

California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye's

Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Initiative

2022 FINAL REPORT



Photo by LIGHTFIELD STUDIOS





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Thank you to all of the following people who served on the Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Initiative Steering Committee¹

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¹ Institutional affiliations and titles are from the time that the member was appointed to the steering committee.



Executive Summary: California's Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court (KKIS) Initiative

Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye was inspired by a conference in New York in March 2012—the National Leadership Summit on School Justice Partnerships: *Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court* (National KKIS Summit)—which she attended with a team of California stakeholders. There they were joined by Chief Justices and teams from 49 other states. It focused on the issues of truancy and school discipline as they affect children and youth in the juvenile court system, particularly those policies and practices that can push students out of school and into the justice system. She wanted California to do work in this area.

When the Chief Justice returned from the conference, she charged the Judicial Council's Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care (BRC) with taking up those issues in California. That effort was led by two members of the Chief's National KKIS Summit team: Justice Richard D. Huffman, chair of the BRC, and Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Stacy Boulware Eurie, a BRC member.

Statewide KKIS Summit in 2013

The Chief Justice expressed her interest in hosting a California KKIS Summit on these issues without the use of state funds. Funds were provided by private foundations. In addition, assistance came from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Court Improvement Program (CIP). The California KKIS convening was held in Anaheim, California, on December 3–4, 2013, in conjunction with the Judicial Council's Beyond the Bench conference. Thirty-two counties sent court-led multidisciplinary teams to the event.

Launch of Initiative by Chief Justice

After the summit demonstrated the value of multidisciplinary approaches to working to improve school climate and attendance, the Chief Justice launched a time-limited KKIS Initiative to seek private funding to advance the targeted goals of significantly reducing reliance on exclusionary discipline, reducing absenteeism, and improving educational outcomes for students in foster care or under the jurisdiction of juvenile justice courts. The Chief Justice asked Justice Huffman and Judge Boulware Eurie to lead a steering committee made up of a wide array of stakeholders to oversee and guide the work of the initiative in sparking action at the local level.

Ongoing Support From Outside Funders

The launch and forward progress of the KKIS Initiative was possible because of generous support over seven years by four private foundations—the Walter S. Johnson Foundation, the Zellerbach Family Foundation, The California Endowment, and the Stuart Foundation—along with continued support from CIP.

KKIS Initiative Accomplishments Benefitting the Judicial Branch

The KKIS Initiative has been beneficial to the judicial branch in numerous ways.

- At all KKIS convenings, juvenile court judges and their multidisciplinary teams—including social workers and probation, education, mental health, and other county partners—made plans to improve



services to children and youth in the juvenile court system. County teams have reported ongoing teamwork leading to more robust and coordinated services to children and youth in the system.

- The initiative provided courts and their partners with county educational data profiles to use in decisionmaking for local action plans, along with relevant training on issues facing children and youth in the foster care system.
- Juvenile court judges in every county received copies of the two KKIS benchguides, “Understanding Trauma *and* Supporting Educational Opportunity for Children & Youth in Juvenile Court” and “Supporting the Mental Health of Youth in Juvenile Court: Resource Guide *and* Bench Cards.”
- Some teams included local tribal court judges and other tribal members for better coordination of state court–tribal court actions with children and youth.
- KKIS produced two podcast episodes: (1) a conversation between the Chief Justice and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction on the importance of the initiative and the needs it addresses; and (2) the recommendations of a young woman who spent many years in the foster care system on what judges, social workers, and others can do to improve the experience of children and youth in foster care. They are available on the KKIS website .
- The relationship between the Judicial Council and the California Department of Education has strengthened and grown during the initiative’s life. The initiative highlighted and strengthened joint collaborations between the Chief Justice and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who promises the possibility of mutual work together in the years to come—work that will benefit children and youth in or at risk of entering the juvenile court system.
- The suspension rates for all students in California significantly decreased, from 5.2 percent for students receiving one or more suspensions during academic year 2012–13 to 3.5 percent for students in 2018–19.

Lessons Learned

Including many others, three core lessons were learned during this initiative:

- When county teams break through the silos that separate the work of key people serving children and youth by working together with a shared goal, services to those children and youth improve.
- Organizing in rural counties is difficult and time-consuming, but the rural convenings were received very enthusiastically because of the great need in those counties and, thus, were worth the extra effort.
- Providing data that is sufficiently granular to identify areas for intervention is a key service to school justice partnerships so that they can work across systems to improve outcomes.

What’s Next?

Many of the key products that emerged from the KKIS Initiative will continue to be of use to improve outcomes for California youth. The benchguides and cards provide a foundation for juvenile courts and their stakeholders to improve education and mental health outcomes for all the youth and families that come before the courts. The podcasts can serve to inspire leadership and understanding within and outside the judicial branch. Moving forward, staff of the Judicial Council will continue to incorporate these tools and the lessons and values of KKIS into all the work done to serve the courts and the public.



Final Report

Background

California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye was inspired by a New York national leadership conference—the National Leadership Summit on School Justice Partnerships: *Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court*—which she attended with a team in March 2012, along with Chief Justices and teams from 49 other states. It focused on the issues of truancy and school discipline as they affect children and youth in the juvenile court system, particularly those disciplinary policies and practices that can push students out of school and into the justice system. The New York conference was built on the work of the Council of State Governments Justice Center, as documented in the Texas study, “Breaking Schools’ Rules: A State-wide Study on How School Discipline Relates to Students’ Success and Juvenile Justice Involvement” (July 2011). The study analyzed millions of school and juvenile justice records in Texas to improve policymakers’ understanding of who is suspended and expelled from public secondary schools and the impact of those removals on students’ academic performance and juvenile justice system involvement. The Supportive School Discipline Initiative was launched by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Attorney General Eric Holder in response to the release of the study.

The Chief Justice returned from the conference and charged the Judicial Council’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care with taking up those issues in California. That effort was led by the chair of the BRC, Justice Richard D. Huffman, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, and BRC member Judge Stacy Boulware Eurie, Superior Court of Sac-

ramento County, both of whom had been on the National KKIS Summit’s California team.

California Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Summit—December 2013

The Chief Justice expressed her interest in hosting a California summit on these issues if private funding could be identified and secured so that the work could be accomplished without using state funds. With the approval of the Judicial Council, staff secured grant funds from private foundations to hold a California KKIS Summit in 2013. Grants for the summit were provided by the Walter S. Johnson Foundation, the Zellerbach Family Foundation, and The California Endowment. In addition, some assistance also came from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Court Improvement Program.

The Chief Justice invited the presiding juvenile court judge in each of the 58 counties to assemble a multidisciplinary team to bring to the summit. Thirty-two counties ultimately accepted the invitation and put together teams that included the court, child welfare, probation, education, mental health, and other organizations and agencies active in the issues locally.¹

The California KKIS Summit—held on December 3–4, 2013, in Anaheim in conjunction with the Judicial Council’s Beyond the Bench conference—attracted just under 400 attendees and included teams from 32 counties, funders, speakers, and dignitaries. Over the two days of the summit, the county teams were given an opportunity to become familiar with all the issues, to be exposed to cutting-edge interventions and solutions, and to work within their teams to begin drafting an action plan for change in their own counties. California’s effort included sharing the work of the Texas study, acknowledging the encouragement from

¹ Thirty-three counties actually participated in the event: the Inyo County team included a member from Mono County to facilitate the two counties working together on the issues.



Former foster youth Sade Daniels addresses California KKIS Summit. (All photos by Chris Cleary.)

the Supportive School Discipline Initiative, and introducing many other emerging and evidence-based approaches to working with children and youth in the school setting in ways meant to improve educational outcomes and to keep them in school. Travel, lodging, and meals for the summit teams and speakers were covered by the grant funds.

Leadership

Following the success of the summit and enthusiasm of the teams, in May 2014, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye established the Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Initiative and appointed a richly diverse, multidisciplinary steering committee to set goals and guide the initiative. She appointed Justice Huffman to chair the initiative and Judge Boulware Eurie to serve as the vice-chair. Justice Huffman left the initiative in January 2015, following the sunset of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care,

and Judge Boulware Eurie was appointed chair, with Donna Groman, judge of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, replacing her as vice-chair.

The Chief Justice charged the KKIS Steering Committee with ensuring appropriate and robust efforts to provide ongoing statewide and county-level support, program development, and public education on the issues that were presented at the December 2013 KKIS Summit, with a focus on the following activities:

- Assessing public and private resources available for supporting county-level KKIS teams;
- Determining appropriate court-focused data collection approaches to securing data on the efficacy of various court-, community-, and school-based interventions;
- Providing support and technical assistance to county-level KKIS teams as they work to implement their local county action plans;



- Developing a robust communications plan to increase understanding of the importance to all systems of keeping kids in school and on a path to success;
- Supporting the efforts of court partnering agencies and organizations to further steering committee efforts; and
- Supporting local and statewide child and family educational engagement efforts.

To accomplish this charge, the Chief Justice wanted a committee that would be small enough to be effective and focused in its work, but large enough to encompass the great diversity of California in multiple dimensions. The Chief Justice looked to Justice Huffman and Judge Boulware Eurie to assist her in identifying other members.

The first round of appointments to the KKIS Steering Committee were made in June 2014 and included members from a range of backgrounds representing all regions of California. During the life of the initiative, the steering committee members appointed by the Chief Justice included professionals from education, child welfare, probation, mental health, and law enforcement, as well as judges from state and tribal courts. In addition, advocates for youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems were included. Finally, it was critical to the success of the initiative that students, young people with histories in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and community organizers working with parents and communities be included, to ensure success for all students in California public schools. This mix of key stakeholders was intended to model the range of voices that the initiative hoped would be engaged at the local level by the juvenile court-led county teams.

The KKIS Steering Committee met frequently during the life of the initiative, and members were active participants in the many county team convenings, particularly those in the last few years, which focused on California's rural counties. Recently reflecting on

her time as chair of the steering committee, Judge Boulware Eurie noted: "It has been an honor to chair the Chief Justice's KKIS Initiative. Her vision of improving how California's juvenile courts, and its system stakeholders and community partners, serve court-involved youth in attaining academic stability and success has resulted in real-world improvements for innumerable youth around the state. Juvenile court judicial officers are better equipped to understand the trauma of the youth who appear before them and in collaboration and partnership with parents, advocates and child-serving agencies, the initiative has led to an impressive decrease in the use of out-of-school disciplinary practices. The KKIS Initiative enabled us to listen to and learn alongside youth at every step of the initiative and while the initiative has come to a close, the Chief Justice's vision will continue to ripple through our juvenile court systems, with improved practices, more sustaining trauma-informed practices and enhanced access to justice for our most vulnerable court users."

KKIS Initiative Projects & Events Following the Initial Summit

Participation in National Summit

California was invited to bring a team to the National Leadership Summit on School Discipline and Climate in October 2014. The summit, held in Washington, D.C., built on the work begun in New York at the National KKIS Summit in March 2012, which inspired the Chief Justice to charge the Blue Ribbon Commission with organizing the December 2013 California KKIS Summit on the issues of truancy, chronic absenteeism, and school discipline policies that lead to poor outcomes for children and youth, including dropping out of school and contact with the juvenile and criminal justice systems. The D.C. leadership summit offered the opportunity to meet with the best thinkers on organizing around these issues, to address a number of challenges that this state faces in its efforts to change social norms on the issues, and to identify resources



of value for California's efforts in highlighting these issues. Led by Judge Boulware Eurie, standing in for the Chief Justice, a team of 12—including 7 KKIS Steering Committee members, 2 staff to the initiative, 2 community organizers from the Central Valley and Central Coast of the state, and a tribal court judge from Imperial County—represented California at the National Leadership Summit.

California's interest in attending the summit centered on a desire to work with the following challenges:

- How to create an effective baseline data plan to measure success;
- How to forge partnerships with other systems to effectively advance the work—for example, to set up partnerships with academic institutions with the capacity for research, data collection and evaluation, and the like; and
- How to move public and political will to create local and statewide sustainability for these efforts.

The summit afforded ample opportunity to address those issues, meet exceptional teams from other states, and begin building strong and valuable bonds among the members of the California team. Funding for travel and attendance at the summit was covered by private foundations supporting the initiative.

County Team Support

The KKIS Initiative continued work to support the KKIS county teams that participated in the California KKIS Summit, as well as the many additional rural counties that became a special focus of the initiative in its last years. The initiative held a regional convening in Southern California two years after the first statewide convening, which hosted nine Southern California counties. But the primary work with the counties during the last few years has been through three rural regional convenings, one in Southern California (Imperial County) and two in Northern California (Humboldt County and Sacramento County).

Regional KKIS Convenings

The initiative organized several regional convenings following the initial convening, in the north and south of the state, to bring the teams together to provide training and an opportunity for them to get to know their neighboring teams and, hopefully, to begin to develop regional partnerships of KKIS teams that can support and assist each other. These projects are briefly described below.

California's National Leadership Summit team.





Southern California KKIS Regional Convening—December 2, 2015

The KKIS initiative held a Southern California convening in December 2015, in conjunction with the Beyond the Bench conference in Anaheim. The initiative hosted teams from eight Southern California counties and offered trainings on a variety of issues, facilitated discussions among the teams, and provided ample opportunity for teams to get to know each other and the members of their own teams. In addition to the teams from Inyo, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura Counties, which had attended the first convening, the initiative also hosted a new KKIS team from Imperial County. The teams were introduced to a variety of successful approaches to improving school culture, climate, and educational outcomes while lowering suspension and expulsion rates, lowering chronic absenteeism, and ensuring school safety.

Northern California KKIS Regional Convening—February 24, 2016

KKIS held its Northern California regional convening at the Judicial Council's San Francisco offices. It invited nine Northern California teams to share their work and to learn from one another while being briefed on local and statewide work. Dr. Ramona Bishop, KKIS Steering Committee member, presented her work in the Vallejo City Unified School District. Another member, Mr. Gordon Jackson, reported on statewide education efforts by the California Department of Education. And members of the Black Organizing Project in Oakland presented "The Truth About the School to Prison Pipeline: Faces Behind the Data." Following a lunch presentation called "Restorative Justice Works!" teams were offered a variety of afternoon workshops: "Facility-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports: Teaching Positive Behavior and Social Interaction in Juvenile Detention Facilities," "Addressing the Root Causes of Disparities in School Discipline," "Getting Students Back on Track: Earlier Interventions to Keep Kids in School and Out of Court," and "Build-

ing Trauma Informed Systems in California." Teams left with much enthusiasm about the work ahead of them in their own counties.

Rural County KKIS Convenings

Imperial County KKIS Convening—April 26, 2019

The KKIS convening in Imperial County was hosted by Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Juan Ulloa and featured California Supreme Court Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar as the keynote speaker. Justice Cuéllar grew up in Imperial County and graduated from Calexico High School. His audience of more than 100 Imperial County judges, teachers, probation officers, social workers, mental health professionals, tribal members, and others listened closely. He spoke to the painful challenge facing judges who see students pushed out of the classrooms and into the juvenile justice system. He encouraged attendees to work to help students stay on track to graduate, and to help them find their own voices and possibilities. Attendees heard the presentations "School Pushout Prevention and Parental Rights," "Transforming Trauma's Effects on the Developing Brain," and "Stopping Discrimination in School Discipline"; heard from a youth panel on what they think would help; and heard a presentation on what the data shows on key KKIS regional data indicators. The attendees were enthusiastic about continuing the work.

Recently, Judge Ulloa reflected: "The convening allowed key stakeholders from our community to come together and learn about the challenges that our juvenile court-involved youth face in maximizing their educational opportunities. It was a treat to have Justice Cuéllar, who attended high school in Imperial County, come home to talk to us about his experiences, and to learn about how a trauma-informed system can be more responsive [to] and effective with young people who are struggling. It was particularly powerful to hear from young people in our commu-

nity who made it clear that their main hope for all of our systems was for the adults in them to listen and care about their hopes and challenges. The convening helped to recharge our community collaboratives and inspire us to work together to keep our youth in school and out of court.” The Imperial County convening was funded by the Stuart Foundation.

Rural Northern California KKIS Convenings (2017, 2020)

A grant from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation funded some exciting work in rural Northern California. California is a remarkably diverse state of 58 counties, with 1,028 school districts ranging in size from the Los Angeles Unified School District, which serves over 1.5 million students, to rural school districts serving fewer than 100 students. Two convenings focused on small rural Northern California counties with limited resources, high rates of unemployment, poverty, sometimes limited access to broadband,

transportation issues, and the like. Both of these convenings highlighted tribal issues, and guidance on those issues was provided by Judge Richard Blake, a member of the KKIS Steering Committee and part of the leadership from the beginning. He recently commented, “When the Chief Justice invited me to attend the national summit in New York with the California delegation, I could not have anticipated that the inspiration that we received there would lead to so many opportunities for my own community. A highlight of my participation in the initiative was the Humboldt convening. Hearing about the benefits for Native youth in learning their language at school and understanding how traditional Native restorative justice practices were being used to resolve conflicts in local schools, and understanding the impacts of historic and inherited trauma, was moving for all in attendance. This initiative helped me to focus more productively on the educational needs of the youth

Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar at the Imperial County convening.





Humboldt convening, with Judge Richard Blake and others.

who come before my court and to really understand how collaboration can help keep them connected with school and ready to succeed.”

Humboldt County KKIS Convening— October 3–4, 2017

Teams from three rural northern California counties—Del Norte, Humboldt, and Trinity—gathered for a two-day KKIS convening to grapple with specific challenges that they share in their attempts to meet the educational needs of their resident youth. The youth represent a widely dispersed but relatively small population with deep poverty and high unemployment, as well as racial and ethnic demographics different from much of the rest of the state, with relatively small numbers of African American and Latino youth, but large communities of Native American students from the many local tribes. The KKIS Initiative was able to provide experts, for which the school districts might not otherwise have had the

resources, to help advise the districts on improving school climate and discipline policies. The 60 participants represented a wide variety of agencies and groups—comprising education, probation, Head Start, and tribal agencies, including tribal courts and child welfare agencies—along with youth and parents. Judge Joyce D. Hinrichs, who hosted the convening, shared the following thoughts about the results for her community: “The convening provided our community with a tremendous opportunity to build upon our existing collaborations and learn more about the ways in which we can support one another. In the end, we were reminded that each of the young people whom we serve as students or in our courts has their own story and needs supports and interventions that address their specific circumstances. A challenge of being a smaller county is that we have fewer resources to draw upon, but our strength is that we can really get to know all of the stakeholders and problem solve as a commu-



nity. Taking two days to really focus on what we can do together to ensure that our young people thrive was invigorating and has been paying dividends ever since.”

Sacramento KKIS Convening of Ten Rural Counties—February 27–28, 2020

The Judicial Council’s Sacramento offices welcomed 10 county teams from rural Northern California counties for a two-day convening, *Transforming Pipelines to Prison into Stairways to Success in Rural Northern California*. Teams were there from Butte, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Mendocino, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, and Yuba Counties. Attendees were welcomed by Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond. The teams were active and engaged throughout the two

days. Team members met to plan county activities and attended presentations on what the data in their counties shows, on youth perspective, and on tribal court–state court jurisdiction in El Dorado County. On the second day, they heard about the power of monitoring and addressing chronic absence in rural California and about the implementation of multi-tiered systems of support in rural school districts. And finally, all teams and team members were presented with the newly published benchguides on education and trauma and on mental health, hearing from experts on the content. The convening generated significant enthusiasm among attendees.

Chief Justice welcomes attendees to rural convening.





Key Challenges and Opportunities

The KKIS Initiative was launched in conjunction with efforts across California to improve school climate and discipline and to shine a light on the particular challenges of foster youth in California schools. These efforts have born real fruit, which can be seen in the significant reduction in the suspension rates for all students in California receiving one or more suspensions, from 5.2 percent in academic year 2012–13 to 3.5 percent in 2018–19.² (See Figure 1.)

These improvements are substantial and mean that many fewer students are being excluded from their classes for disciplinary reasons, but the experience of numerous schools demonstrates that there is room

for that rate to go even lower. In addition, although rates have declined across racial and ethnic groups, disparities remain such that African American and Native American students experience higher rates of suspension than their peers. (See Figure 2.) These disparities require further attention and consideration as schools seek to implement more effective strategies to improve school climate.

Data on chronic absenteeism for students was unavailable when KKIS began, but thanks to advocacy by leaders like KKIS Steering Committee member Hedy Chang and others, California has been collecting that information since the 2016–17 academic year. That data shows that the rate of chronic absence (defined as being absent for any reason for more than 10 percent of the school year) is unacceptably high and that the disparities between racial and ethnic groups are concerning and deserve continuing focus. (See Figure 3.)

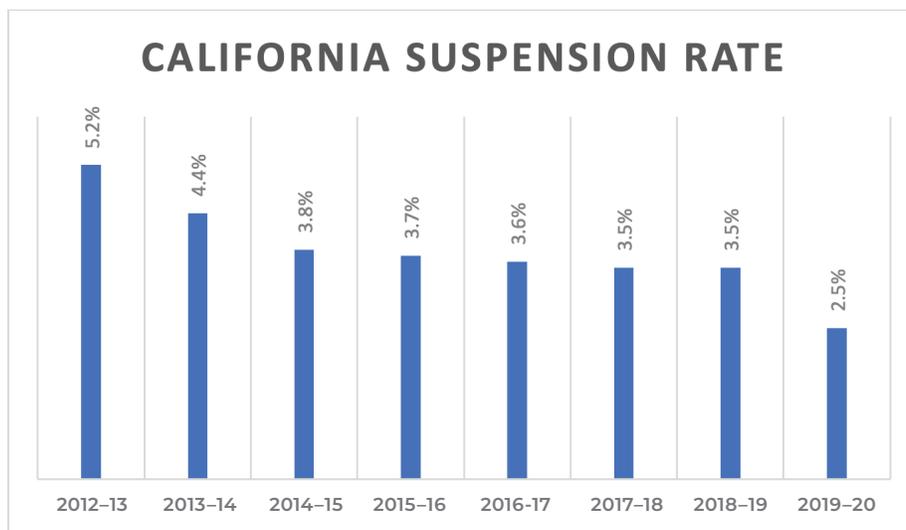


Figure 1. California Suspension Rates, by Academic Year

² Because of school closures during the pandemic, data for academic year 2019–20 is not comparable to that of prior years because it ends when in-person learning was paused in March 2020.



Finally, data on academic achievement for foster youth demonstrates that these students need focused attention both in school and from the child welfare system to ensure that they are getting the education they need to succeed and move forward to postsecondary learning opportunities. The numbers of foster youth

who are not meeting or exceeding the standards for English language arts and mathematics are a significant concern, and although the five years that this data has been collected have seen modest improvement, the opportunity to make further gains for these students is tremendous. (See Figures 4 and 5.)

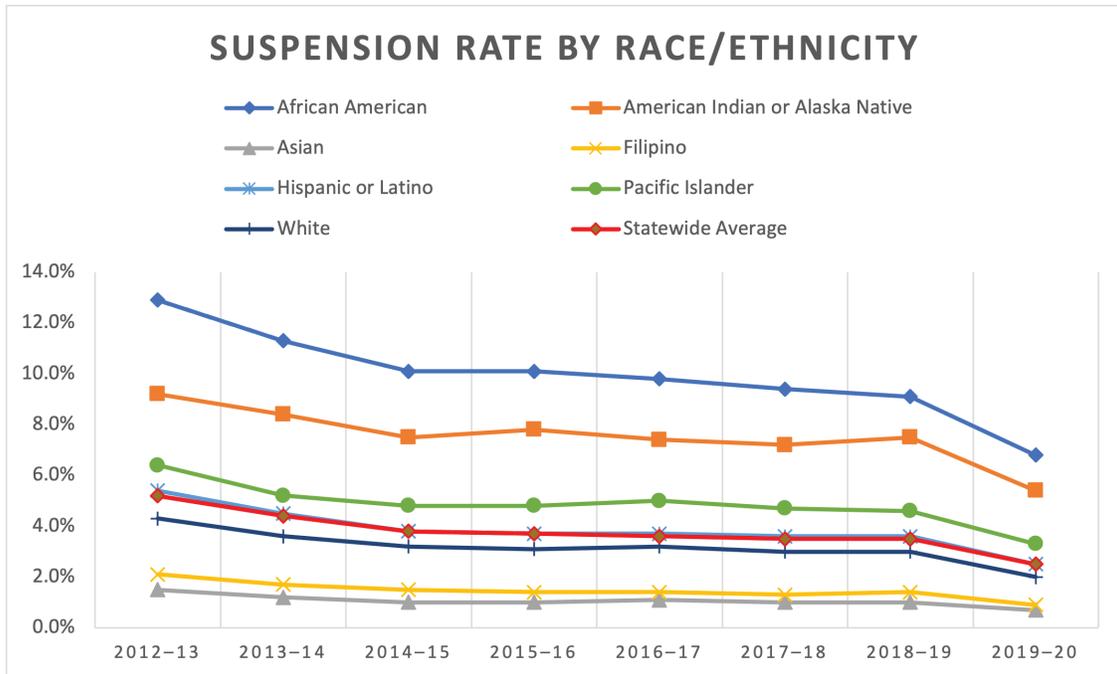


Figure 2. California Suspension Rates, by Race/Ethnicity and Academic Year

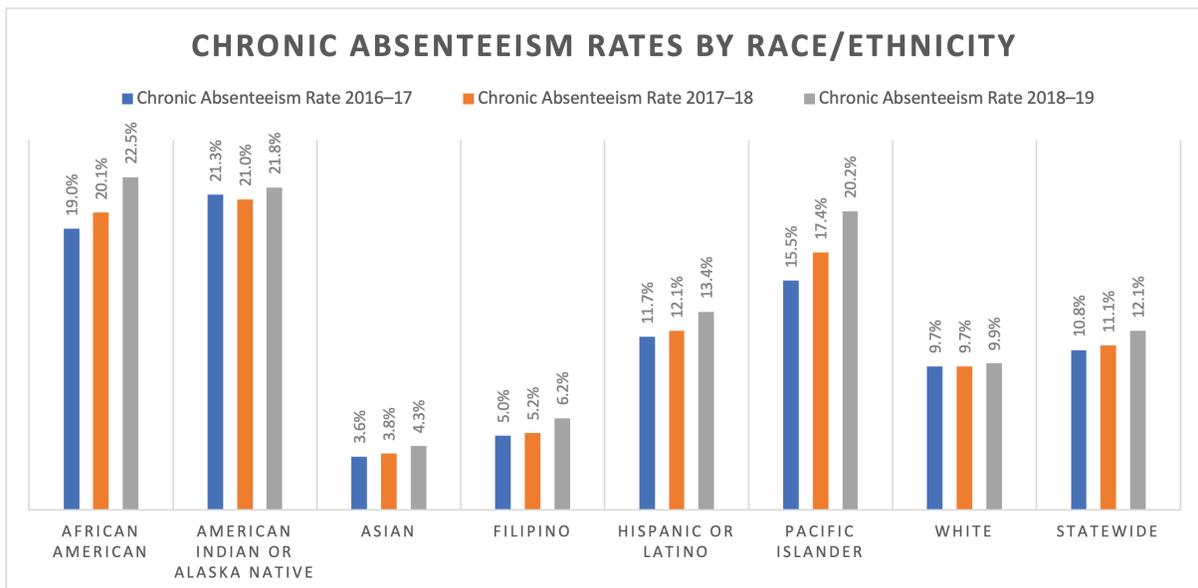


Figure 3. Chronic Absenteeism Rate, by Race/Ethnicity and Academic Year

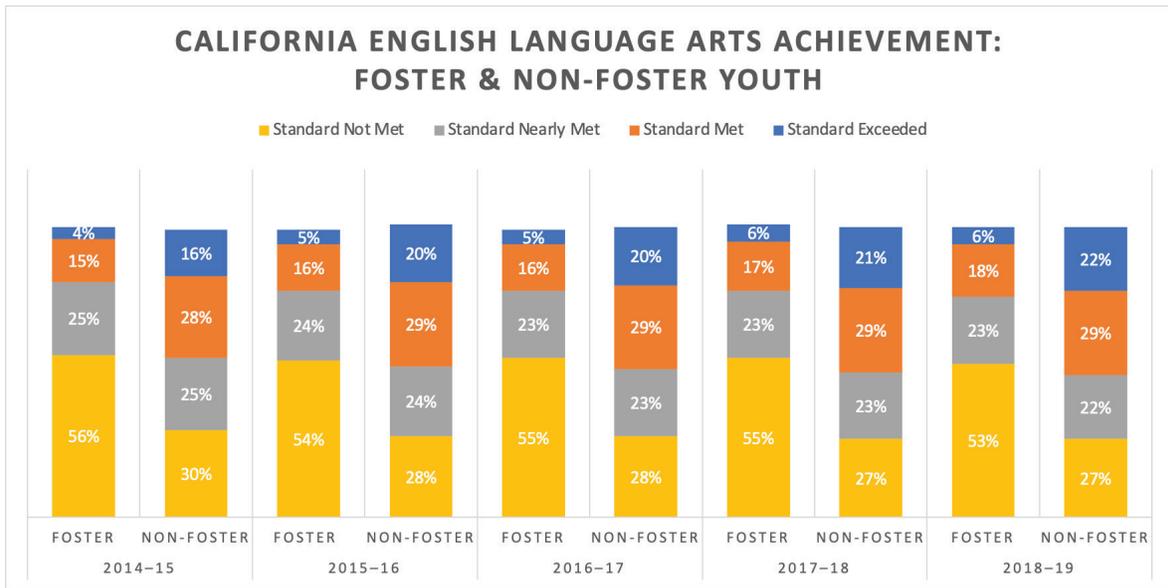


Figure 4. California English Language Arts Achievement of Foster and Non-Foster Youth, by Academic Year

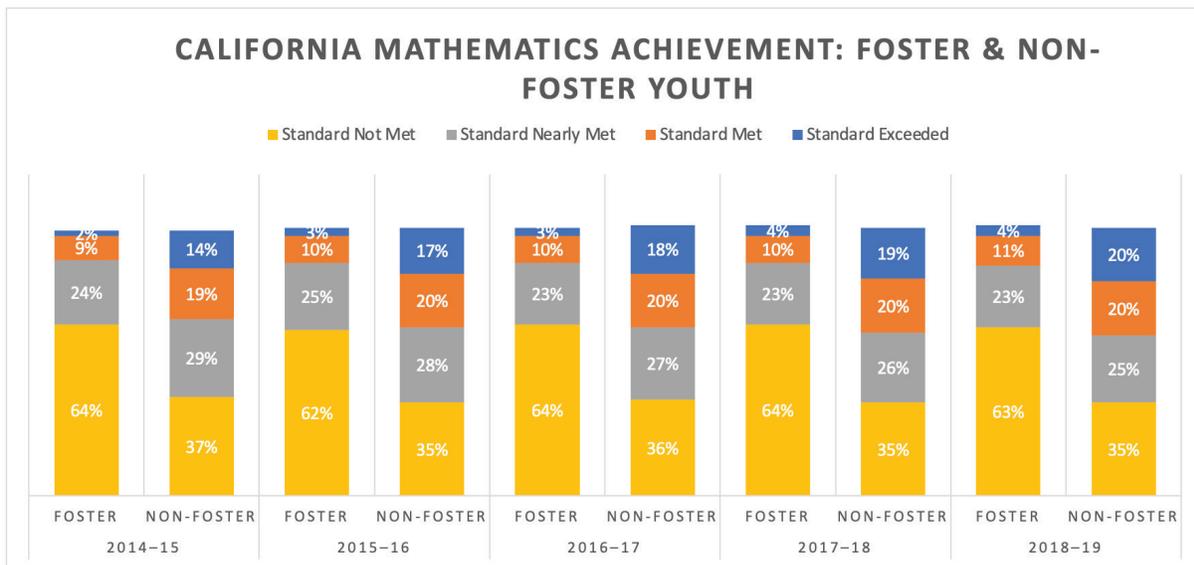


Figure 5. California Mathematics Achievement of Foster and Non-Foster Youth, by Academic Year

Resources

Benchguides for Juvenile Court & Tribal Court Judges and for Their Multidisciplinary County Partners

The KKIS Initiative wrote, published, and distributed to every juvenile court judge and tribal court judge in California two comprehensive benchguides on issues addressed by the initiative.

Understanding Trauma and Supporting Educational Opportunity for Children & Youth in Juvenile Court

This benchguide discusses the following topics:

- Educational law as it applies to children and youth in the juvenile court system
- Issues of truancy, suspensions, expulsions, and chronic absenteeism and how they affect the educational outcomes of this state's children and youth
- How the developing brain is affected by trauma
- The science of the adolescent brain and how the brain affects adolescent behavior
- Root causes of disparities in school discipline and what can be done
- Evidence-based and promising interventions that have improved school climate, culture, and student outcomes
- Everything else that a jurist may need to know when a child or youth appears in the courtroom with educational or behavioral issues

Supporting the Mental Health of Youth in Juvenile Court

Subjects covered in this benchguide include the following:

- Overarching principles to support good mental health
- Courtroom practice tips

- Ways to gather information and identify needs
- Community-based mental health in specific placements: Statewide Transitional Residential Program, Out of County, Juvenile Facility
- Placement transitions: Things to consider to support good mental health
- Important ages: Is the youth turning age 3, 5, 12, 14, 16, 18, or 21?

Initiative staff have worked with the Judicial Council to encourage training every juvenile court judge and tribal court judge in the state on the content of the benchguides.

The initiative hopes that training on these resources will be permanently included in the initial and ongoing education of juvenile court judges and will become a core part of the Judicial Council's training for judges, including tribal court judges.

The benchguides and other resources can be found on the KKIS website, at www.courts.ca.gov/KKIS.htm.

Podcast Episodes

Two podcast episodes were produced by KKIS. One is a conversation between the Chief Justice and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction on the importance of the KKIS Initiative and the needs it addresses. The second, "Kristina's Story," is a conversation between the podcast producer and a young woman who spent 13 years in the foster care system. It emphasizes what judges, social workers, and others can do to improve the experience of children and youth in foster care. Those episodes are available on the KKIS website at www.courts.ca.gov/KKIS.htm and will be distributed widely to judicial officers and their multidisciplinary partners in the county, again, to improve county-level services to children and youth in juvenile court.



