



## **Data Match Results**

### **Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services, and Los Angeles County Probation Department, April 2006**

#### **Introduction**

The Los Angeles County Education Coordinating Council was established by the Board of Supervisors in 2005 to engage County departments, school districts, youth and community groups in fostering educational success for youth involved in LA's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The Council's "Expecting More: A Blueprint for Raising the Educational Achievement of Foster and Probation Youth" was approved by the Board of Supervisors in February 2006 ([www.educationcoordinatingcouncil.org](http://www.educationcoordinatingcouncil.org)). Since information sharing between schools and County departments raises many challenges, the ECC chose to begin making small steps toward improving shared knowledge about the educational conditions of these youth by matching data across systems. Based on initial discussions, the Los Angeles Unified School District's Planning, Assessment and Research Department agreed to complete a data match that would answer questions posed by the County departments and other stakeholder groups at the aggregate level. LAUSD did not provide identifiable data about any individual student, and all steps were taken within the confidentiality requirements approved by the Juvenile Court.

This first-time data match between the County's largest school district and the Departments of Children and Family Services and Probation represents an extraordinary accomplishment, both because it provides important information about the educational performance of many of our most vulnerable youth, and because it signals a new level of collaboration between schools and County departments. The Council is extremely grateful to LAUSD staff for their willingness to take on this complex technical task, and we look forward to on-going partnerships with LAUSD and the other school districts in LA County.

The results that are reported here should be taken in the context of an on-going collaboration that will continue to refine and improve available data over time. While the technique of data matching can be instructive, it also has limitations which readers should keep in mind. First and foremost, the data provide an aggregate snapshot of the overlap between active caseloads of County departments in December 2005 and LAUSD enrollment for February 2006. The youth and families served by DCFS and Probation are very mobile, including both geographic mobility as well as changes in case status, so these data reflect overlap at a particular point in time. Second, matching data across different electronic systems is reasonably effective, but does not provide 100% accuracy. Results will include any errors in the initial electronic records as well as a small

percentage of matching error. Thus these data provide a representative snapshot of the cross-institutional overlap between LAUSD, DCFS and Probation which should be useful for cross-institutional planning, but they should not be interpreted as providing exact data on the needs of individual students.

**Background**

This report presents results of a data match between the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Los Angeles County Probation Department. DCFS and Probation data files were shared with LAUSD to identify DCFS supervised children who were either in out of home placement (foster care) or living at home with their families and students who were currently under the supervision of the Probation Department.

The data match used DCFS and Probation active caseloads as of December 2005 with the LAUSD February 2006 enrollment file. There were 8,027 DCFS students actively enrolled as of February and 2,746 Probation students actively enrolled. There were 102 students that were identified in both the DCFS and Probation data files.

**Table 1  
DCFS and Probation Students Enrolled in LAUSD as of February 2006**

|   | # of Students |
|---|---------------|
| <b>DCFS Students</b>  |               |
| In Home Care  | 3,084         |
| Out of Home Care  | 4,943         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>8,027</b>  |
| <b>Probation</b>  | <b>2,746</b>  |
| <b>Students Identified in both Probation and DCFS files</b> | <b>102</b>    |

**Demographics**

DCFS students were distributed in all types of schools within LAUSD. Over 100 DCFS children were enrolled in the Special Education Infant/Preschool Support Services program and 94 DCFS children were enrolled in Early Childhood programs. Twelve DCFS students were in Special Education non-public schools. Probation students were primarily clustered in secondary schools, however, 13 students were in Special Education non-public schools.

**Table 2 – Distribution by School Type**

| School Type              | DCFS   |         | Probation |         |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|---------|
|                          | Number | Percent | Number    | Percent |
| Infant Program           | 118    | 1%      | 0         |         |
| Early Childhood          | 94     | 1%      | 0         |         |
| Elementary School        | 3,541  | 44%     | 19        | 1%      |
| Middle School            | 1,776  | 22%     | 242       | 9%      |
| Senior High School       | 2,120  | 26%     | 2,433     | 89%     |
| Multilevel               | 195    | 2%      | 34        | 1%      |
| Special Education School | 171    | 2%      | 5         | 0%      |
| Non Public               | 12     | 0%      | 13        | 0%      |
| Grand Total              | 8,027  |         | 2,746     |         |

### Grade Level

DCFS students were fairly evenly distributed across grade levels, except for grade 9. Districtwide, 9.7% of the population is in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, however, among DCFS students, 11.3% were in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. For probation students, the majority of students were in grades 9-12.

**Table 3 – Distribution by Grade Level**

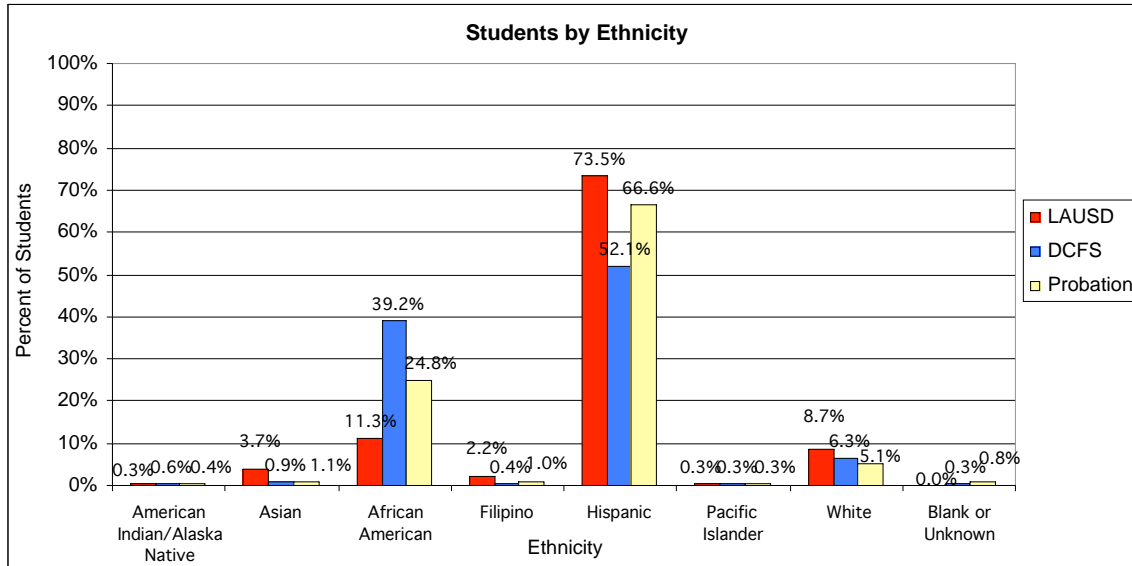
| Grade Level           | LAUSD   |         | DCFS   |         | Probation |         |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|---------|
|                       | Number  | Percent | Number | Percent | Number    | Percent |
| Infant/Early Ed/Pre-K |         |         | 179    | 2.2%    |           |         |
| Kindergarten          | 54,502  | 7.5%    | 485    | 6.0%    |           |         |
| Grade 1               | 56,872  | 7.8%    | 542    | 6.8%    |           |         |
| Grade 2               | 56,098  | 7.7%    | 499    | 6.2%    |           |         |
| Grade 3               | 56,547  | 7.8%    | 497    | 6.2%    | 3         | 0.1%    |
| Grade 4               | 56,604  | 7.8%    | 536    | 6.7%    | 6         | 0.2%    |
| Grade 5               | 57,466  | 7.9%    | 590    | 7.4%    | 9         | 0.3%    |
| Grade 6               | 56,302  | 7.7%    | 646    | 8.0%    | 29        | 1.1%    |
| Grade 7               | 53,853  | 7.4%    | 625    | 7.8%    | 73        | 2.7%    |
| Grade 8               | 50,290  | 6.9%    | 627    | 7.8%    | 182       | 6.6%    |
| Grade 9               | 72,307  | 9.9%    | 907    | 11.3%   | 886       | 32.3%   |
| Grade 10              | 53,673  | 7.4%    | 583    | 7.3%    | 756       | 27.5%   |
| Grade 11              | 41,673  | 5.7%    | 437    | 5.4%    | 487       | 17.7%   |
| Grade 12              | 30,104  | 4.1%    | 275    | 3.4%    | 291       | 10.6%   |
| Ungraded              | 30,808  | 4.2%    | 353    | 4.4%    | 2         | 0.1%    |
| Unknown               |         |         | 246    | 3.1%    | 22        | 0.8%    |
| Total:                | 727,099 |         | 8,027  |         | 2,746     |         |

LAUSD Source: 2005 Preliminary Ethnic Survey

### Ethnicity

The majority of DCFS students were African-American or Hispanic. While African-American students constitute 11% of the students in LAUSD, among DCFS students, African-Americans represent 39.2% of the population. This disproportionality was also observed among Probation students, of which 24.8% were African-American.

**Chart 4 – Distribution by Ethnicity**



**Gender**

The distribution of DCFS and Probation students by gender are exhibited on Table 5. DCFS students are almost equally divided between males (47.6%) and females (49.3%). Unlike DCFS students, probation students are largely male (79.9%).

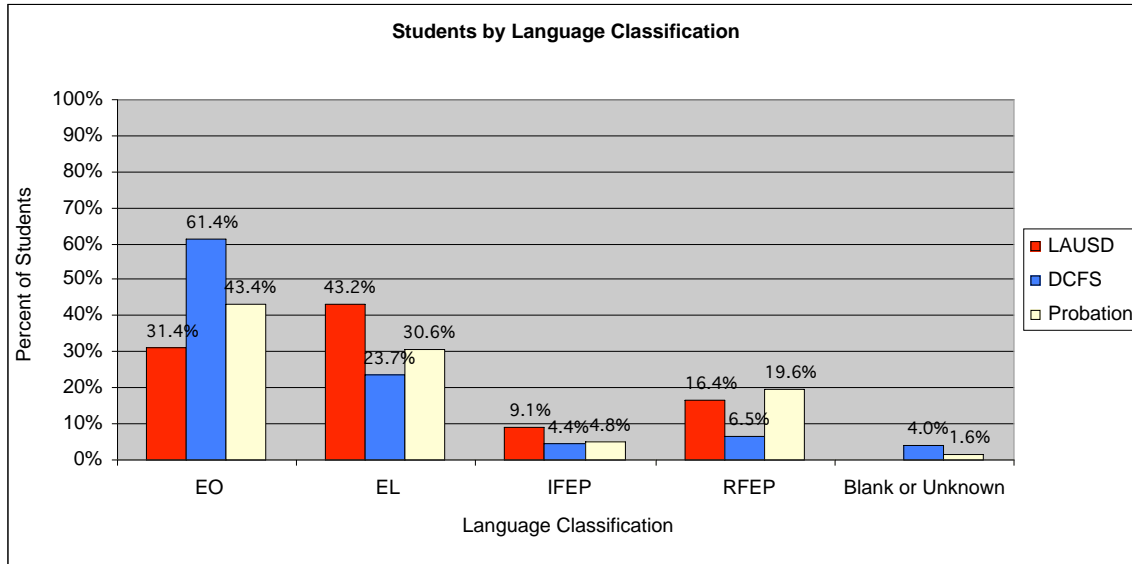
**Table 5 – Distribution by Gender**

|           | Male   |         | Female |         | Unknown |         |
|-----------|--------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
|           | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number  | Percent |
| DCFS      | 3,824  | 47.6%   | 3,957  | 49.3%   | 246     | 3.1%    |
| Probation | 2,193  | 79.9%   | 531    | 19.3%   | 22      | 0.8%    |

**Language Classification**

The distribution of DCFS and Probation students by language classification differed from LAUSD as a whole. Far more DCFS and Probation students (61.4% and 43.4%) were classified as English Only, compared to LAUSD (31.4%). While English Learners comprise 43.2% of the LAUSD population, only 23.7% of DCFS students were English Learners.

**Chart 6 – Distribution by Language Classification**



**Special Education**

The distribution of DCFS and Probation students by Special Education status closely mirrors the statistics for LAUSD. Most of the Special Education DCFS and Probation students were identified as having Specific Learning Disabilities, which is similar to LAUSD as a whole.

**Table 7 – Distribution by Special Education Eligibility**

|                                    | Number of Students with an IEP |       |           | Percent of Students with an IEP |       |           |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|-----------|---------------------------------|-------|-----------|
|                                    | LAUSD                          | DCFS  | Probation | LAUSD                           | DCFS  | Probation |
| All Special Education Students     | 80,929                         | 2,070 | 668       |                                 |       |           |
| Autism                             | 6,127                          | 71    |           | 7.6%                            | 3.4%  |           |
| Deafness                           | 430                            |       |           | 0.5%                            |       |           |
| Developmental Delay                | 2,186                          | 48    |           | 2.7%                            | 2.3%  |           |
| Emotional Disturbance              | 3,067                          | 109   | 33        | 3.8%                            | 5.3%  | 4.9%      |
| Established Medical Disability     | 39                             |       |           | 0.0%                            |       |           |
| Hard Of Hearing                    | 655                            |       |           | 0.8%                            |       |           |
| Mentally Retarded                  | 4,754                          | 122   |           | 5.9%                            | 5.9%  |           |
| Multiple Disabilities – Hearing    | 116                            | 56    |           | 0.1%                            | 2.7%  |           |
| Multiple Disabilities - Orthopedic | 1,602                          |       |           | 2.0%                            |       |           |
| Multiple Disabilities – Vision     | 216                            |       |           | 0.3%                            |       |           |
| Orthopedic Impairment              | 815                            | 12    |           | 1.0%                            | 0.6%  |           |
| Other Health Impairment            | 4,460                          | 126   | 20        | 5.5%                            | 6.1%  | 3.0%      |
| Specific Learning Disability       | 45,163                         | 926   | 360       | 55.8%                           | 44.7% | 53.9%     |
| Speech Or Language Impairment      | 10,838                         | 99    |           | 13.4%                           | 4.8%  |           |
| Traumatic Brain Injury             | 188                            |       |           | 0.2%                            |       |           |
| Visual Impairment                  | 264                            |       |           | 0.3%                            |       |           |

LAUSD Source: DSS as of Feb 2005-06.

## Gifted Students

A very small percentage of DCFS and Probation students were identified as gifted in the 2004-05 school year. Among DCFS students, 2.5% were identified as gifted and 1.2% of the Probation students were identified as gifted.

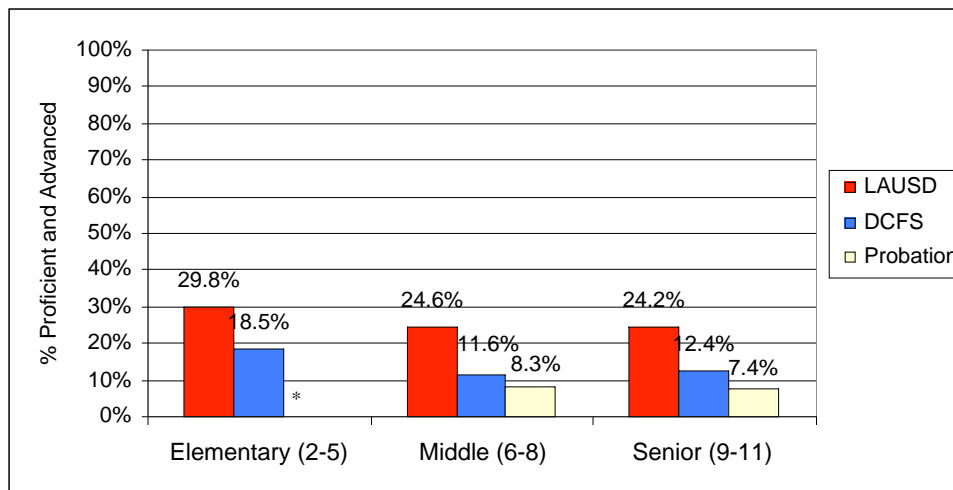
**Table 8 – Gifted Students**

|           | # of Students | # Gifted Students | % Gifted Students |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| LAUSD     | 727,099       | 63,746            | 8.7%              |
| DCFS      | 8,027         | 203               | 2.5%              |
| Probation | 2,746         | 89                | 1.2%              |

## Achievement Indicators

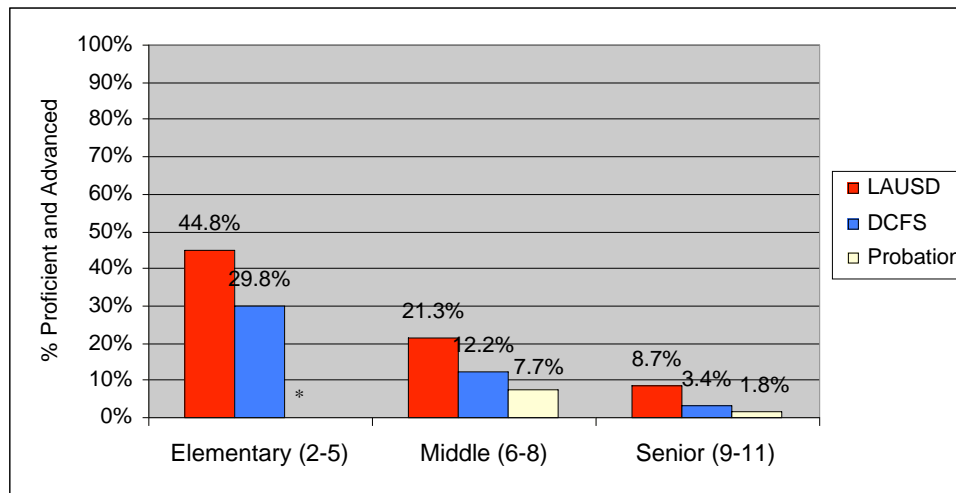
In examining student achievement indicators, performance on the CA Standards Tests indicate that fewer DCFS and Probation students scored at proficient and advanced, compared to LAUSD as a whole. Across the board, Probation students showed the fewest percent of students scoring Proficient and Advanced. More than twice as many LAUSD 6-8 graders (24.6%) scored Proficient and Advanced in English Language Arts than DCFS and Foster students in the same grades ( 11.6% and 8.3%). This is also true of the Mathematics results where 8.7% of LAUSD 9-11 graders scored Proficient and Advanced compared to only 3.4% of DCFS students and 1.8% of Probation students.

**Chart 9 – 2004-2005 CST English Language Arts  
Percent Proficient and Advanced**



\* Results not shown where fewer than 20 students tested.

**Chart 10 – 2004-2005 CST Mathematics  
Percent Proficient and Advanced**



\* Results not shown where fewer than 20 students tested.

### Suspensions

In the 2004-05 school year, almost twice as many DCFS students were suspended, compared to LAUSD as a whole. Only 7.6% of LAUSD students were suspended in 2004-2005 whereas 12.2% of DCFS were suspended. Among students in the Probation data base, 77.8% of Probation students were suspended that year. DCFS and Probation students were suspended for a greater average number of days (1.8 days and 2.7 days) than LAUSD students (1.5 days).

**Table 11 – Suspension Trends**

|           | YTD % Students with a Suspension | YTD % Suspended $\geq$ 6 Days Suspension | YTD % Suspended $\geq$ 10 Days Suspension | Avg. Days Suspended |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--|---|---------------------|
| LAUSD     | 7.6                              | 0.5                                      | 0.1                                       | 1.5                 |
| DCFS      | 12.2                             | 0.3                                      | 0.0                                       | 1.8                 |
| Probation | 77.8                             | 6.8                                      | 0.4                                       | 2.7                 |

### Dropouts

Other variables of interest include dropout status and expulsion status of students in DCFS and Probation data files. Since the above data represent actively enrolled students as of February 2006, explorations of dropout and expulsion status require a different approach. To determine how many DCFS and Probation students dropped out or were expelled in 2004-05, we examined the LAUSD 2004-05 dropout data file and the 2004-05 expulsion data base.

Of the 14,583 students in grades 7-12 that were identified as dropouts in the 2004-05 school year, 316 of the students were also on the DCFS database and 671 were in the Probation database.

**Table 12 – Percent of DCFS and Probation Students in 2004-05 Dropout File**

|           | # of Dropouts,<br>Grades 7-12 | % of DCFS and<br>Probation<br>Students in the<br>Dropout File |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---|
| LAUSD     | 14,583                        |   |
| DCFS      | 316                           | 2.2%  |
| Probation | 671                           | 4.6%  |

Of the 346 students that were expelled from LAUSD in 2004-05, 7 students were in the DCFS database and 158 were in the Probation database.

**Table 13 – Percent of DCFS and Probation Students in 2004-05 Expulsion File**

|           | # of Board<br>Expulsions | % of DCFS and<br>Probation<br>Students in the<br>Expulsion<br>Database |
|-----------|--------------------------|--|
| LAUSD     | 346                      |  |
| DCFS      | 7                        | 2 %  |
| Probation | 158                      | 45.7%  |



## Appendix A – Distribution of DCFS and Probation Students by Local District

| Local District   | DCFS   |         | Probation |         |
|------------------|--------|---------|-----------|---------|
|                  | Number | Percent | Number    | Percent |
| Local District 1 | 795    | 9.9%    | 413       | 15.0%   |
| Local District 2 | 913    | 11.4%   | 362       | 13.2%   |
| Local District 3 | 1,206  | 15.0%   | 301       | 11.0%   |
| Local District 4 | 668    | 8.3%    | 486       | 17.7%   |
| Local District 5 | 965    | 12.0%   | 296       | 10.8%   |
| Local District 6 | 422    | 5.3%    | 218       | 7.9%    |
| Local District 7 | 1,262  | 15.7%   | 304       | 11.1%   |
| Local District 8 | 1,550  | 19.3%   | 344       | 12.5%   |
| Unknown          | 246    | 3.1%    | 22        | 0.8%    |