



HUNDREDS OF POLICE CHIEFS, SHERIFFS, PROSECUTORS,
OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS, AND VIOLENCE
SURVIVORS PREVENTING CRIME AND VIOLENCE

High School After-School Success Stories

Below are several examples of positive outcomes from after-school programs for high school students across California, including several 21st Century High School After School Safety and Education for Teens (ASSETs) programs.

21st Century High School ASSETs Programs

✓ Increased Graduation Rates

The BlairLEARNS after-school program at **Blair High School** in Pasadena has been particularly successful in ensuring that students graduate. “Credit reclamation” classes are offered after school to students who need core curriculum credits in order to graduate. Students can earn up to five credits if they successfully complete 60 hours of study in their individual core subjects. The program has been so successful that the school graduation rate was at 92% in June 2005—the highest it has been in 20 years. In fact, 30% of graduates at Blair High School were able to graduate only because of the credit reclamation program. BlairLEARNS provides many other after-school opportunities, including intensive instruction in English and Math; classes in dance, drama, cooking, computer technology and website building; as well as a DJ class and mentoring.

The after-school program at **Watsonville High School** in Santa Cruz County includes a unique element that helps students graduate by aligning lessons in the after-school program with lessons in the regular school day. “Benchmarks” have been set for math lessons in algebra and geometry courses during the regular school day, for which each student must pass a test in order to advance to the next lesson. If they do not pass a lesson, students can make up the test in the after-school program, where tutoring is available to help students better grasp the material. Once they feel prepared, students can retake the benchmark test in the after-school class and receive credit. Other enrichment activities include Art Teach, Coach Teach and Show Teach—in which high school students teach elementary school students art, fitness and drama, respectively—as well as dance and guitar classes.

✓ Provide hundreds of students with safe, constructive places to go after school

Up to 1,000 students each week attend the after-school program at **Roosevelt High School** in Fresno. The program offers students the opportunity to earn up to five elective credits toward graduation if they complete 120 hours of tutoring and/or after-school classes. Also available is a senior seminar, during which tutors help seniors sign up for the SAT, and apply to colleges and for financial aid; and the Career Education Program, which provides job skills training. Other enrichment activities include art, music and dance classes, as well as video production classes.

Burbank High School in Sacramento draws 650 students each day to its after-school program. The program offers supplemental instruction and tutoring, including Academic Game Plan, a youth

development and tutorial program aimed at improving the academic and social skills of student athletes. Also available are speech and debate classes, credit reclamation, art and music classes, high school exit exam preparation, and job skills training.

Other Benefits of High School After-School Programs (not funded by ASSETs)

✓ Decreased Crime

A recent FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *California* survey of 604 teens throughout the state found that teens left unsupervised three or more days each week after school are nearly three times more likely to engage in criminal behavior than teens who are unsupervised two or fewer days per week.

A study of the Bayview Safe Haven program in San Francisco found that, among similar youth, those who did not participate in the program were 50% more likely to be arrested than participating youth.*

✓ Decreased Gang Activity and Drug Use

The same California teen survey found that less supervised teens are:

- More than twice as likely to hang out with gang members;
- More than three times as likely to smoke marijuana; and
- More than five times as likely to use drugs other than marijuana.

Youth who participated frequently in the Boys and Girls Clubs' Gang Prevention and Intervention programs in Ventura, Garden Grove, San Dieguito, San Francisco and Tustin were less likely than others in the programs to engage in gang-associated behaviors, start wearing gang colors, be a victim of a gang attack, engage in delinquent behaviors and have contact with the juvenile justice system.*

✓ Improved Grades

At the Panorama Teen & Family Resource Center in San Diego County, 89% of high school students improved their GPA during the year they participated, and the average increase for all students was nearly one grade point (0.74), from 1.95 to 2.69 GPA.*

✓ Positive Youth Development

At the Youth Together program at six high schools in Oakland, Berkeley and Richmond, 90% of teen leaders and teen members reported having more positive relationships with adults in their school and improved leadership skills as a result of participating in the program; and 89% of teen leaders and 79% of teen members felt more connected to their communities as a result of participating in the program.*

* See FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *California's* 2004 report, *California's Next After-School Challenge: Keeping High School Teens Off the Street and On the Right Track*, available at: <http://www.fightcrime.org/ca/highschool/CAHSAS.pdf>.