

Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court

Hon. Stacy Boulware Eurie &
Hon. Donna Quigley Groman



Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye's Initiative



Goals of KKIS Initiative

- Reduce use of exclusionary discipline across California, focus on reducing disparate impact
- Reduce rates of chronic absenteeism
- Increase high school graduation rates for foster and juvenile justice youth



Strategy for Initiative

- Highlight key role that courts and judges can play.
- Highlight the importance of education and the courts collaborating.
- Begin building engaged state and local system, organization, and community will to tackle these issues in concert.



Youth Voice is Critical

Sade Daniels

Chief Meets with Youth Court
Participants



Suspensions & Expulsions Make Matters Worse

- High rates of suspensions/expulsions correlate with lower achievement:
 - Repeating a grade
 - Dropping out of HS
 - Having contact with juvenile justice system



Disproportionality

- In 2014-15, African American
6% of total enrollment
19.8% of suspended students
- Native American
.6% of enrollment
1.2% of suspended students



Key effective programs

- Restorative Justice/Practices
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- Best predictor of safety is quality of relationships



Restorative Approach

- Inclusion
- Accountability
- Safety
- Transformation
- Example: Restorative Circles



PBIS - teaching behavior

- Define expected behaviors
- Communicate expected behaviors
- Rewards for positive behavior
- Clear & relevant consequences for not adhering
- Strong communication with parents
- Example – “gotcha cards”



Consider external factors

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study shows impact of stress on health
- Toxic stress influences neural pathways and interferes with executive function
- Hunger may cause irritability



Unaddressed Trauma Feeds the “Cradle to Prison Pipeline”

- Unaddressed trauma relates to higher dropout
- In SFUSD, African American students drop out 2.24 times that of district average, Latino students 1.4 times district average (2011-2012)
- Dropping out of school increases the risk of being imprisoned
- An African-American boy born in 2001 has a 1 in 3 chance of being imprisoned in his lifetime, and a Latino boy has 1 in 6



Dorado (2013), UCSF HEARTS, Child and Adolescent Services, UCSF-SFGH

Key Attendance Issues

- Need to focus not only on truancy (unexcused absences), but also
- Chronic absenteeism: missing 10% or more of school days for any reason



Attendance Matters because it reflects:

- Exposure to language
- On track for success
- College readiness
- Engagement



Chronic absenteeism: a critical issue

- 83% of students chronically absent in Kindergarten & 1st Grade are unable to read on-level by 3rd Grade
- Students who cannot read on-level in 3rd Grade are more likely to drop out than kids who can
- Credit to Hedy Chang, Attendance Works



There Are Many Reasons Why Kids Are Chronically Absent. One Is Parental Misunderstandings.

Reasons:

- Parent stressors
- Transportation issues
- School/neighborhood safety (e.g. bullying)
- Chronic illness (e.g. asthma)
- Sibling effect
- **Parental misunderstandings**

Examples of Misunderstandings:

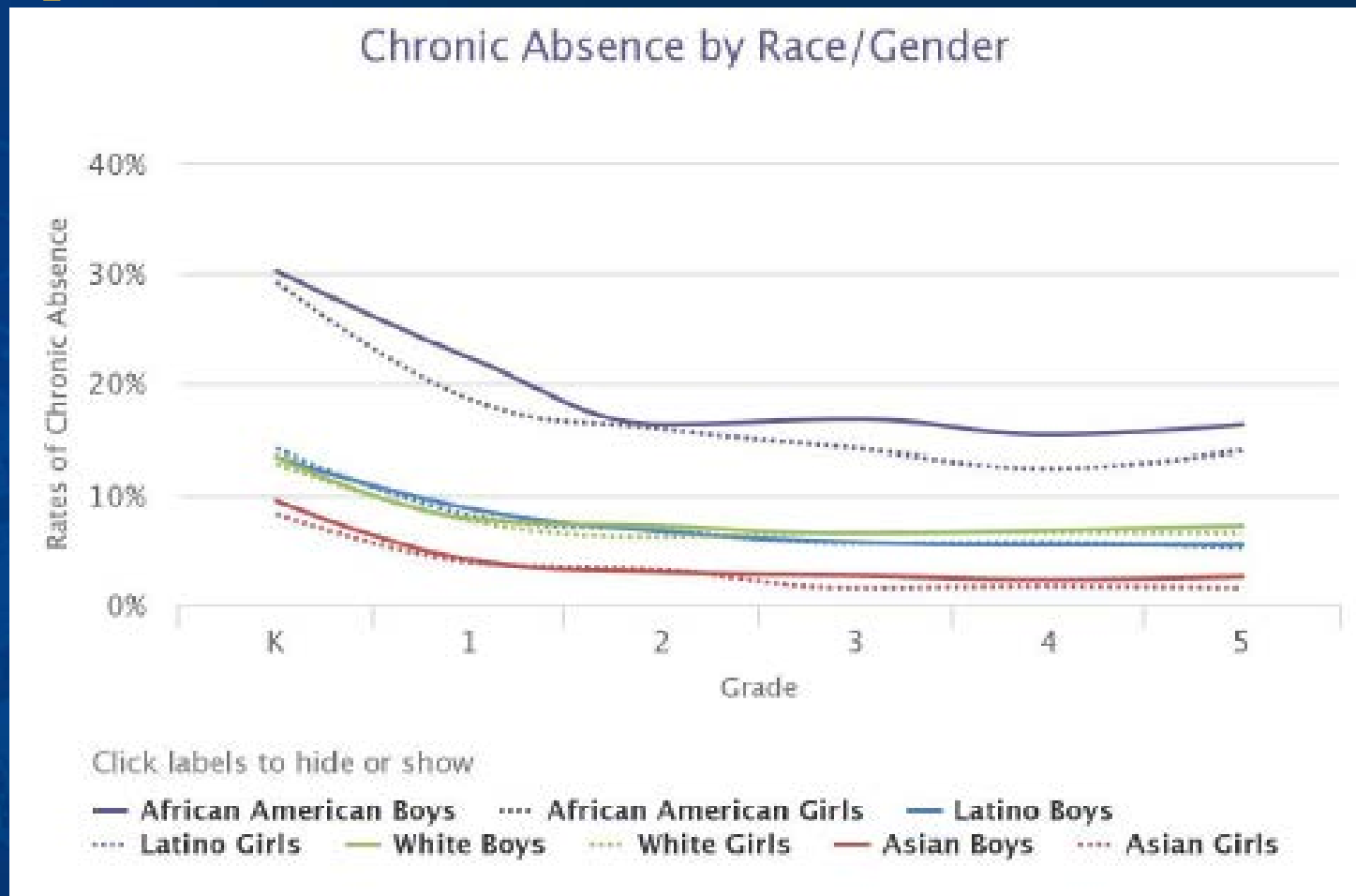
- Early grades are not as important
- Students will catch up
- Only consecutive absences have a negative impact
- Absences are fine as long as the parents sign off
- Attendance is more about legal compliance



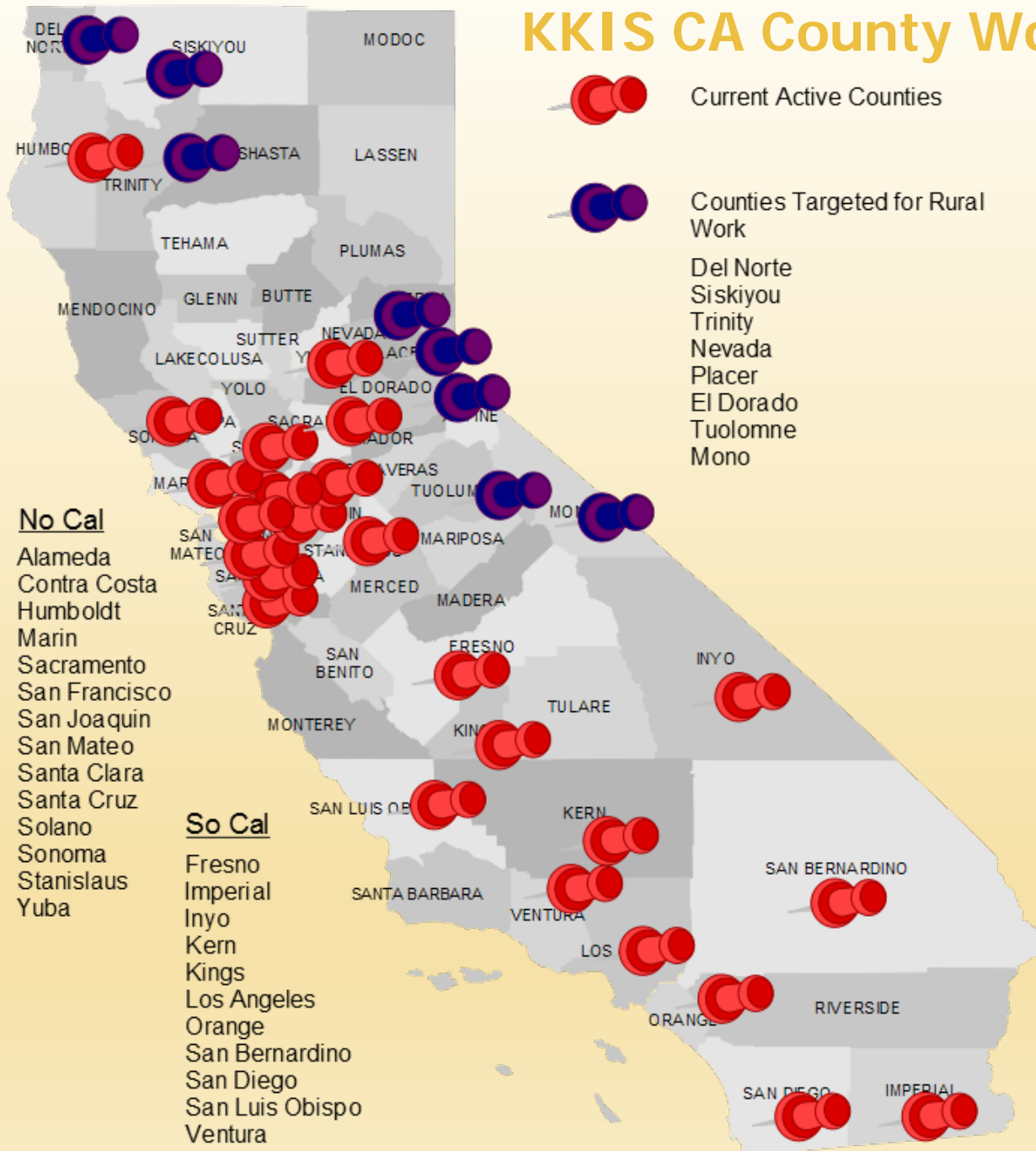
These misunderstandings have consequences.


Credit to Attendance Works & Office of the California Attorney General


Race and gender disparities in attendance



KKIS CA County Work (2017)



 Current Active Counties

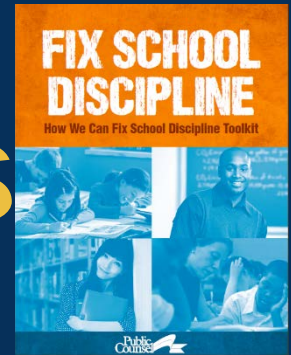
 Counties Targeted for Rural Work

Del Norte
Siskiyou
Trinity
Nevada
Placer
El Dorado
Tuolumne
Mono

No Cal
Alameda
Contra Costa
Humboldt
Marin
Sacramento
San Francisco
San Joaquin
San Mateo
Santa Clara
Santa Cruz
Solano
Sonoma
Stanislaus
Yuba

So Cal
Fresno
Imperial
Inyo
Kern
Kings
Los Angeles
Orange
San Bernardino
San Diego
San Luis Obispo
Ventura

Discipline Resources



- Fix School Discipline Toolkit
<http://fixschooldiscipline.org/>
- RJ: <http://www.saferanerschools.org/>
- PBIS: <https://www.pbis.org/>
- Trauma informed schools:
<http://traumasensitiveschools.org/>



Attendance Resources

- Attendance Works

<http://www.attendanceworks.org/>

- In School and On Track

<https://oag.ca.gov/truancy>



KKIS on Twitter

Search Twitter

CHILDREN CAN THRIVE

 **KKISCA**
@lbelonginschool

TWEETS 12 FOLLOWING 1 FOLLOWERS 5 [Edit profile](#)

Tweets [Tweets & replies](#)

 **KKISCA** @lbelonginschool · 22h
2015 report by @CaAGHarris shows elementary school absences still too high, but problem is solvable! oag.ca.gov/truancy #EveryKidCounts

 **KKISCA** @lbelonginschool · Aug 20
Getting to the 'why' of discipline disparities edsourcesource.org/2015/getting-t

[View summary](#)



Questions? Contact:

Chris Cleary, Attorney

Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

415-865-8792 | christine.cleary@jud.ca.gov | www.courts.ca.gov

Tracy Kenny, Attorney

Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Judicial Council of California

2860 Gateway Oaks Drive

Sacramento, CA 95833-3508

916-263-2838 | tracy.kenny@jud.ca.gov | www.courts.ca.gov

