Public schools in California, backed by state, county and school district policies, will change the narrative of implicit bias toward certain groups of students, often including students of color, so that schools value students and support them staying in school rather than push them out through harsh expulsion and discipline practices.

More students will stay in school and graduate as more schools promote positive discipline strategies, increase parent engagement and improve school climate. In this way, California will close and eventually eliminate equity gaps in school discipline, attendance and completion rates.

North Star Indicator #6

Promote a positive and supportive learning environment

Schools implement positive discipline practices and provide supportive learning environments centered on trauma-informed principles to promote health and healing. Measures will be drawn from the following arrays of measures, recognizing that not all will apply in all circumstances:

- Number and types of positive school discipline strategies such as restorative practices, peer mediation or student-led conflict resolution, or Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- Decreases in punitive responses to students’ social-emotional needs (e.g., decreases or elimination of the practice of issuing of tickets or citations for misbehavior in school)
- School-wide approaches that support students and educators in addressing the impact of trauma and adversity
- Increased parent involvement in creating school and district policy and influencing policy and resource allocation
- School-wide approaches that support students and educators in addressing the impact of trauma and adversity
- Increased parent involvement in setting school and district policy and influencing policy and resource allocation, parent participation in parent councils and other structural changes or processes that strengthen parents’ voice and influence
- Efforts to make schools more welcoming and desirable to students, teachers and staff
- Social-emotional health supports for students, including the availability of healing circles, counseling, social workers and mental health services in schools

North Star Indicator #7

Students’ opportunities to stay in school and thrive, with equity gaps reduced and eliminated

Students stay in school, maintain their attendance and experience academic success.

- Measures include rates of chronic absenteeism, suspension/ expulsion, school-based referrals to law enforcement, students performing at grade-level academically, and dropout rates in schools and school districts in the BHC communities and statewide where available by race/ethnicity and gender, with particular attention to boys and young men of color. Measures will also include, where possible, evidence of changes in students’ perceptions about whether they feel welcome in, connected to, and heard and safe in school.