

DIGNITY IN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

MODEL CODE ON EDUCATION AND DIGNITY



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DIGNITY IN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN (DSC)

- Challenges the systemic problem of pushout and advocates for the human right of every young person to a quality education and to be treated with dignity
- More than 50 organizations from 19 states
 - ☒ Youth and parent base-building
 - ☒ Legal and advocacy
 - ☒ Teachers and educators
 - ☒ Researchers



LOS ANGELES CHAPTER OF THE DIGNITY IN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

- Member groups:

- ☒ CADRE: www.cadre-la.org

- ☒ Youth Justice Coalition:
<http://www.youth4justice.org/>

- ☒ Community Rights Campaign of the Labor/
Community Strategy Center:
<http://www.thestrategycenter.org/project/community-rights-campaign>

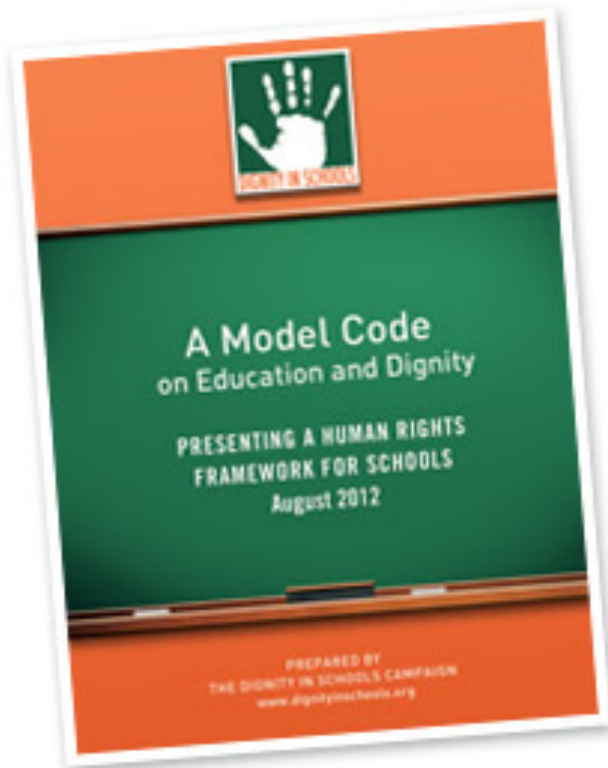
- ☒ Children's Defense Fund: <http://www.cdfca.org/>

- ☒ ACLU of Southern California: <http://www.aclu-sc.org/>

- ☒ Public Counsel Law Center: www.publiccounsel.org



WHAT IS THE MODEL CODE?



- Model policies for schools, districts and legislators to address school pushout and create safe and positive climates for learning
- Based on research, best practices and on the ground experiences of students, parents and educators
- Rooted in fundamental human rights principles that every child has a right to education and to be treated with dignity



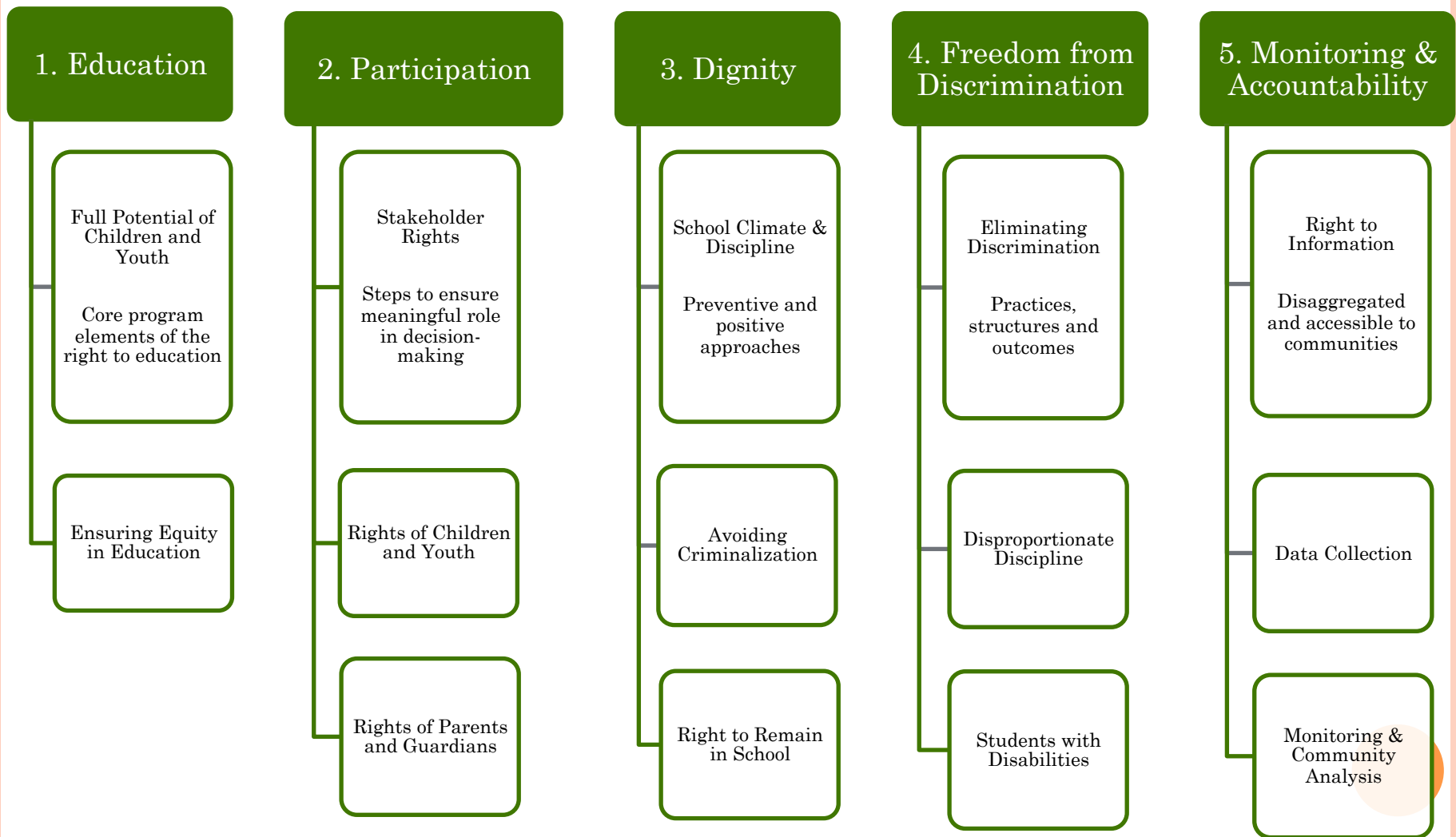
5 CHAPTERS OF THE MODEL CODE

= 5 Human Rights Principles

1. Education Support every child in reaching their full potential
2. Participation Ensure that students, parents and all stakeholders participate in decision-making
3. Dignity Shift discipline from punishing to nurturing academic, social and emotional development
4. Freedom from Discrimination Eliminating discrimination, harassment and disparate outcomes in education
5. Monitoring and Accountability Rights of communities to information and data, and to monitor school system



OVERVIEW OF THE MODEL CODE



MODEL CODE PROVIDES SOLUTIONS TO CHANGE SCHOOL CULTURE

CHAPTER 3: DIGNITY

- **3.1 School Climate and Discipline**
- 3.1.a. Key Elements of School-Wide Preventive and Positive Discipline Policies
- 3.1.b. Two Models for Preventive and Positive Discipline
 - Model 1: School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
 - Model 2: Restorative Practices
- 3.1.c. Guidelines for Exclusion
- 3.1.d. Due Process
- **3.2 Avoiding Criminalization in School Discipline**
- 3.2.a. Law Enforcement
- 3.2.b. Drug Policy
- 3.2.c. Immigration Policy and Protection of Vulnerable Students
- 3.2.d. Dismantling Status Offense Laws
- **3.3 Right to Remain in School**
- 3.3.a. Truancy Prevention and Correction
- 3.3.b. Alternative Schools
- 3.3.c. Right to Education for System-Involved Youth
- 3.3.d. Right to Resume Education after Expulsion



3.1.C GUIDELINES FOR EXCLUSION

D. Limitations on use of school exclusion

1. *No student shall be excluded from school for a first-time offense unless otherwise required by federal or state law, except in the case of an emergency removal.*
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2. No student under the age of 10 may be excluded from school for disciplinary reasons.
3. No student under the age of 15 may receive a suspension of more than 3 days.⁹²
4. No student shall be issued a suspension for more than 5 consecutive days or 10 cumulative days total during an academic year.
5. No student shall be issued an involuntary transfer for disciplinary reasons for more than one school term. **In order to issue an involuntary transfer, schools shall guarantee the same due process protections as required for expulsions as outlined in Section 3.1.d of this code.** At the end end of the term, the student shall have a right to reenroll in their home school or previous school of attendance.



WOULD YOU LIKE A MODEL CODE TRAINING IN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT?

- Dignity in Schools Campaign – LA has a training team that can provide targeted trainings to allied non-profit and school district partners.
- Please contact:
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