

California's Expectant and Parenting Students' educational equity and access are severely threatened under budget cuts. Expectant and Parenting students and their children, served under the *California School-Age Families Education (Cal-SAFE) program will be left further and further behind in California.* (See also Impact of Cuts and lack of Compliance with Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001)

The **California School Age Families Education program** was established in 2000, to provide the support and resources that students and their children need. The program has served over 72,000 students and 42,000 children from 2000-2007 (duplicated count). It has been a model of success. The Cal-SAFE program offers early care and education at school sites, case management and counseling to help students succeed in school, child development classes for the parent and child development activities and programs for the children of student parents. The program not only helps the students complete school, but also prepares their children for pre-school, which research has shown is instrumental in the future success of all children.

The SBX3 4 budget enactment of February 2009 guts the California School-Age Families Education (Cal-SAFE) program. This categorical program is specifically designed to meet the needs of California's expectant and parenting students and their children.

Misplaced Tier Placement in the Budget

- Cal-SAFE was placed in a Tier 3 category in the recent budget revision. Tier 3 allows Local Educational Areas (LEAs) to use the Cal-SAFE dollars in any fashion as desired, disregarding current program quality, content, regulations, and data collection. Curiously, there is only 1 other direct service program in the Tier 3 category; typically, Tier 3 encompasses programs that address infrastructure or service coordination.
- Moreover, this Tier 3 placement allows for program cuts. Given that Cal-SAFE was already cut by 15% in FY '08-'09 and is now to be cut by 5% again in FY '09-'10, many LEAs are indicating that they will be strapped to keep the program going in the best practice model of academic, support services and developmental childcare. Thus, while the State Superintendent acknowledges that the underlying statutes for this categorical program remain in place, there will be no program structures, and indeed, insufficient funding to deliver what has proven to be a very successful program.
- **If Cal-SAFE were transferred to Tier 1**, the carefully crafted Cal-SAFE mandates and program requirements could *not* be "flexible" but would be left in place, thereby ensuring that Federal and State mandates for educational and support services necessary for at-risk teen parent students and infant/toddlers remain in place.
- **If the Cal-SAFE program is transferred to Category Tier 1** (like that of CA Child Development services) it would not be cut and school programs could continue across the State for these at-risk students and their children.

Equity and Access Issues Abound

- Title IX Equity issues are raised by destroying equity and access to a school program that meets the needs of the student parents and their children
 - A subset issue is a two-tiered system of care for teen parent students in CA: those LEAs that might be willing to hold fast on their Cal-SAFE programs, use general fund from their revenue limit, will have childcare and supports services while many other LEAs will not for their pregnant and parenting students
- Health and Safety mandates under Title 22 of the CA Educational Code are at issue as they relate to the oversight and implementation of developmental childcare
 - A subset issue is a two-tiered system of care for the children of teen parents in CA: 1 set of infants/toddlers might (if lucky) receive developmental childcare with school readiness activities under the very limited available slots in Title 22 and/or Title 5 settings while others will not and we will all face the potential consequences of unmonitored care for these infants/toddlers

The elimination and/or cutback of Cal-SAFE will have dire consequences for California: Student Parents will dropout and disappear when faced with attending large schools that cannot and will not account for their parenting status in an integrated program that addresses their academic, support service and developmental childcare needs.

California will incur increased repeat births to teen parents and decreased school-readiness for the children of teen parents if this model program is displaced or abandoned.