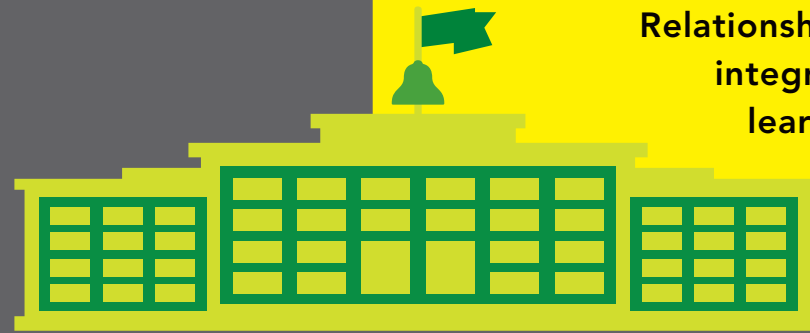


# FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR, RELATIONSHIP CENTERED SCHOOLS



Relationship Centered Schools  
integrate social emotional  
learning into school life.

## ARE THE KEY TO SUCCEEDING IN COLLEGE, CAREER, AND COMMUNITY LIFE.



### INVEST IN STAFF

- Additional staff to support relationship centered programs (Restorative Justice, PBIS, Community Schools, etc.)
- Hiring and retention of teachers of color who connect well with students
- Social emotional trainings with ongoing support and mentorship for staff and principals

### VALUE STUDENT VOICE

- Student input on hiring and performance of teachers and staff
- Surveys of students on school climate and culture
- Student trainers on unconscious bias, restorative practices, etc. for staff and students

### CREATE SPACE FOR RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- Smaller houses or academies of 4 year cohorts within schools
- Mandatory student and teacher orientation week(s)
- Master schedule changes to create more time for advisory, collaboration or staff development time

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## BELIEVE IN ME CAMPAIGN

# WHAT IS A RELATIONSHIP CENTERED SCHOOL?

Students of color define Relationship Centered Schools as ones that:

- 1 Unite social emotional learning and academics
- 2 Ensure all students reach their full potential regardless of race or zip code
- 3 Provide staff with the capacity and conditions to connect with students
- 4 Address trauma, build resilience, and confront bias to create healthy relationships
- 5 Lead together with students, parents and staff working towards a shared vision



## THE PROBLEM

**THE BELIEF GAP** is the product of unequal expectations based on race and zip code.

**1 OUT OF 3**

students in California cannot identify a single caring adult on campus.



**30%** of African American students, and **22%** of Latino students drop out



## THE SOLUTION

Research shows that schools that invest in **RELATIONSHIPS** between students and staff see:



**DECREASES**  
in suspensions, chronic absence, and dropouts



**INCREASES**  
• in attendance, graduation, and test scores  
• in staff satisfaction and school climate



## WHY NOW? EQUITY

Schools now have funding to target **HIGH NEEDS STUDENTS** who benefit the most from Relationship Centered Schools. This aligns with LCFF and ESSA and builds on existing investments such as Restorative Practices, PBIS, Growth Mindset, and Community Schools.

**CALL TO ACTION**

Join the statewide movement to close the Belief Gap and transform our schools. Learn more about our campaigns in Fresno, Oakland, San Jose, and Long Beach to create Relationship Centered Schools at [www.caljustice.org/believeinme](http://www.caljustice.org/believeinme)

**#BELIEVEINMECA**

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