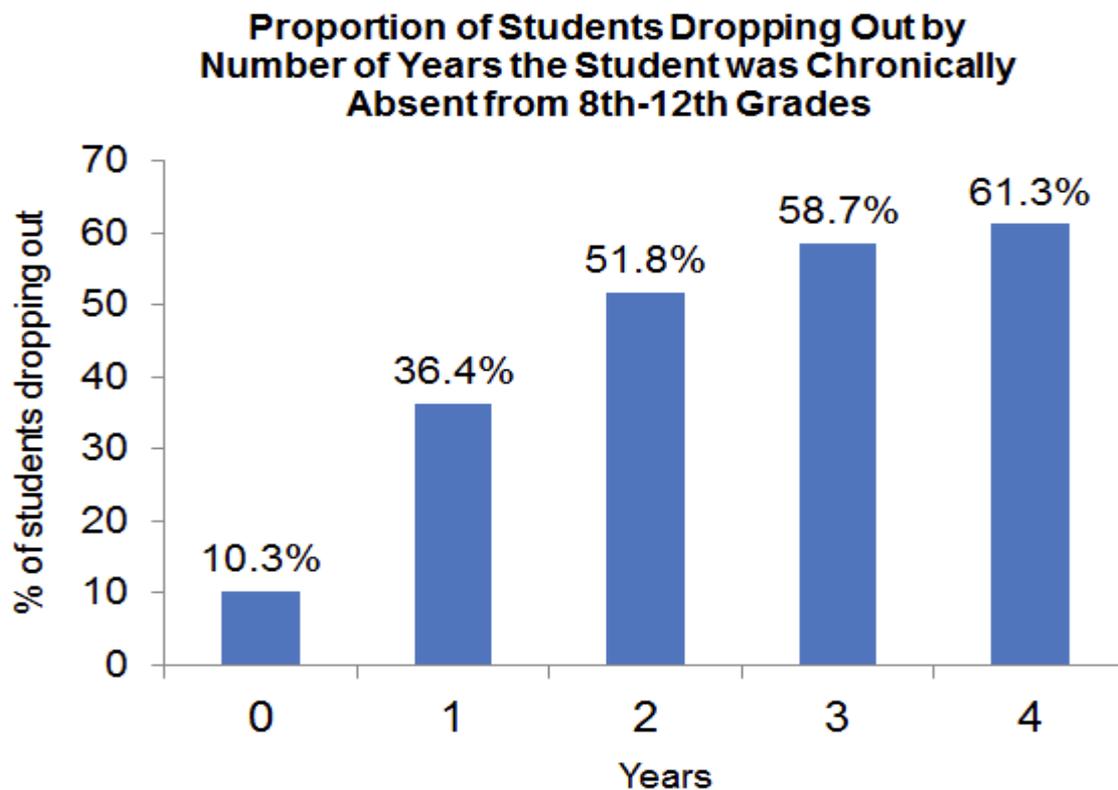
Chronic Absence



- You can't succeed in school if you aren't in school.
- Chronic absence increases risk of academic failure and is an early predictor of high school dropout.
- 1 in 10 kindergarten and first grade students miss a full month of school.
- Health concerns, particularly asthma and dental problems, are among the leading reasons for chronic absence.



Long Term Affects of Chronic Absence



FitnessGram Results



- Fewer than 1/3 of California students in “Healthy Zone” for all measured areas.
- Eight of nine studies find positive association between physical activity and improved academic behavior.



The New York Times

“Children who are physically fit absorb and retain new information more effectively than children who are out of shape ... raising timely questions about the wisdom of slashing physical education programs at schools.”

--Sept. 18, 2013

Why We Are Here

“Accountability is about giving leaders a roadmap for improvement.”

- Martha R. Reichrath, Ph.D., Georgia Dept. of Ed.
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