

# Senate Bill 607

## Keep Kids in School Act

Senator Nancy Skinner (SD-9)

### THIS BILL

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A growing body of research demonstrates that suspending students, no matter what the age, not only fails to improve student behavior it also greatly increases the likelihood that the student will fail and/or drop out. SB 607 seeks to keep students in school, increase student success rates and reduce dropout rates.

### THE ISSUE

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Under current law, students can be suspended from school for minor misbehaviors such as simply refusing to take off their hat, talking back or falling asleep in class. These needless suspensions fall under the category “defiance/disruption,” under Education Code § 48900(k).

Research and data confirm that students of color, those with disabilities and LGBTQ students are disproportionately suspended for low level subjective offenses, such as defiance/disruption. While Black students comprised 6% of total state enrollment in 2016-17, they comprised 17% of all students suspended for defiance/disruption. Students with disabilities comprised 12% of total enrollment, but 28% of all defiance/disruption suspensions. Black and Latino male students comprised 54% of all defiance/disruption suspensions in that same year but comprised only 28% of total enrollment.

The instructional time lost as a result of these suspensions is enormous. A recent study revealed that some 150,000 plus days of school were lost by students due to defiance/disruption suspensions in 2016-17.

AB 420 was enacted into law in 2014 and eliminated defiance/disruption as grounds for the suspension of students in grades K-3. Since AB 420 passed, more than 25,000 K-3 suspensions have been prevented,

incentivizing school districts to adopt alternatives to suspensions and expulsions and to keep students in schools.

New funding has assisted schools in adopting alternatives. For instance, \$37 million in grants were recently approved for districts to implement restorative practices and social emotional learning programs to fix the root of the problem for students.

Los Angeles, San Francisco, Azusa, Oakland, Pasadena, and Washington Unified School Districts have proactively eliminated defiance/disruption as grounds for suspension and expulsion for all grade levels.

### SOLUTION

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SB 607 will improve student outcomes and encourage schools to adopt alternatives to suspensions and expulsions by:

- Eliminating defiance/disruption suspensions and expulsions for students in grades K-5.
- Eliminating defiance/disruption suspensions and expulsions for students in grades 6-12 until July 1, 2023.

### CO-SPONSORS

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Anti-Defamation League  
American Civil Liberties Union of California  
Black Parallel School Board  
Brothers Sons Selves Coalition  
Children Now  
Children’s Defense Fund – California  
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids  
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights  
Mid-City Community Advocacy Network  
PolicyLink  
Public Counsel  
Youth Justice Coalition

### CONTACT

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## SUPPORT

211 Tulare County  
A Black Education Network  
Alliance for a Better Community  
Alliance for Boys and Men of Color  
All Stars Helping Kids  
American Academy of Pediatrics, Calif.  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - California  
Association of California School Administrators  
Bananas, Inc.  
Bay Area Central American Chamber of Commerce  
Bay Area Children's Association  
Bay Area Community Resources  
Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action  
Berkeley Unified School District  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California  
Black Organizing Project  
Bohbot & Riles, PC  
Boys & Girls Club of Garden Grove  
Boys & Girls Clubs of La Habra  
Breaking The Cycles.com  
Brooke Frost & Associates  
Burbank Community YMCA  
Butte County Child Abuse Prevention Council  
California Association of African-American Superintendents & Administrators  
California Center for Rural Policy  
California Coalition for Women Prisoners  
California Conference for Equality and Justice  
California District Attorneys Association  
California Partnership  
California School-Age Consortium  
California School-Based Health Alliance  
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo School of Education  
CASA of San Mateo County  
Catholic Charities- San Fran., Marin & San Mateo  
Caulder Lamm Alliance for Children, Inc.  
Center for Collective Wisdom  
Center for Leadership, Equity, and Research  
Center for Restorative Solutions  
Central California Asthma Collaborative  
Central California Children's Institute  
Central California Educational Opportunity Center  
Child Abuse Prevention Council (Contra Costa)  
Child Abuse Prevention Council (San Joaquin)  
Child Care Coordinating Council (San Mateo)  
Child Care Partnership Council (San Mateo)  
Children's Bureau of Southern California  
Children's Network of Solano County  
Civicorps  
Clear As A Bell Community Resource Center  
Coalition for Restorative Schools  
CocoKids  
Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth  
Common Sense Kids Action

Commonweal Juvenile Justice Program  
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice  
Community Asset Development Redefining Education (CADRE)  
Community Health Councils  
Community Investment Strategies  
Community Works West  
CommUniverCity San Jose  
Cope Family Center  
Crystal Stairs, Inc.  
CuriOdyssey  
Dignity in Schools Campaign – Bay Area  
D'inking Publishing  
Dolores Huerta Foundation  
Dorris Dann Kids Campus  
East Bay Asian Youth Center (EBAYC)  
East Bay Community Law Center  
Edgewood Center for Children and Families  
Educated Men with Meaningful Messages  
Educators for Excellence Los Angeles  
Equal Justice Society  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Fair Chance  
Faith in the Valley Kern  
Families Forward Learning Center  
Family Connections  
Fathers & Families of San Joaquin  
Felony Murder Elimination Project  
Fidelity HER  
First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, UCC  
First 5 Butte County  
First 5 San Mateo County  
Footsteps Child Care, Inc.  
Fresno Council on Child Abuse Prevention  
Friends of the Family  
Future Partners  
Futures Without Violence  
Gallagher-Chapman Insurance  
Genders and Sexualities Alliance Network  
Good Samaritan Family Resource Center  
Good Seed Community Development Corp.  
GO Public Schools  
Greater Sacramento Urban League  
Guatemalan American Chamber of Commerce  
Half Moon Bay Brewing Company  
Health Connected  
Healthier Kids Foundation Santa Clara County  
Healthy Cities Tutoring  
Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA)  
Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, San Francisco  
HOMEY (Homies Organizing the Mission to Empower Youth)  
Howard Watkins Photography  
Inn at Mavericks  
InnerCity Struggle  
InPlay

John Burton Advocates for Youth  
Khmer Girls in Action  
Kidango, Inc.  
Kids in Common  
Kids' Own Wisdom  
Kidworks  
Latino and Latina Roundtable (San Gabriel & Pomona Valley)  
Learning Rights Law Center  
Legal Advocates for Children and Youth  
Legal Services for Children  
LEMONADE Creative Consulting  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
Los Angeles United Methodist Urban Foundation  
Los Angeles Urban League  
M Street Media  
Making Change For Children  
MILPA  
MindSpark Custom Learning Solutions  
Mission: Readiness  
MomsRising/ MamásConPoder  
Mystical Healing Touch  
NAACP Pomona Valley  
National Center for Youth Law  
Nicaraguan American Chamber of Commerce  
OnePercent for Education  
Optimal Solutions Consulting  
Orange County Food Access Coalition  
Our Family Coalition  
Pacific Community Solutions, Inc.  
Parent Voices San Joaquin  
Partnership for Children and Youth  
Partners In Impact  
Peace Over Violence  
Peninsula Family Service  
Persyn Law & Policy  
PICO California  
Prevention Institute  
Project Edquity  
Project KnuckleHead  
Project Rebound  
Project WHAT!  
Public Health Advocates  
Public Profit  
Puente de la Costa Sur  
Radio Bilingüe, Inc.  
Raymond Management  
Ready Nation  
Regional Economic Association Leaders of California (REAL Coalition)  
Resilience Orange County  
Resource Development Associates  
Restorative Schools Vision Project  
Rise Together

Riverside County Alliance for Boys and Men of Color  
Roberts Family Development Center  
Root & Rebound  
RYSE Center  
Sacramento City Unified School District  
Sacramento LGBT Community Center  
Safe Place for Youth  
St. Mary's Center  
San Fernando Valley (SFV) NAACP  
San Mateo County Office of Education  
Sigma Beta Xi, Inc.  
Sojourn  
SOMOS Mayfair  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center  
Special Needs Network, Inc.  
Students for Education Reform  
Success in Challenges  
Summit Bank  
The Basic Fund  
The Big Lift  
The Carol and James Collins Foundation  
The Childs-Pace Foundation, Inc  
The Education Trust-West  
The HAWK Institute  
The Latin American and Caribbean Business Chamber of Commerce  
The Living Room  
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health  
The Renaissance Project  
The Rhythmic Arts Project  
The Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
Thrive, The Alliance of Nonprofits for San Mateo County  
Trauma Camp  
United Cambodian Community  
Urban League of San Diego County  
Valley Oak Children's Services  
Vision to Learn  
Western Center on Law & Poverty  
W. Haywood Burns Institute  
WHH Foundation  
Women's Foundation of California  
Worksite Wellness LA  
Xpose The Gap Media  
YMCA Marin County Youth Court  
Yolo Conflict Resolution Center  
Young Women's Freedom Center  
Youth ALIVE  
Youth Alliance  
Youth Leadership Institute