
ALL STARS: TODAY'S FOSTER YOUTH

CORONA NORCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



A QUICK

INTRODUCTION

- Jenna Mendez | Intervention Counselor
- Caroline Cabal | STEM Counselor
- Annie Hanson | Excel Teacher
- Kiki Mendoza | Assistant Principal
- Jeremy Goins | Principal

WHY?

- U.S. - 430,000
- California - 62,000
- Riverside County - 4,700-6,200

People who had been in foster care as children had *higher* rates of PTSD (25%) than US war veterans (12%)

"The AFCARS Report," 2016; "Number of Children in Foster Care," 2017



WHY?

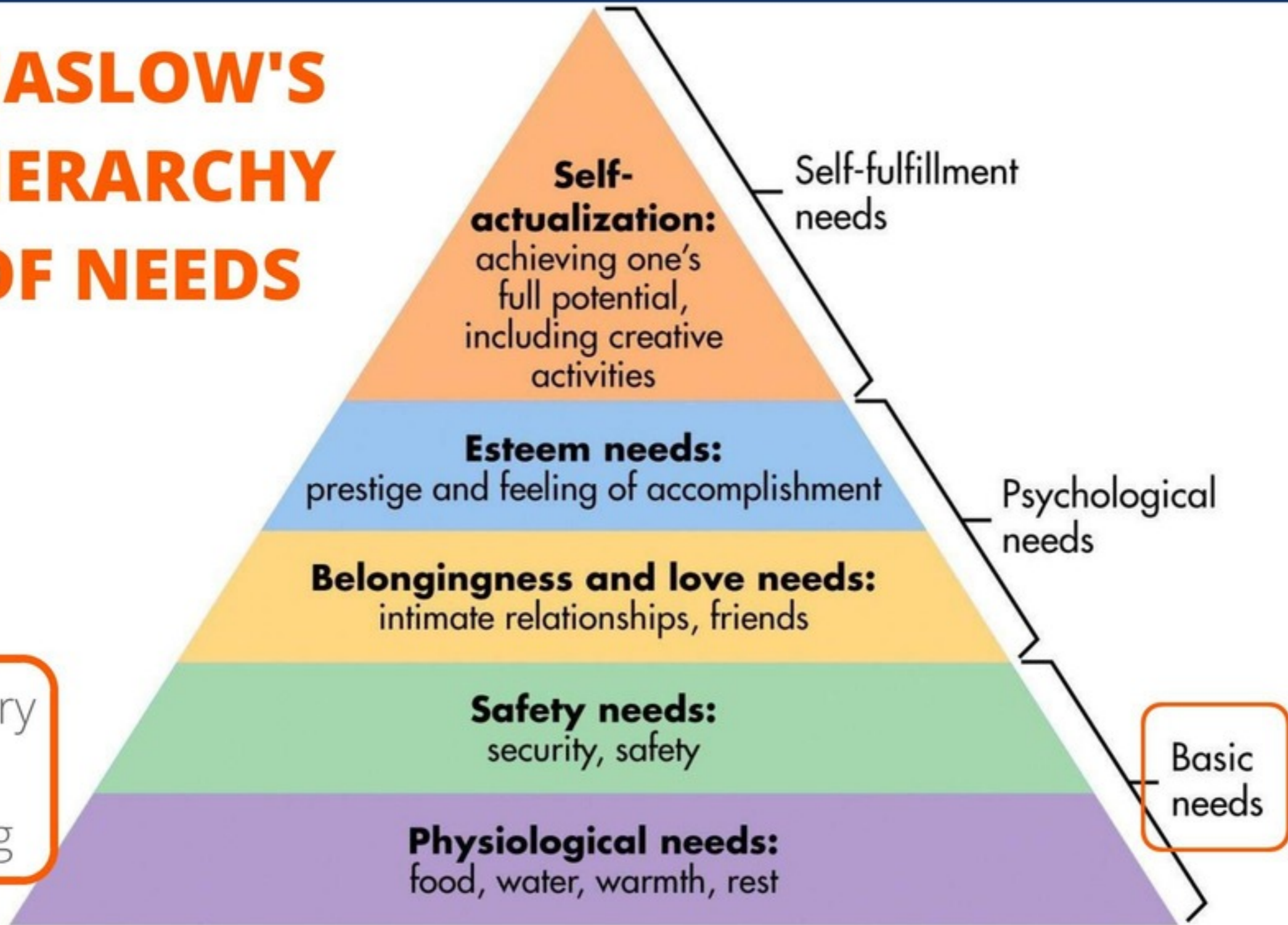
By age 24

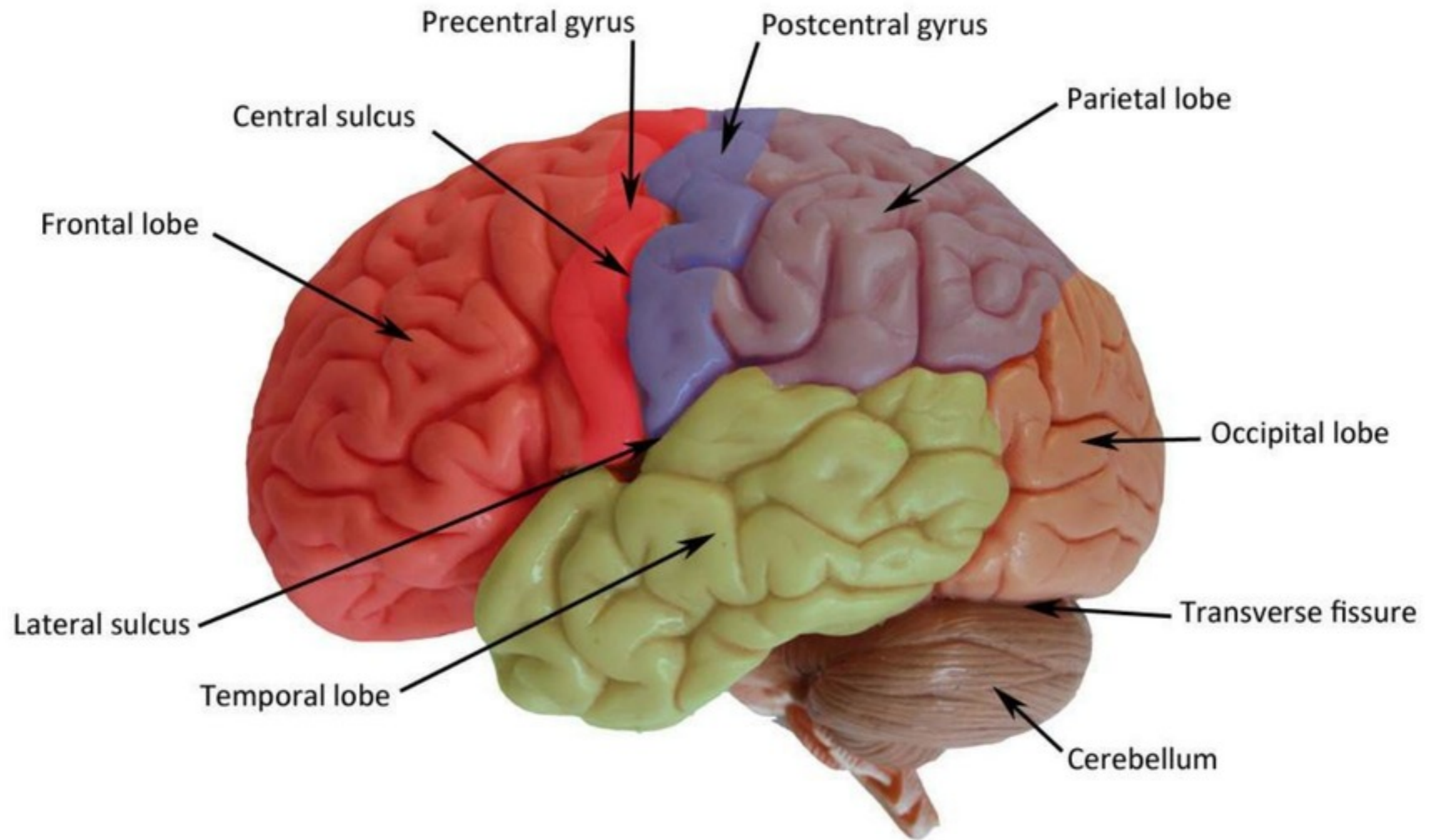
- 67% of women have children
- 60% of men have been convicted of a crime
- 24% are homeless
- 52% are unemployed
- 3% have a college degree

"Foster Kids Face Tough Times," 2010



MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



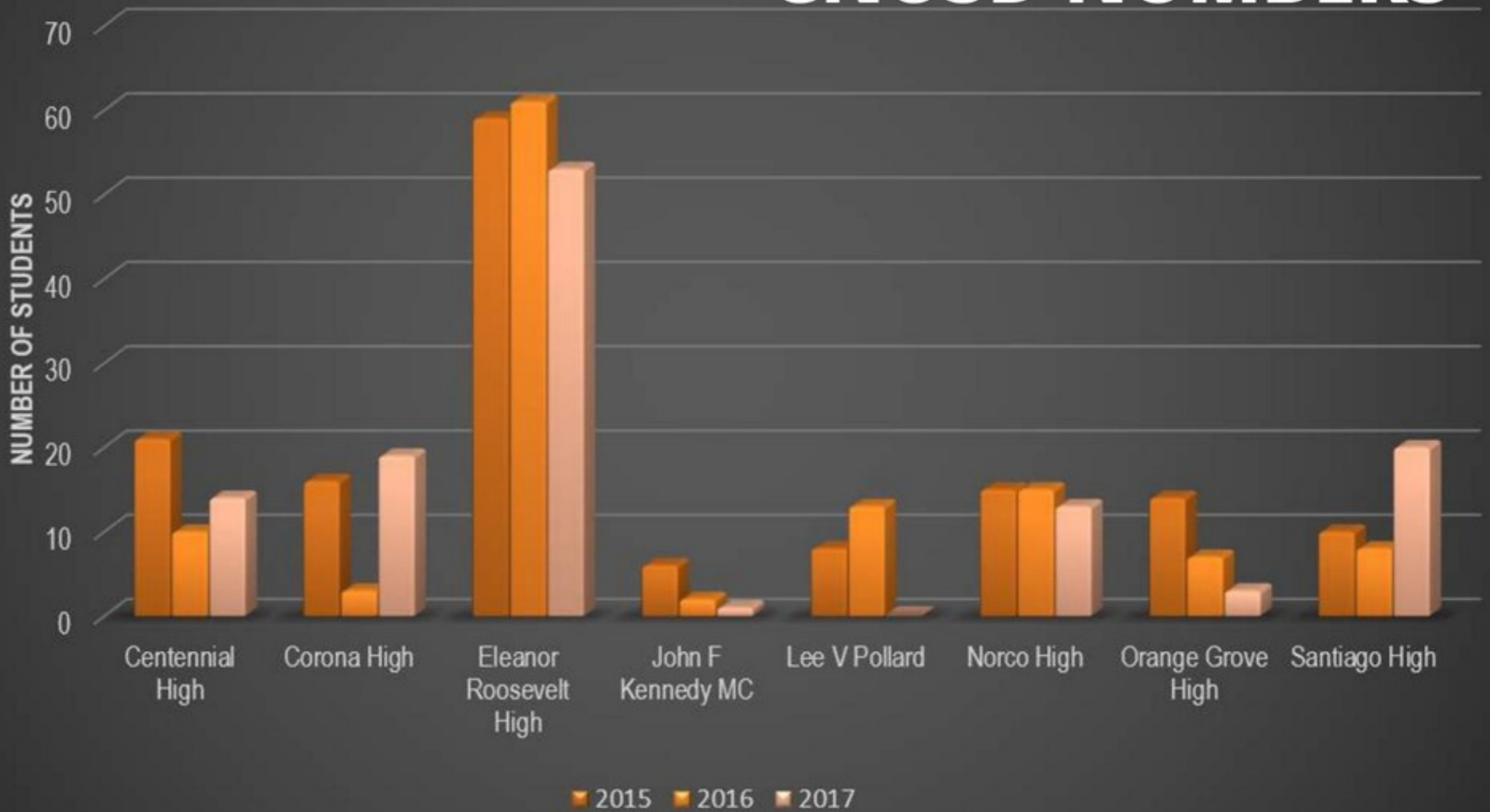


**"PEOPLE DON'T
CARE HOW MUCH
YOU KNOW UNTIL
THEY KNOW HOW
MUCH YOU CARE"**

JOHN C. MAXWELL

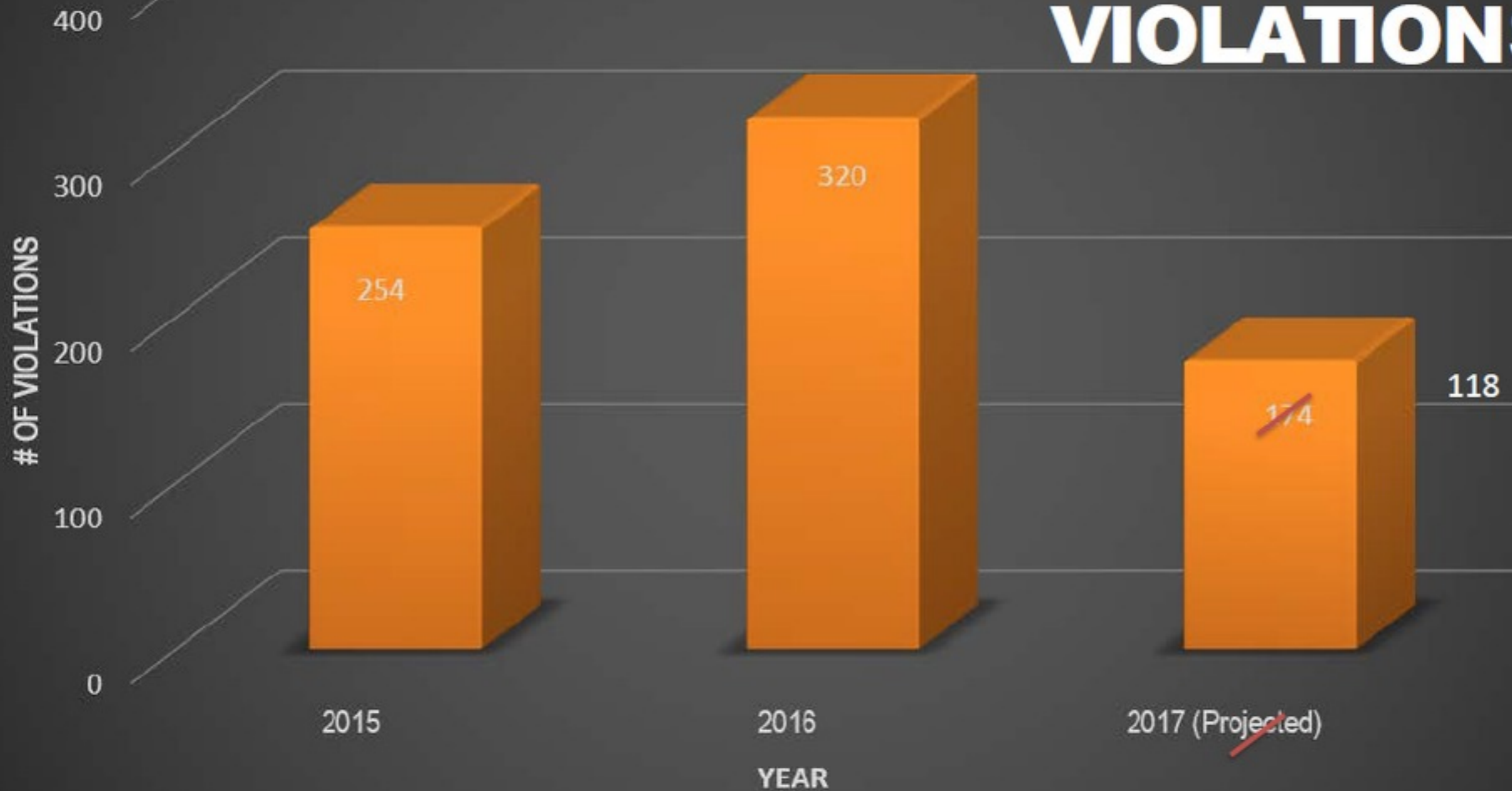
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CNUSD NUMBERS

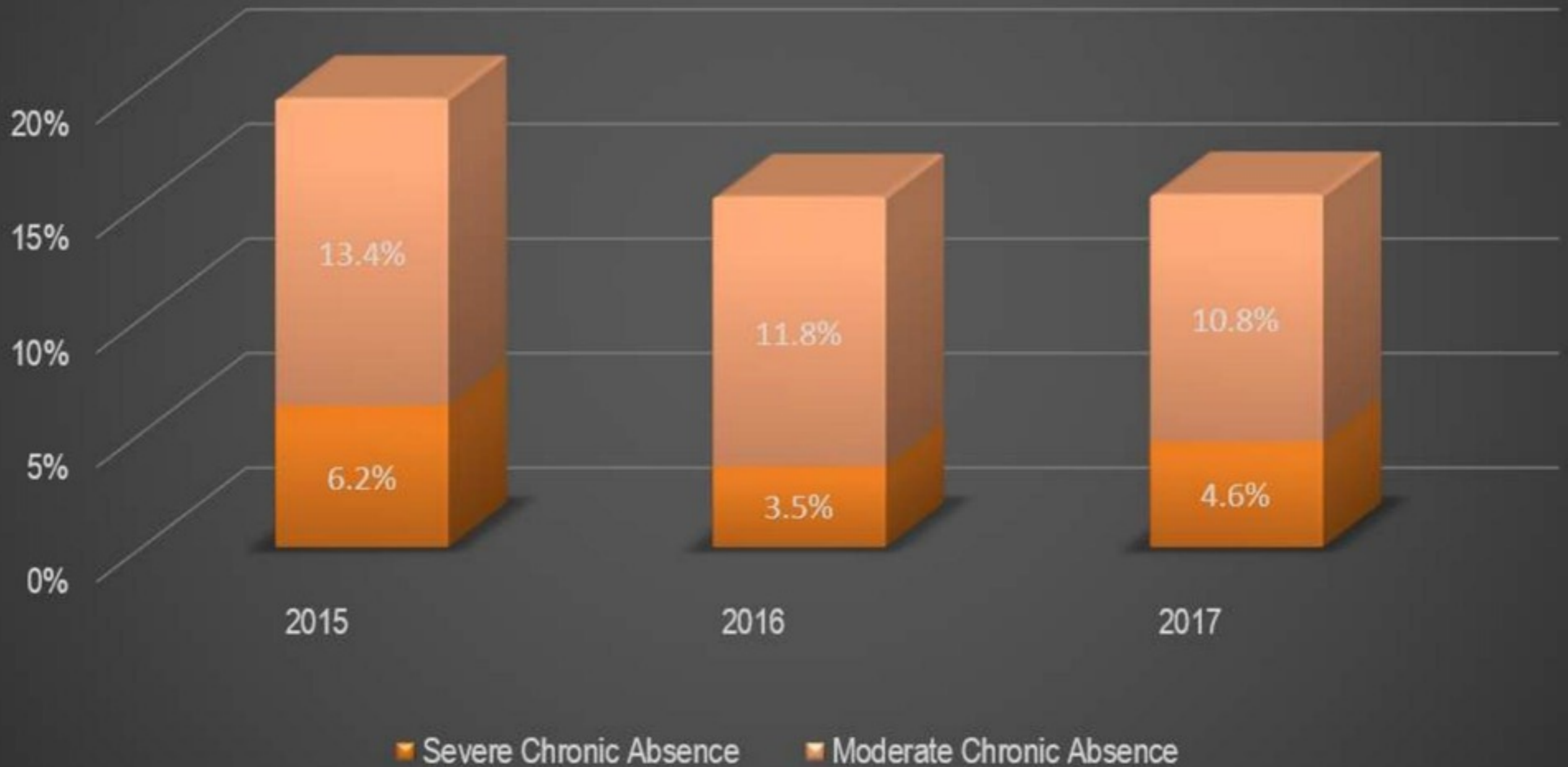


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BEHAVIOR VIOLATIONS

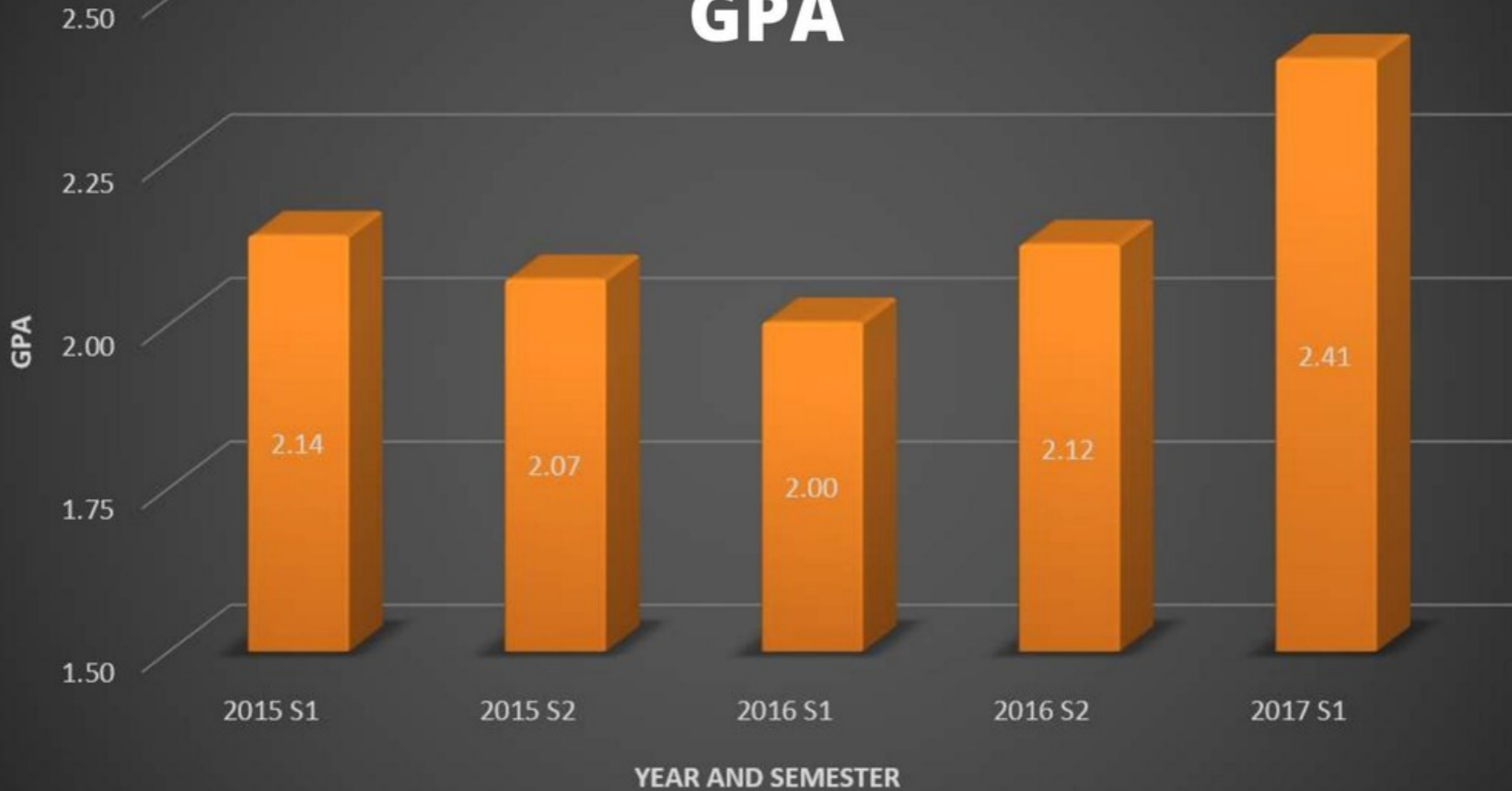


ABSENCES



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GPA



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OUR ALL STAR PROGRAM

PURPOSE

Foster youth are often the *invisible* under-served population

Our program is designed to build a village for these "at-promise" students

ACHIEVEMENT

Helping close the achievement gap in terms of academics, attendance, and behavior

COMMUNITY

Increasing student engagement by establishing a social support network and providing emotional, informational, and academic support

FUTURE PLANNING

Providing opportunities and assistance in planning for the future

ALL STAR FOCUSES

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OUR ALL STAR

CLUB

All foster youth are informed of this club and encouraged to be active participants

We hold monthly meetings and check in with each student quarterly

FOSTER SUPPORT

The club is designed to provide a safe space of students from similar backgrounds to socialize

RESOURCES + GUEST SPEAKERS

We discuss resources for the students to access now and after they age out. We bring in guest speakers who were former foster youth or currently help foster youth

FUN + FOOD

We inform them of upcoming events and always provide food at all meetings

OUR ALL STAR

EXCEL CLASS

We created a class for foster youth only with between 10-20 students

Teacher should be trauma-informed and have a counseling partner

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

Class starts with "family time" where the focus is on social training, emotional regulation, coping/life skills, + future planning

ACADEMIC

The second hour of class focuses on academic support through tutoring, grade checks, credit recovery, and meeting with case carriers

CELEBRATIONS

We celebrate events and all victories! Birthdays, mentor events, achievements, etc.

OUR ALL STAR

MENTORS

We created our Mustang Mentor program for foster youth to be paired with an adult staff member on campus

The program is voluntary for our students and staff

MENTOR SUPPORT

Our program is designed for our students to have an adult on campus they trust to go to. We encourage bi-monthly check-ins

TRAUMA-INFORMED

Staff are trained on how to best interact with the needs of these students and learn the basics of trauma-informed care

FUN EVENTS

We have quarterly mentor events. Mentors are encouraged to attend events with their mentee

OUR ALL STAR

EVENTS

We have events 2-3 times a month for our foster students

This year, ERHS hosted the kick-off event in the form of a UNITY Forum

DISTRICT EVENTS

Events with all foster youth in the district. Guest speakers, DJs, photo booth, and lunch

FIELD TRIPS + CAMP

Field trips include to the fire station, colleges, and high ropes course. UNITY camp in Big Bear allows students space to socialize and to learn about themselves/others

OTHER EVENTS

Lunch at the middle schools, senior mentor/mentee dinner, gifts at the holidays, etc

PROVIDING

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

In addition to social-emotional support, we supplement our academic counselors in providing academic support for our foster students

EXCEL CLASS

COLLEGE VISITS

Field trips to CSUSB, CSUSM, Cal Poly Pomona, CSUF, and Norco College

COLLEGE APPS

Providing assistance for all college applications, and Norco College in particular

FAFSA ASSISTANCE

ACADEMIC CHECK-IN

AB216

SOURCES OF
FUNDING

DISTRICT

LCAP and LEA

**SCHOOL SITE
COUNCIL**

DONATIONS

From staff, the community, Miguel's Jr., Foundation Foundation, community food bank, Corona City Rotary, etc. Donations include monetary, food, school supplies, spirit wear, ASB cards, camp supplies, clothing, etc

FUNDRAISERS

PARTNERING WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Speakers (financial literacy, prior foster youth, non-profits, RCOE, MSWs, military, etc.)
- Financial help
- Life skills and transitioning out of the system
- Mentoring
- Field trips and college visits
- District All Star events
- Monthly All Star meetings
- All Star Excel class
- Incoming freshmen outreach

ALL STAR FOSTER PROGRAM



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OUR DATA SPEAKS

Our past 3 years of support has shown:

- Increase attendance (20%)
- Increase academic performance (20%)
- Decrease of behavior incidents (36%)



FUTURE

- Big Buddies - our foster students working with elementary and middle school foster youth
- Pen pals with gifts at the holidays
- Positive affirmations
- Collaboration with students' guardians and social workers
- More data
- Amusement parks



STARTING SMALL

- Identify your at-risk population -- homeless, low SES, foster, behavior
- Collect data
- Support from administration and buy-in from staff
- Meet monthly -- lunch, snacks
- Birthday notes/cards
- Mentor program
- Explore community resources

**PEOPLE WANT TO
HELP, YOU JUST
HAVE TO SHOW
THEM WHAT YOU
NEED**

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RESOURCES

- CA Dept of Ed: Foster Youth Services cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/fy/
- Foster Youth/Caregiver Resources iFoster.org
- Life Skills Training InspireLifeSkills.org
- Foster Youth Education Toolkit kids-alliance.org
- LCAP/LEA and Local Control Funding
- College EOPS, Guardian/Renaissance Scholars
- Chafee Grant and other college funding sources

**... AND SO DO OUR STUDENTS'
TESTIMONIES**

ALL STARS HAS BEEN A JOURNEY FOR ME. FROM BEING A STUDENT WHO GETS IN FIGHTS AND NOT CARING ABOUT SCHOOL TO NOW I HAVEN'T GOTTEN IN TROUBLE AND I CARE ABOUT MY SUCCESS THANKS TO THE HELP THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR ME. MY MENTOR HAS HELPED ME MENTALLY TO GET MY MIND RIGHT AND HAS REALLY BEEN THERE FOR ME THROUGH THE JOURNEY. _____

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CONTACTS

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