

# 2015 STUDENT FORUMS: STUDENT PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## BACKGROUND

The student forums were led by Californians for Justice in partnership with the East Side Union High School District. At the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year, a delegation of CFJ youth leaders met with Superintendent Chris Funk to advocate for a formal process for students to help develop their district's accountability plan (LCAP) under the new funding formula.

Their vision was to empower students as responsible decision makers, and to change the perceptions of low-income students of color through their participation in decision-making processes. Superintendent Funk committed to implementing 2 annual student forums to identify student priorities and recommendations for the district's budget and LCAP. **The forums were led and facilitated by students.** These forums provide a space for students to actively participate in critical thinking and decision making in their schools. In order for our students to be prepared for higher education and 21st century careers, especially in the Silicon Valley, students need be active leaders.



## STUDENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ISSUE AREAS:

### Transitional Resources (33%)

#### TECHNICAL COURSES

Students voiced they do not feel adequately prepared for life after high school. Students recommend a selection of life skill courses, such as time & priority management, and financial management courses.

### Classroom Environment (28%)

#### COLLABORATIVE CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Fostering a classroom environment for students to be active learners and feel they are contributing to their learning. This can look like providing support to teachers to cater to different learning styles and cultural competency trainings.

### Social & Emotional Support (17%)

#### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM

Students stated discipline policies at schools are not effective in addressing the root issue. Instead, there needs to be a solution based approach taking into account students' needs and struggles.

### Physical Resource (12%)

#### BATHROOM CONDITIONS

Provide working and adequately stocked bathrooms. Students shared they were unable to utilize some of their school bathrooms due to unsanitary conditions and bathroom facilities in poor condition.

#### BUS PASSES

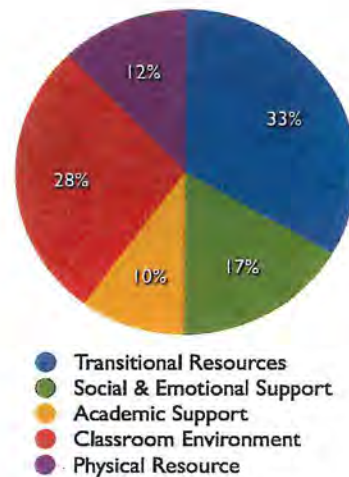
Provide bus passes to low-income students so that they have reliable transportation to and from school.

### Academic Support (10%)

#### A-G SUPPORT

Targeting students who are not A-G on track and providing specific resources and support based on need. This can look like developing an academic plan with students not A-G on track or recruiting them to college & career activities.

## ISSUE AREAS STUDENTS ARE PRIORITIZING





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## STUDENT QUOTES

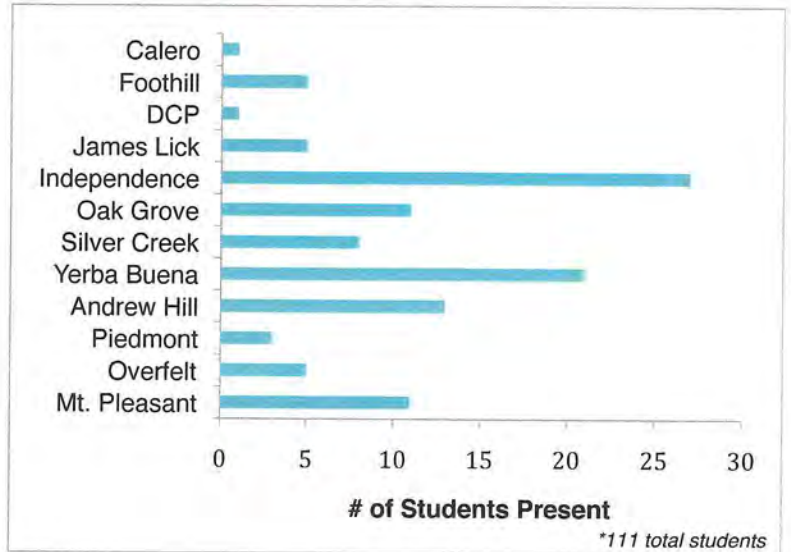
*"I feel like the school focuses on pushing you to graduate, but they don't push you to plan for after you graduate."*

*"Students drop out because teachers & admin don't try to engage with them, and ask about what's going on in their lives. They instead assume and kick them out."*

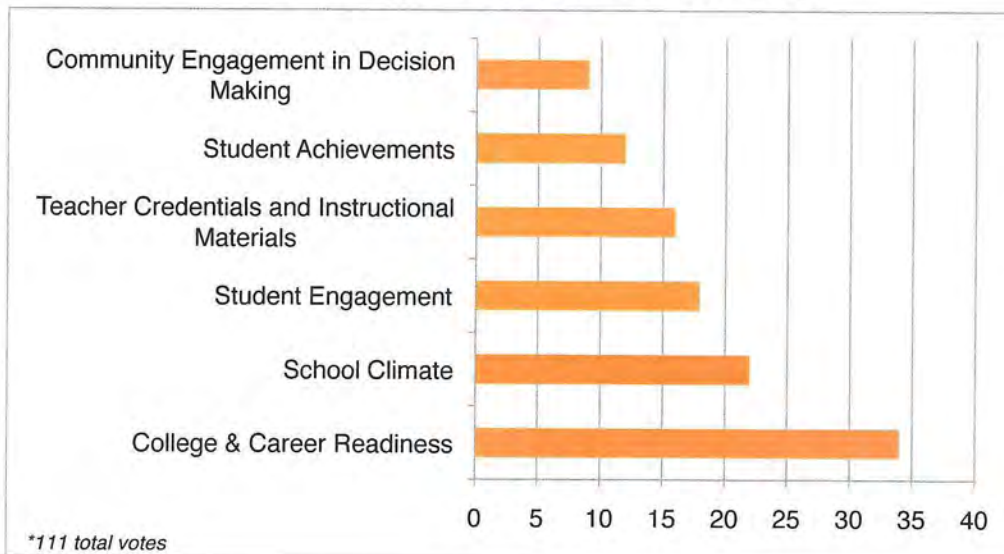
*"With the standards of colleges nowadays, many students end up being left behind because lack of proper classes"*

*"School disciplinary action does not solve the problem, only makes it worse by limiting the student even more"*

## SCHOOLS PRESENT



## STUDENT VOTES FOR LCAP PRIORITIES



CALIFORNIANS FOR JUSTICE is a statewide grassroots organization that believes that in order to achieve the transformative change we want to see in our schools, and communities we must create systematic change that transforms POLICIES, PERCEPTIONS, and PRACTICES, so that the voices of low-income, immigrant, LGBTIQ students and students of color are HEARD, VALUED, and REFLECTED in the decisions that directly impact their lives.

