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Youth Commission Budget Priorities 2010-2011 Fiscal Year

The Youth Commission is comprised of 17 young San Franciscans between the ages of 12 and 23. The City Charter charges us with advising the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor and other city policymakers on the effects of policy and legislation on youth. We are also charged with making policy recommendations and presenting fiscal priorities related to young people.

2010-2011

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Introduction

It's April of 2010, and we, San Francisco's young people, have a lot going on.

Succeeding in school and getting an education; finding and keeping a job; being taken care of, and in many cases caring for our families; and engaging in the ancient act of community building—a ritual that each new generation must do once more to renew its sense of self and connection to its elders.... We are doing all of this in the midst of a half-billion dollar City deficit.

Section 4.124 of the San Francisco City Charter declares, “The purpose of the [Youth] Commission is to collect all information relevant to advising the Board of Supervisors and Mayor on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the children and youth of San Francisco.” This document is part of fulfilling that charge.

To be sure, our priorities for FY 10-11 were crafted with an eye to the fact of the City's massive deficit. For the next fiscal year, then, the Youth Commission calls on City government to prioritize *basic human youth rights and needs*. In the language of public policy, we are most concerned with protecting *core services*.

In general, our priorities for FY 10-11 are organized around the three themes of preserving, protecting and making real young people's:

1. right to access our City by means of safe, affordable public transportation;
2. right to live healthy lives—to regularly eat healthy food, to utilize public recreation areas for exercise, and to be schooled such that we are equipped to make educated decisions about our own health and wellness; and, finally
3. need to have government prioritize the most vulnerable among us—those of us from the most violent, most under-resourced and the most disconnected environments.

Let's get down to specifics.

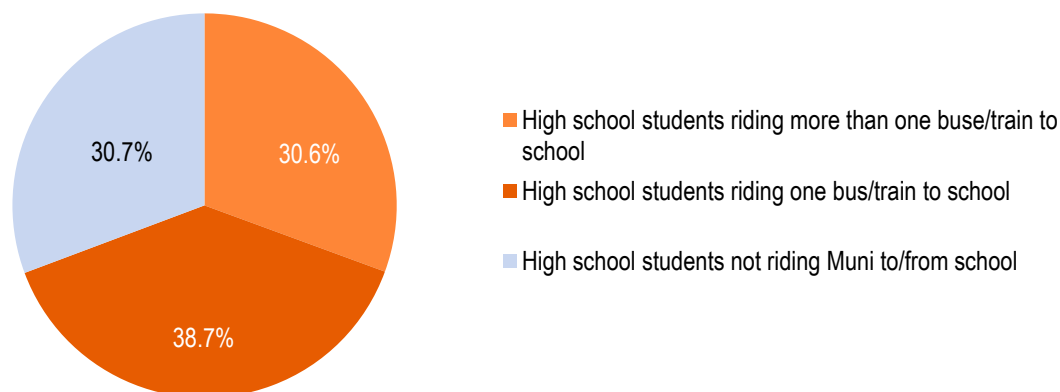
Affordable Muni for SF's Youth

Priority #1: Youth Lifeline fast pass for qualified low income youth and youth fares for all enrolled public high school students

- \$10 per month fast pass for youth qualifying for free and reduced lunch.
- School-site sales and coordination between Muni and the San Francisco Unified School District and County Schools.
- Granting eligibility for youth Muni fares to all currently enrolled San Francisco public high school students.

Findings

As young people, we are perhaps the most loyal and consistent demographic of Muni's ridership. According to the fall 2008 YouthVote Student Survey, which polled 8,256 San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) high school students, nearly seventy percent of respondents (69.3%) use some form of public transportation to get to or from school and thirty percent (30.6%) of respondents must take more than one train or bus to get to school.¹



With the increase of the youth, senior and disabled fast pass to \$20 per month in May of 2010, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) will have raised the cost of a young person's transportation expenses by 100% in a single calendar year. (The pass cost \$10 per month in May of 2009 and was raised to \$15 per month as of December 1, 2009.)

We know that these significant fare increases are a result of MTA's overwhelming current and projected deficits: even with the infusion of \$61 million dollars in state funding between now and July 2011, the Agency is still facing a shortfall of about a \$20 million for FY 10-11.

However, such fare increases—and the fact that the baseline cost of a youth fast pass will be at least \$20 per month next year—are a significant burden to our many low-income young people. Of all the students enrolled in the SFUSD in the 2008-2009 school year, 54.3% (30,010) qualified for free or

¹ Fall 2008 YouthVote Student Survey, page 66, www.sfbos.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=17354.

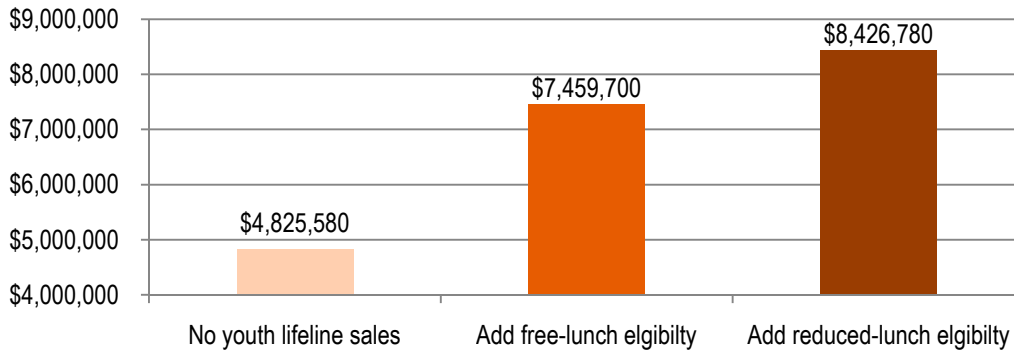
reduced lunch, with the vast majority (39.7%, or 21,951 students) qualifying for free lunch and the rest (14.6% or 8,059) qualifying for reduced lunch²—that is, respectively, 130% or less and 185% or less of poverty.³

Ironically, qualified low-income adults living at 200% or less of poverty are currently provided with a discounted fast pass—the adult “Lifeline” fast pass—by the MTA and Human Services Agency. The deep recession of the last two years has hit young people especially hard. In November of 2009, for example, the unemployment rate for Americans between 16 and 19 years old was over 40%, which is the highest rate of teenage unemployment in the United States since World War II. In light of the economic climate and many young San Franciscans’ relative poverty, the lack of parity in Muni’s fare structure for low-income youth as compared to adults is particularly egregious.

Analysis

The Youth Commission calls on the MTA to institute a Youth Lifeline fast pass for low-income young people who qualify for free or reduced lunch. We believe that many of these youth are currently not buying fast passes, and that such a fare mechanism therefore could generate a substantive amount of revenue for the MTA, netting between \$2.5 and \$3.4 million a year. At the other end of the scale, assuming that a third of all current youth fast pass consumers qualify for free or reduced lunch, this policy could potentially represent a \$1.5 million expenditure for the MTA.

A youth lifeline pass could add a significant new revenue stream for Muni.



The Youth Commission furthermore requests that the MTA coordinate with the SFUSD and County Schools to sell the youth lifeline fast pass at school sites.

Finally, we ask that the MTA implement the approved Board of Supervisors resolution file number 050885, which would make all students enrolled in a San Francisco public high school eligible for youth transportation rates. As was made indisputably clear in the debate at the Board when this resolution was introduced, rarely do high school students see an increase in income merely by virtue of turning 18 years old. In the interest of prioritizing the core service of transportation access, Muni’s fare structure should reflect this fact.

² SFUSD District Profile, <http://portal.sfusd.edu/template/default.cfm>.

³ Federal Register, March 27, 2010, page 13411-13412, www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/notices/iegs/IEGs09-10.pdf.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Program

Priority #2: SFPD must remake the ‘School Resource Officer’ Program

- The \$3.8 million currently allocated from the General Fund to the ‘SRO Program’ is being used ineffectively; therefore the ‘SRO program’ as a whole must be evaluated both programmatically and fiscally.
- Develop a task force that would remake School Based Policing in San Francisco and develop a new MOU between the School District and SFPD.
- Ensure that every officer follow the SF Police Department’s General Orders 7.01 protocol and revoke the ‘Principle Power’ that currently stands.

Findings

The current system for assuring the safety of San Francisco’s public schools is in need of reform. At present, police officers work in a handful of schools under a non-transparent and non-centralized program. This dysfunctional set up is heir to what was once a well-coordinated security effort.

The City’s current School Based Policing practice is based on the 2004 ‘COPS in Schools’ Federal Grant. This grant, which was awarded to the Police Department (SFPD) and provided for 33 School Resource Officers (SROs)—uniformed, regular SFPD officers—expired in 2009. Similarly, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that details the work of the SRO’s and the formal relationship between the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) and the SFPD with respect to the SRO program has also expired. In the summer of 2009, SRO’s became de-centralized, a fact that has strained planning, communication and cohesiveness. While before prospective SROs were put through a rigorous application and training process, the job has since become an assignment for SFPD officers with the lowest seniority.

Although the ‘SRO Program’ does not necessarily exist, it was reported that there are currently 21⁴ School Site Officers. The Youth Commission is concerned by the programmatic fact that out of the School Officers claiming \$3.8 million of the General Fund,⁵ eight officers are funded by School District grants and four are district-wide roaming officers, leaving only eight officers actually placed at school sites. Even if all 12 of the non-grant funded officers come out of the \$3.8million, which equates to \$316,666 per officer.

Violence Prevention Grant	Safe Passage Grant	Officer Placements	Officer Placements (cont)	Rover Officers
Aptos	Civic Center	O’Connell	Everett	Bayview
Horace Mann	A.P. Giannini	Galileo	Mission	Richmond
ISA	Hill Top	Burton	Francisco	Park District
Vis. Valley (also safe passage)	James Lick	Wallenberg	Marshall	Ingleside/Excelsior

⁴ To be precise, the Youth Commission’s conversation with the SFPD’s Youth Services Director suggest that there are 20 police officers actively serving as SROs. The Youth Commission SFPD’s Youth Services Director Lois

⁵ Email correspondence with Rebekah Krell, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Mayor’s Office of Policy and Finance, February 17, 2010.

The voices of nearly 9,000 SFUSD high school students have sparked the Youth Commission’s concerns about the SRO program.

- In the fall 2009 YouthVote Student Survey, students were asked, among other queries, “What is the position of the adults you are closest to/trust most?” Respondents could choose up to three positions from a list, although many selected just one or two.
- Students chose SROs less than any of the other nine adults listed as options (see figure 1). Only two of the SFUSD’s comprehensive high schools had a rate as high as 4.1 percent.
- The data from the fall 2009 survey also demonstrates that as they grow older, students appear to become more disconnected from the SROs. SFUSD-wide, 4.2% of 9th grade students chose SROs as the adult they “are closet to/trust the most” at school, yet only 1.5% of 12th grade students did the same. In fact, from freshman through senior year there is a progressive decline. (see figure 2)

FIGURE 1
Staff high school students consider themselves close to/trust SFUSD-wide).

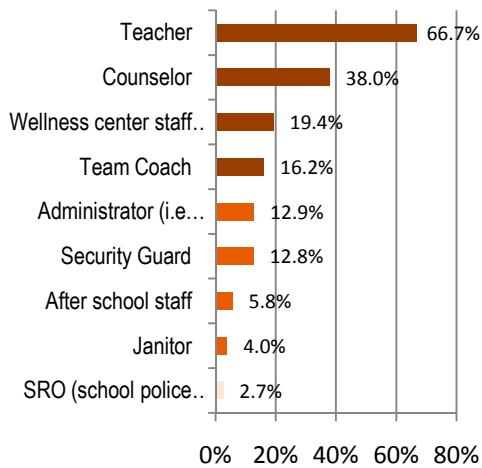
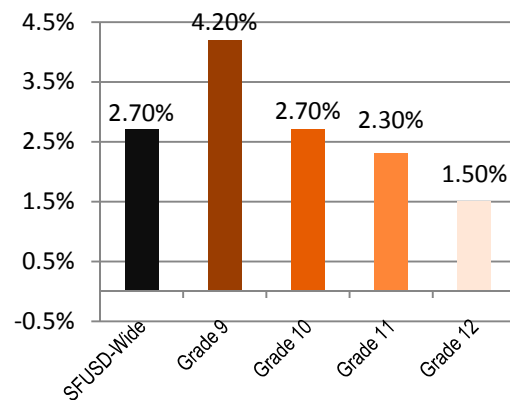


FIGURE 2
Students selecting SROs as an adult at school they are close to/trust, by grade (SFUSD-wide).



The Youth Commission is also significantly concerned that the presence of School Based Officers leads to the unnecessary criminalization of routine disciplinary incidents, or what is commonly known as the “up-charging” of young arrestees. Such *up-charging* is a clear violation of the previous MOU, which stated:

“The SRO shall not act as a school disciplinarian. Disciplining students is a school responsibility.”

Officers are currently able to evoke a ‘principle power’ to search students on school sites which allows officers to do what they must in an ‘emergency situation’. This ‘power’ has far less rigorous rules/oversight than formal police guidelines such as the SFPD’s General Orders 7.01 which further necessitates additional protocol when detaining or questioning a young person.

According to the Office of the Public Defender, 203 total juvenile arrests or citations were made in 2007. That same year, SROs filed 87 incident reports. A plurality of such arrests were for minor

incidents, such as “disrupting school,” “battery” (a fight), “graffiti,” and “theft,” incidents that historically would have been disciplinary issues dealt with by a school administrator. In addition to disrupting school sites, these cases are expensive for the Office of the Public Defender. The relatively low occurrence of more serious crimes on school sites leads us to question the City’s current \$3.8 million investment in School Based Officers.

Analysis

The Commission recommends that a Task Force, including representatives from several relevant departments (SFPD, OCC, SFUSD, DCYF, PD, Youth Commission etc.) draft a new and more cohesive School Based Officer strategy. The following are the Youth Commission’s items for the Task Force’s consideration:

1. Audit the current \$3.8million Student Resource Officer Program;
2. Create a Task Force that would create a new MOU between School District and SFPD taking into consideration key schools using school district statistics, crime statistics, youth vote data, the SFPD’s Zone Strategy and other City Violence Prevention/Intervention strategies;
3. If Officers continue to be assigned, select officers that want to work at School Sites and reinstate the quality training that was once provided Officers. Centralize the management of the system;
4. Officers in, at, or around schools must follow the SF Police Department’s General Orders 7.01 protocol; and
5. Revoke the current ‘Principle Power’ that Officers currently have at school sites.

Food Access for the Most Needy

Priority #3: Ensure most vulnerable young people's access to food

- Ensure timely and expedient full staffing of front line eligibility workers in food stamp distribution offices—and other places where food entitlement benefits are given out.
- Ensure that, with summer school virtually eliminated, the 2010 summer lunch program is:
 - Well-publicized in San Francisco's various low-income, food-insecure, youth-rich communities; and
 - Well-coordinated and fully staffed, from the central node at the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families to the distribution sites under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Parks Department, the San Francisco Unified School District and many community-based organizations.

Findings

Now more than ever, food stamps and summer lunch are critical means of sustenance for many young, low-income San Franciscans.

In June, July and August of 2009, thousands of SF youth ate the free summer lunch that has long been provided for with monies funneled down from the United States Department of Agriculture and distributed through various governmental sources in the City. Because of the numerous agencies involved—the main players last year were the City's Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF) and its many community-based contractors, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), the San Francisco Food Bank, the Boys and Girls Club, and Aim High—it is difficult to calculate the exact number of summer lunches served each day. Nonetheless, the extant reliable data is striking: on average, some 9,000 lunches were distributed each day of the summer of 2009.⁶

The summer of 2010 is rapidly approaching, and all available statistics suggest that there is still a great need for a robust summer lunch program. Of the less than 60,000 enrolled SFUSD students, for example, some almost 31,000 qualify for free and reduced lunch.

If anything, the number of San Francisco youth struggling to get enough to eat has only grown. Between 2007 and 2009, there was a full 49% increase in the number of Non-Assistance Food Stamp (NAFS) cases with children in San Francisco.⁷ NAFS Director Leo O'Farrell reports that his caseload has not lightened up much, if at all, in the last year.⁸

⁶ Phone conversation with Paula Jones, Director of Food Systems, Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Section, March 11, 2010.

⁷ NAFS cases account for about 70% of all food stamp cases in San Francisco—the remainder of the cases are administered by the Public Assistance Food Stamps program. Both programs are divisions of the Human Services Agency.

⁸ In person meeting with Mr. O'Farrell, March 11, 2010.

Crucially, however, the SFUSD will only be offering summer lunch at 14 school sites⁹ (in the summer of 2009, there were 28 schools giving out summer lunch).¹⁰

Given this stark need for food on the part of so many of San Francisco children and families, it is of the utmost importance that the systems that distribute entitlement benefits be fully staffed and well functioning.

Average number of NAFS cases with children.

2007	2008	2009	Percent Change '07-'08	Percent Change '08-'09	Percent Change '07-'09
2,397	2,791	3,582	+ 16%	+28%	+49%

Average number of NAFS households served each month.

2007	2008	2009	Percent Change '07-'08	Percent Change '08-'09	Percent Change '07-'09
60,780	70,079	83,572	+ 15%	+19%	+37.5%

Analysis

For FY 10-11, the Youth Commission calls for full, expedient staffing of all front line positions in all City-administered programs that distribute food benefits. Shockingly, this hasn't been the norm during the current fiscal year.

Despite the fact that on October 28, 2010, the Food Security Task Force requested in writing that the City hire 17 eligibility workers to distribute NAFS—and though the Human Services Commission approved a supplemental for this express purpose—these hire-ups were not completed until mid February, 2010. This is unacceptable. The City family must move faster to put food in the mouths of those who need it most.

As of April 16, 2010, DCYF has put itself on track to distribute, should it approve contracts with all of the community-based organizations that applied to be summer lunch providers, 6,000 meals a day. This would be 1,000 more than last year. Given that there will be, as mentioned above, *half* as many school sites distributing summer lunch, this increase on the part of DCYF is excellent.

However, in the next 6 weeks it is critical that DCYF, RPD and SFUSD coordinate to make sure that each neighborhood has enough summer lunch sites and that these sites are well publicized.

⁹ Word document email attachment from Amy Portello-Nelson, DCYF Summer Lunch Coordinator, April 16, 2010.

¹⁰ Phone conversation with Noelia Oropeza, SFUSD Nutrition Services Principle Clerk, April 16, 2010.

Parcel Tax for SFUSD

Priority #4: Parcel tax to close deficit in the schools

- Place parcel tax on November 2010 ballot that will dedicate much-needed revenue to the schools.

Findings

The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) is facing a \$113 million budget deficit for the next fiscal year, a staggeringly high loss for a system that is already very under-funded. These cuts amount to \$1,365 per student.

The impacts of this deficit will be felt across the schools. Class sizes will grow dramatically. Transportation and summer school have already been almost totally eliminated, and student nutrition programs have been dramatically scaled back. Future cuts loom, placing the future of Wellness Centers, after school, libraries, sports, electives—all of those critical things funded by the Public Education Enrichment Fund, or Proposition H—in jeopardy.

San Francisco already has the widest achievement gap of any school district in California. These cuts, however, will affect *all students*.

Analysis

There is talk about including a parcel tax on the November 2010 ballot as a revenue-generating measure that would dedicate new funding to the SFUSD. The Youth Commission fully supports such a measure. The parcel tax must include a cost of living increase, in the manner the 2008 parcel tax measure.¹¹

Should such a measure be approved by the voters, we believe the revenue generated should first and foremost go towards decreasing student-to-teacher ratios across the entire District. Funds should also be prioritized on a school-by-school basis, with the aim of closing the achievement gap. Finally, we are convinced that improving and expanding supportive services at middle schools is a very high priority—we must better prepare our students *before* they enter high school.

¹¹ http://portal.sfusd.edu/template/default.cfm?page=news.quality_teacher

Health Education Task Force

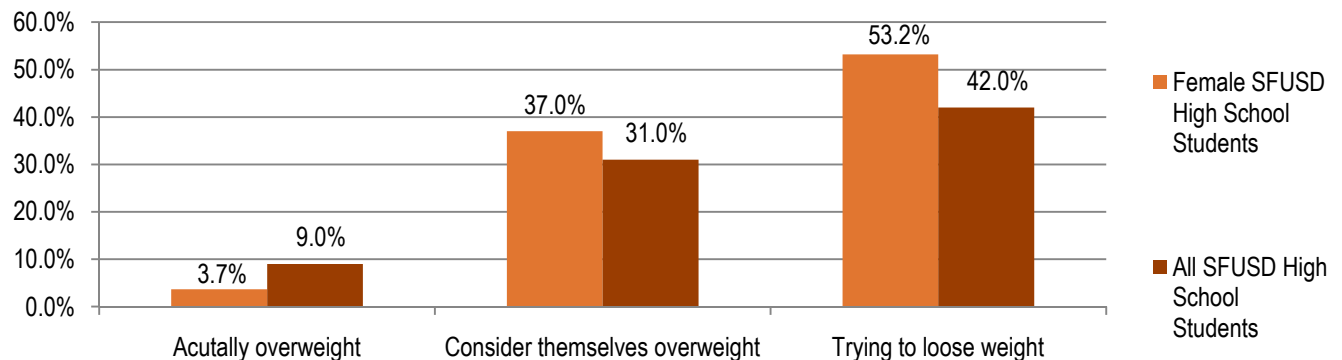
Priority #5: Establish a Comprehensive Health Education Taskforce

- Create a Health Education Taskforce in the San Francisco Unified School District to examine current District curriculum, research best practices and pedagogical models, and make recommendations.
- Bring new focus to building youth’s body image and risk mitigation awareness.

Findings

Health education in the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) is failing to educate and empower students in many key areas, including building a positive body image, teaching healthy eating habits, improving sexual health, and mitigating other risky behavioral choices.

Below are several statistics that highlight a need for a taskforce that would contribute to remaking health education in San Francisco (the following data, unless otherwise indicated, is based on polling of SFUSD students):



- 12.8% of middle school students and 13.5% of high school students reported making a “suicide plan.”¹²
- Only 65% of 7th graders, 53% of 9th graders, and 52% of 11th graders consumed five or more fruits or vegetables the day before the survey.¹³
- 9.6% of high school students report being hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the 12 months preceding the survey.¹⁴
- 8.6% of female high school students report being physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.¹⁵
- Nationally, between half and three quarters of youth ages 12-14 report that they used contraception the first time they had sex.¹⁶

¹² 2007/2006 Youth Risk Behavior Survey High School Level Summary Report.

¹³ A Snapshot of Youth Health and Wellness.

¹⁴ 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey High School Level Summary Report.

¹⁵ 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey High School Level Summary Report.

¹⁶ The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

Analysis

The Youth Commission calls on the SFUSD to create a task force that would be charged with assessing, evaluating and improving the District's health education curriculum. This task force would be cost neutral for School District and the City, aside from staff time.

Task force members would be selected jointly by the Board of Education, the Student Advisory Council and the Youth Commission to ensure an equal balance between (a) current SFUSD and community-based health educators; (b) academic experts in health and adolescent psychology; and (c) students.

The task force would present its findings and recommendations to the Board of Education and the Select City and School District Committee of the Board of Supervisors. Though the task force would be a project of the SFUSD, each City department would be encouraged to lend its own expertise. (We think that there are wonderful potential collaborators at the Department of Public Health—perhaps, for example, those officials involved in the Shape Up San Francisco effort—and the Department on the Status of Women.)

School-to-Career

Priority #6: More coordination between School District and City on School-to-Career Development

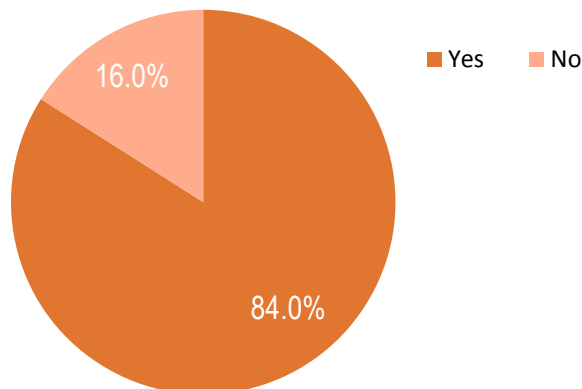
- Fund a full-time grant writer for Career Technical Education in the San Francisco Unified School District to relieve the burden off of individual teachers.
- Coordinate new School District school-to-career policies with those that already exist in the Office of Economic and Workforce Development.

Findings

According to the fall 2009 YouthVote Student Survey, 84% of high school students in the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) desire job-training and career preparation courses in their schools, a want that is supported evenly among students of all ethnic groups.

There is a growing consensus that education and professional development must be tied closer together. The Department of Children, Youth, and their Families' (DCYF) 2008 Community Needs Assessment details the need to integrate education and career development opportunities for San Francisco's youth.

Students reported a very high interest in taking classes that taught them new career skills.



As the SFUSD is facing a \$113 million deficit for FY 10-11, the Career Technical Education (CTE) division of the District—the central office hub for developing professional/educational curriculum in San Francisco schools—is so woefully under-resourced that individual teachers at school sites are responsible for applying to grants.

Analysis

The Youth Commission calls for the City and County of San Francisco to fund a full-time grant writer to support CTE in the SFUSD. This grant writer would be directly accountable to the individual teachers that manage CTE at their school sites. The position should pay for itself through a greater accumulation of grants, while allowing teachers to focus on the classroom.

Secondly, the Youth Commission calls for the City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) to continue to coordinate its youth-focused workforce development programming with the SFUSD's CTE—especially in light of the new, forthcoming CTE policy that will guide the District's workforce projects in the years to come and should be released in the summer of 2010.

Violence Prevention Plan

Priority #7: DCYF to lead City-wide reinvigoration of Violence Prevention Plan

- Coordinate changes to the Violence Prevention Plan with community based organizations and community members to ultimately guide a new Violence Prevention RFP.
- Put government resources, a catalogue of City-funded services, district service maps and progress toward the Department's goals online.
- Take on the role of brokering basic operational expenses on behalf of Community Based Organization's to increase cost savings.
- Focus funding to youth in the SFPD's identified High Crime Zones to ensure they are deemed as 'Zones for Investment'.

Findings

Two years ago, the City invested over \$500,000 dollars into the development of the Mayor's Office Violence Prevention Plan (VPP), which, in Mayor Newsom's words, "outlines immediate and long range goals and objectives for preventing violence, particularly youth violence, in San Francisco." In theory, we are currently two years into the five year plan; however, not one City agency has taken leadership in following the plan that was released in June of 2008.

Quite simply, this half-million dollar violence prevention plan is collecting dust on the shelf and is not being utilized. In too many ways, the City's violence prevention efforts today remain dysfunctional in the way described in the report: "While dozens of City agencies are actively engaged in a variety of violence prevention and reduction efforts, SF needs a unified plan and a coherent, coordinated strategy. Efforts across agencies are disconnected from one another."¹⁷

The Youth Commission conducted a study at the one year mark of the plan to assess the City's implementation. We found that although a clear plan for implementation was created, minimal progress was made within the first 10 months.

The department heads we interviewed for our report pointed out that those VPP objectives that were being achieved were coming to pass as a result of the budget crisis and/or because the VPP articulated citywide efforts that were in place before VPP was adopted, but not on account of a concerted effort by the City to implement the VPP. Therefore, respondents did not see themselves as part of a collaborative effort to implement the VPP, but as atomized entities delivering their own agency's services.

Because 45-50% of the violence crime in SF occurs in less than 2% of the neighborhoods, SFPD created the 'Zone Strategy' which has provided for a strategic deployment of law enforcement resources within the zones. The Youth Commission believes that a similar formulation, 'Zones for Investment' would provide equally effective outcomes. Using an evidence-based approach, the City can

¹⁷ VPP page 31

orchestrate Community Based Services for those most in need thus reducing violence in San Francisco.

Achievement per the Violence Prevention Plan

The chart below is a partial assessment of progress listing objectives from the Violence Prevention Plan with the accompanying strategies that have been implemented or are in the implementation process. Overall, a handful of strategies have been implemented; the key components missing are baseline measurements and outcome indicators to evaluate success as well as an engaging effort to provide centralized information. (The third point has yet to be implemented).

IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE	VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN	ACHIEVED IN YR. 1	CURRENT NEED
1. Governance Structure	Objective 1.3 Develop shared outcomes to measure accountability	Interagency Council created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report on achievements An audit of goals and objectives using evidence based methods
2. Align Funding, Policy & Data	Objective 1.4: Align resources to support achieving shared Outcomes Objective 1.5: Evaluate through shared data and information systems	MOCI, JPD, DCYF have consolidated funds JUSTIS – SF Data – COMP STAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBO's understand their org.'s outcome expectations but feel there is a lack of Institutional Outcomes for SF citywide Application and use of data toward funding priorities and assessment of service delivery progress Train and empower CBO's to use data for evidence based proof of program success and for program planning
3. Engage & Empower Existing Committees, Councils, and Task Forces	Objective 2.2: Develop a Coordinated Services Delivery System a.) Create a comprehensive list of services throughout the City that can serve as a resource guide for service providers and outreach workers b.) Create maps of hot spot areas and coordinate intensive service delivery	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SF must become more centralized with our Government information due to budget crisis and reduction of funded community outreach and non-core service allocation SF should have on-line data base of services and resources

Analysis

The Youth Commission urges the City family to take significant steps to follow through on implementing the third pillar, highlighted in red above, of the VPP in FY 10-11. As Mayor Newsom stated in the original plan, “Only through collaboration and community engagement will violence truly be prevented and communities transformed.”

We call upon DCYF and JPD to implement a thorough and transparent process with community-based organizations and community members in the fall of 2010 to make any necessary changes to the Violence Prevention Plan that will ultimately guide a new Violence Prevention RFP in Spring of 2011.

Also, we call on DCYF, JPD and DPH to provide City funded programs, district service maps and progress toward the Department’s goals in a central online location, in the service of increasing government’s efficiency and accountability. Additionally, we ask all Departments to upload their budget documents presented to the Board of Supervisors to their web-sites. Too many hours are wasted by City funded employees searching for information that should be accessible.

We call on the City to take a more active role in brokering basic operational services for the community-based organizations with which it contracts. We urge the Inter-agency council to take this on as there priority and for DCYF to lead the charge. In this effort, the Youth Commission urges the City to take heed of the strategies recently developed by the *California Association of Non-Profits*—strategies that help non-profits reduce costs associated with basic products and services, from office supplies to insurance.

Finally, the Youth Commission calls on the Mayor, Board of Supervisors and City Departments to prioritize funding and services that are available to youth living in or attending school in one of the SFPD’s identified High Crime Zones.

Newcomer Pathways

Priority #8: Fully resource Newcomer Pathways for our immigrant students

- Fully fund newly-created “Newcomer Pathways.”

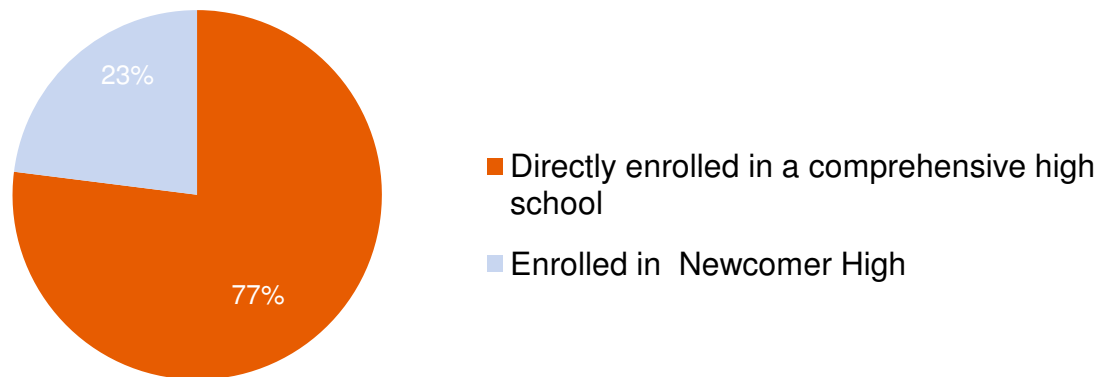
Findings

The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) has decided to close Newcomer High School—a school designed exclusively to support immigrant students—for the 2010-2011 school year. In its place, the SFUSD will open five “newcomer pathways” at existing comprehensive high schools.

By design, students at Newcomer High transferred after one year to a four-year comprehensive high school. Of the 720 newcomer high school-age students currently in the district, only 23 percent chose to attend Newcomer High while 77 percent chose to directly enroll in a comprehensive high school. The 166 students who currently attend Newcomer High will be able to complete their school year at the high school.¹⁸

The decision to close Newcomer High in favor of these five pathways was made in response to research which indicated that the current system was failing. Christina Wong, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, has stated, “We found that newcomer students at the same English level who started at a comprehensive high school in 2004 made greater gains in English proficiency and earned more credits than students who started at Newcomer High School.”

The change is planned to be cost neutral. However, given its \$113 million budget deficit, we know the SFUSD will be cutting costs wherever possible.



Analysis

The San Francisco Youth Commission supports the SFUSD’s changes to its newcomer programs. However, we call on the District to provide the five new “Newcomer pathways” with every available resource to ensure that the new system fulfills its promise to support our immigrant students.

¹⁸ <http://portal.sfusd.edu/data/news/pdf/3%2011%2010%20District%20Expanding%20Newcomer%20Pathways.pdf>

YouthWorks

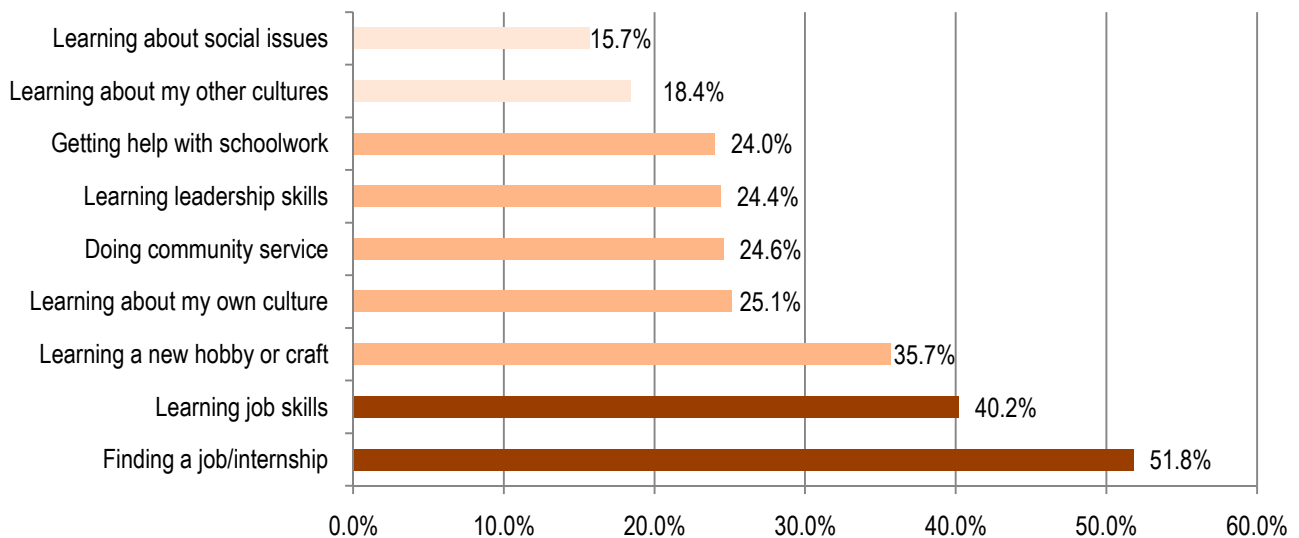
Priority #9: Parity in YouthWorks funding across City Departments

- Preserve existing funding for YouthWorks.
- Require every department to pay into YouthWorks.

Findings

YouthWorks is a citywide employment program that provides youth with an opportunity to enhance their employability skills and increase awareness of government careers through supportive and learning-rich paid internships. Annually, the program serves over 350 10th to 12th grade students. YouthWorks is very popular; last summer, the program saw 600 students apply for only 100 positions.

When asked about what they would seek from a program, students were primarily interested in job-related opportunities.



As difficult as the current economic is for adults, it is even worse for youth. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment among youth increased by 1.1 million between April and July 2009 to 19.3 million. In November of 2009, the unemployment rate for Americans between 16 and 19 years of age was over 40%, which is the highest rate of teenage unemployment in the United States since World War II. This situation is potentially catastrophically damaging to the City's future.

Exposure to the workforce is essential for youth—in both the short- and long-terms. According to the fall 2008 YouthVote Student Survey, 19.5% of students said that not having enough experience was a primary barrier to getting a job. The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reports that those youth who work during high school are more likely to be employed in future. As the largest employer in the city, the City and County of San Francisco is therefore ideal in exposing student interns to a large network of professionals. All these factors indicate that a small investment in youth employment will benefit San Francisco in the near future.

Analysis

Currently, many of the largest City departments, including Fire and Police, do not pay into Youth Works. As the City and County of San Francisco strains to minimize the impact of the budget crunch on core services, spreading out the burden of paying into the City's youth workforce across all the departments is critical.

The Youth Commission therefore calls on the City to maintain YouthWorks current funding, and asks all departments to pay a proportional amount of their General Fund budgets into the program.

Implementing this priority will help ensure that more youth are given excellent internship opportunities in 2010-2011—and that more of us are gainfully employed in the future. In addition, this move lays a strong foundation for the program in future years when the City's fiscal picture is brighter.

Park & Recreation Access

Priority #10: Ensure low and no cost recreation access

- In the face of no summer school for the most vulnerable youth, ensure accessible, safe public recreation centers.

Findings

Facing an overwhelming \$113 million deficit for FY 10-11, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) has made the severe decision to all but eliminate summer school in June, July and August of 2010.

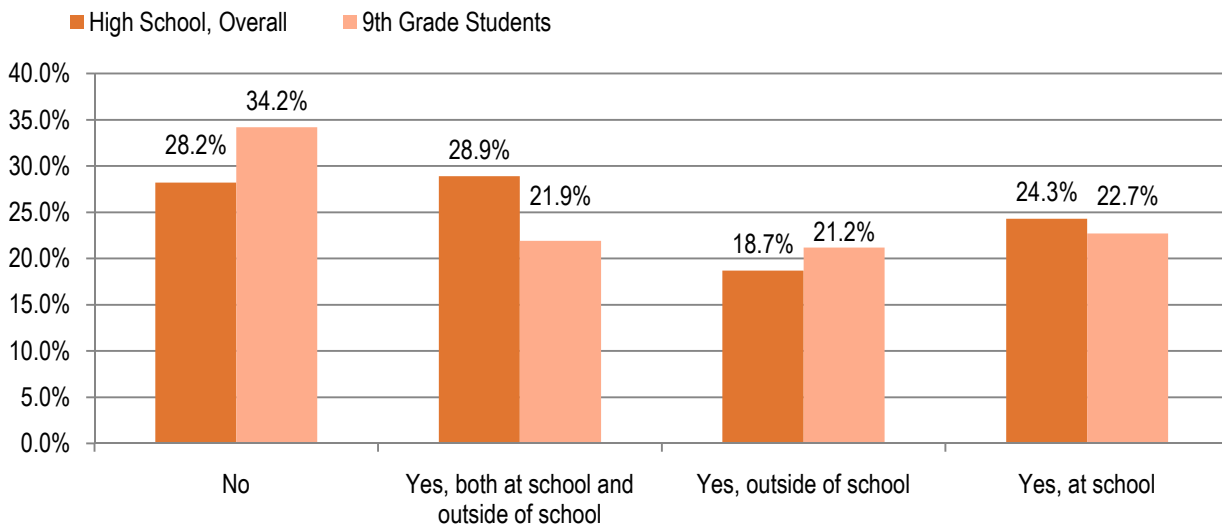
Without a school site to shelter us, nor teachers to serve as our guides and caregivers, it is absolutely imperative that San Francisco youth have access to safe neighborhood recreation centers this summer.

In this effort, the Youth Commission wholeheartedly agrees with the third of the Recreation and Parks Department's (RPD) "Budget Balancing Principles" for FY 10-11: "Protect [the department's] mission to provide responsive and relevant recreational choices to all our citizens. *Provide low-cost and no-cost recreational opportunities for youth and seniors. Ensure that ability to pay is never a barrier to participation.*"¹⁹

Analysis

We applaud RPD and look forward to working with the Department to implement this sound policy.

9th grade students are less involved in extra-curricular activities than the high-school average; thus, without summer school, at-risk 9th graders need accessible recreation centers.



¹⁹Recreation and Parks Department "Community Budget Presentation," page 10 (emphasis added), http://www.parks.sfgov.org/wcm_recpark/Notice/RPDCBudgetPres.pdf