



Youth Diversion Program Highlights

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Background

- In October 2018, UCLA’s Bunche Center for African American Studies *Million Dollar Hoods* project released *Policing Our Schools* report, which identified an opportunity to further address the over-representation of African American youth being introduced into the criminal justice system.
- In November 2018, Superintendent Beutner established a **Youth Diversion and Development (YDD) Working Group** to address this issue. Working Group members are from the following organizations:
 - Suits in Solidarity
 - Million Dollar Hoods
 - UCLA Bunche Center for African American Studies
 - Social Justice Learning Institute
 - Brotherhood Crusade
 - Los Angeles Unified



YDD Working Group Goals

- To propose strategies to further reduce arrests and citations on school campuses, especially for African American males and other males of color, and for youth under age 14.
- To secure funding for diversion services to better support students and schools.



Existing Youth Diversion Deferral Program

- During the 2013-14 school year, the Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD) issued nearly 1,700 citations/RFC
- In 2013, the Board approved the 2013 School Climate Bill of Rights and School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention & Support Resolution
- In 2014, in collaboration with various youth justice coalition partners, the LASPD and Student Health and Human Services (SHHS) launched a youth diversion referral program to address the high number of youth being introduced into the criminal justice system.



Existing Youth Diversion Referral Program

Overview

- **“Non-punitive” alternative** to arrest and citation of LAUSD students, ages 13 through 17, who commit minor law violations on school grounds
- **Collaboration** between schools, LASPD, SHHS Pupil Services, Student Discipline, and City of L.A. FamilySource Centers (Diversion Referral Centers)
- **Behavioral, academic and social emotional supports** for students and families
 - **Counseling** - **Mentoring** - **Tutoring** - **Parenting classes**



Existing Youth Diversion Referral Program

Overview

Current Eight (8) Eligible Offenses

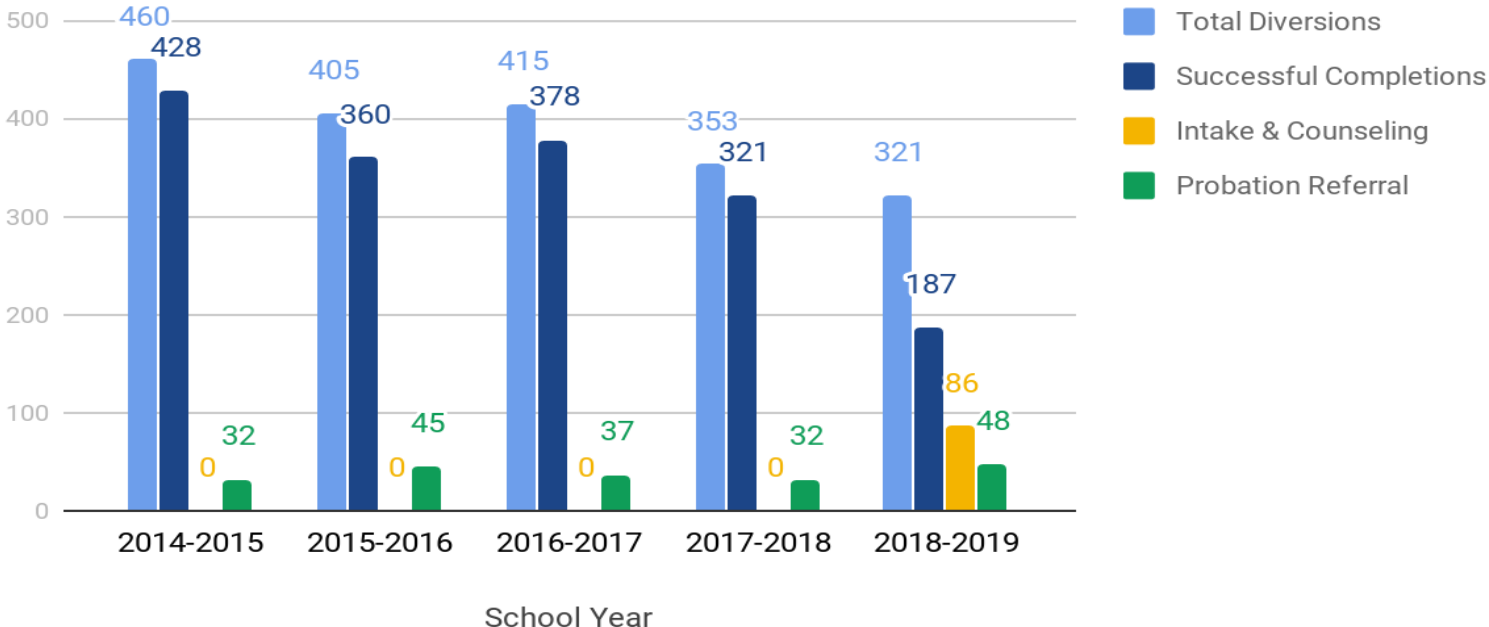
1. Possession of tobacco and/or tobacco paraphernalia
2. Theft of property loss less than \$50 (District property)
3. Possession of marijuana less than 1 ounce (only if not found smoking)
4. Trespassing
5. Fighting
6. Minor in possession of alcohol
7. Vandalism less than \$400 damage (District property)
8. Battery



Existing Youth Diversion Referral Program

Over the past 5 years, 1,954 total students have been diverted with ~90% successful completions and only 8% recidivism.

SY 2014-2019



YDD Working Group Recommendations

Planning

- Expand the number of diversion-eligible offenses.
 - Currently reviewing additional offenses and will be bringing forth recommendations to the Board of Education for review.
- Expand and establish more community partnerships with local providers of diversion services.
- Pursue additional funding for program expansion (The working group and L.A. Unified collaboratively).

Implementation

- Train school staff and LASPD officers.
- Share implementation plan with the community.
- Share data and evaluation with UCLA Ralph J. Bunche Center's Million Dollar Hoods project.

