

Dropouts Into Graduates



A New Approach to Serving Youth on Probation

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Welcome to the Learning Labs on our Website



- The Chaser Model
- Effectively Serving Teen Mothers and their Infants
- Our Homeboy Partnership

Now and Coming Up



- A New Approach to Probation Youth (October)
- Community School: Partnership Approach (November)
- A New Approach to Educating Targeted Populations (January)
- Middle School Prevention of Dropouts (February)
- Harm Reduction: Drug Use (March)

Our Focus



The mission of Learning Works Charter School (LW) is to provide a personalized, rigorous academic program and relevant life skills to disengaged youth who have dropped out of school. Focus:

- Rigor
- Relevance
- Relationship



Target Population

The students we serve are inaccurately called, “at-risk” students, but are instead in “crisis” or “risk” students. They have already demonstrated a behavior or condition that exceeds “at-risk” such as becoming pregnant or entering the juvenile delinquency system or dropping out of school. Our target population includes:

- In-school and out-of-school dropouts
- Probation youth who are credit-deficient
- An option for students who are expelled from PUSD
- Pregnant teens/teen mother students
- Non-passing CAHSEE students who did not graduate
- Students ages 18-20 who wish to return to school to receive a high school diploma

History of Learning Works



- High-risk youth started to come to our tutoring center in 2005-06
- Convinced PUSD to expand CIS to our facility in March 2006
- Operated, in essence, as a dependent charter through June 2008
- Chartered in June 2008 and opened September 2008
- Added middle school in September 2009

History of Learning Works (cont.)



- WASC accredited 2010 and renewed in 2013
- Added Homeboy partnership in January 2010
- Added artWORKS in Fall 2010
- Added infant program in January 2013
- Added HopeWorks in Spring 2013
- Charter renewed in Spring 2013 for five years

What Makes Us Different?



- Chasers

- Principles

- FRESH START
- FORGIVENESS & UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
- SAFE HAVEN
- REALITY & POTENTIAL
- DESIRE TO GIVE BACK AND BE HEARD
- HONESTY
- JOY & FUN
- IRRATIONAL COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS

Our Probation History



Oh the stories we could tell!!!!

Our Court Presence



- Trust with the Courts & Probation
- Present and Available
- Letters of Support
- Part of Defense and Support Team
- Student defense, not parent defense
- Helping explain the system to parents/family
- Knowledgeable



“Wrap Around Service” or Probation Chasing

- Learning Works is a One Stop place
- Education
- Individual or Group Counseling
- Drug Counseling
- Drug Testing
- Community Service
- Parenting Classes
- Support with Probation Appointments
- Helping with Fines
- Homeboy Industry Support

How Has the System Changed



- Even more overburdened Court System
- Even more overburdened Probation and Parole System
- Loss of Traffic Court (minor charges)
- More felony charges
- More charged as adults
- Longer sentences



Other Areas Involved

- Victims Assistance
- Helping students get driver's license
- Policing
- Know Your Rights training
- Bail bonds information
- Support our students financially who are locked up
- New letter writing ministry
- House Arrest

Next Steps



- It's a very broken system: Advocacy and Information
- More youth employment and vocational training
- Intervention at the middle school level
- Increased adult education/graduation transition services
- More mentoring and positive adults

Questions?

