



## OVERVIEW & UPDATE – JUNE 2008

**CADRE parents demonstrated power to win a new LAUSD discipline policy in 2007 – and now we’re building more power to make sure South LA families benefit from it. Our children deserve their human right to an education now!**

On February 27, 2007, after a lot of work and pressure by CADRE, LAUSD voted to pass and implement a new discipline policy that focuses on “positive behavior support”, prevention and alternatives to suspension, parent involvement, and accountability for every stakeholder to implement school discipline in a fair manner that is best for each child.

## WHAT’S NEXT IN THE CAMPAIGN?

- Goal:** The same -- To stop pushout by reducing suspensions in Local District 7
- How:** **New focus** -- A parent-led campaign to make sure the new LAUSD discipline policy is *implemented properly* and *actually benefits* schools and students by reducing suspensions
- What:** **New focus** – CADRE parents **MONITORING** how schools are actually putting the policy’s requirements into place, by visiting schools and classrooms, observing and collecting information, participating in trainings and meetings at schools, and continuing to meet with Board members, District staff, administrators, teachers, and counselors to make sure they are fulfilling our human rights to dignity, education, and participation
- When:** October 2007 – June 2009

## HOW DO YOU GET MORE INVOLVED?

Take part in CADRE meetings, trainings, and planning sessions over the next year so that you can be part of our Policy Monitoring Team!

## Major highlights:

- March-May 2006 Human rights documentation: **CADRE collected nearly 50 stories** from parents whose children had been suspended at one time, **and 120 surveys** from youth who did not finish high school to find out if their human rights were violated, which ones, and how
- June 2006 **A “people’s hearing”** – CADRE held an event at which parents and students shared

their **testimonies about suspensions, opportunity transfers, and pushout**. Over 100 people attended, including LAUSD Board Member Mónica García, a teacher from Gompers, and an attorney

- June 2006, Feb 2007 **Met with LAUSD Board members and the teachers union** (UTLA) to negotiate their support
- June 2006-Feb 2007 **Collected letters** from all over the country expressing support for the new discipline policy
- July 2006, Feb 2007 CADRE parents and allies from other organizations, including teachers, churches, and youth **spoke before the LAUSD Board of Education** urging it to pass the policy  
CADRE parents also **rallied in front of LAUSD** to bring visibility to the policy and our demands
- June, 2006, Feb 2007 CADRE **used the media** to feature parents' stories and our demand for the new policy, with stories in the Los Angeles Times, La Opinión, Our Weekly, and television and radio.
- The policy passed on February 27, 2007! (Please see LAUSD Bulletin 3638)**
- Feb 2008 **Trained more parents** on their human rights and the new LAUSD discipline policy
- April 2008 **Trained advocates** on CADRE's work and the new LAUSD discipline policy and our monitoring campaign.
- April 2008 **Held a Community Forum** to hear the perspectives of parents, teachers, and administrators at two South LA middle schools on the policy and find common ground to support its implementation.
- May 2008 **Conducted a school-site and classroom visit** to understand what Gompers Middle School is doing to implement Positive Behavior Support.
- June 2008 **Met with Local District 7 leadership and held a rally in front of Local District 7 offices** to garner support and commitment from administrators to fully implement the new Positive Behavior Support policy and reduce suspensions across Local District 7.

## What do CADRE parents get out of this victory?

As members of CADRE, parents are now associated with an independent South LA parent organization that is now known for being able to influence the LAUSD Board of Education and get parents' stories in the media. More people are aware of CADRE and recognize our parents, our focus on stopping pushout, and our ability to organize.

## What do your children get out of this victory?

YOUR children and ALL South LA children, regardless of which school they attend, should be able to receive more support when their behavior interferes with their learning. In other words, the policy will make it mandatory for behavior problems to be prevented, to be identified earlier, and to be resolved as much as possible without removing them from class or school, through suspensions or any other means. The policy also requires schools to involve parents much earlier when behavior problems start and do not improve in order to avoid more serious consequences. When all of this happens as it is supposed to, then all children at every school will be supported to stay in school and learn.

## What does the community & all of LAUSD get out of this victory?

This victory applies to every school, every community, and every child within LAUSD. When this policy is implemented, over time it will be able to make schools more welcoming, positive, supportive of children and parents, and focused on keeping all students in school so that they graduate. Changing discipline policy is like changing the environment in a school and how everyone treats each other, children AND adults. Although the discipline policy deals mainly with student behavior, it will also encourage teachers and administrators to work with parents, to improve the quality of teaching and learning, and to deal with conflict in a more productive manner. This will help all children, everywhere.

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