



May 5, 2014

Senator Loni Hancock
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

YOUTH ALIVE!
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RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 1396

Dear Senator Hancock,

Youth ALIVE!, a violence prevention and intervention organization and member of the of the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color, strongly supports SB 1396, which establishes the Schoolwide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Program (PBIS). This bill would help create positive cultures in schools, improve school discipline practices, and align with LCFF priorities.

We support SB 1396 because PBIS is an effective approach to creating a positive school culture and is in use in a growing number of California schools. The passage of SB 1396 will allow school leaders to become familiar with these strategies as well as understand how suspensions and expulsions affect students both socially and academically.

We believe it is critical to spread the use of preventative and positive school discipline practices in California and SB 1396 supports that. PBIS is not a specific curriculum but is a decision making framework that guides selection, integration and implementation of the best evidence-based academic and behavioral practices for improving important academic and behavior outcomes for all students. This framework is an integral step toward the goal of establishing a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary prevention and intervention model that provides a continuum to identify and meet the needs of all students before they require more intensive levels of intervention. Within the body of the PBIS system is the concept of restorative justice. It is an approach to resolving conflicts and behavioral problems that is grounded in mutual respect, positive relationships, and productive accountability. There is growing evidence that school-based restorative practices reduce violence and school suspensions.

SB 1396, to the extent one-time funding is available in the 2014-15 Budget Act, would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to apportion funding to a designated county office of education that would be the fiduciary agent and operate the program. The county office would be required to consult with key stakeholders to implement a plan that would fund statewide professional development, program support and training in schoolwide PBIS.

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ANNE C. MARKS, MPP
Executive Director
Youth ALIVE!
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Finally, we believe that with the training and professional development required in SB 1396, all California school districts would be able to establish a statewide model that will allow all districts to implement PBIS multi-tiered frameworks that are aligned with the priorities established by the Local Control Funding Formula. These include: (a) flexibility to meet student needs, (b) equity through student focused funding, and (c) decision making power that will allow LEAs to act based on the needs they see for students. PBIS provides an operational framework for achieving these outcomes. The PBIS multi-tiered support systems framework addresses at least five critical areas of LCAP. These include: 1) academic outcomes, 2) Common Core State Standards, 3) school culture and climate, 4) parent involvement, and 5) student engagement.

For these reasons, we strongly support SB 1396.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anne Marks', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anne Marks
Executive Director