

# School Culture and Support for Student Personal and Academic Growth



## Chapter 4.e

*E .Focus Group: Category E*

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WASC 2009

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*Category E*

**School Culture and Support for Student Personal and Academic Growth**

**E1. To what extent does the school leadership employ a wide range of strategies to encourage parental and community involvement, especially with the teaching/learning process?**

*Summary of Findings:*

A wide range of strategies are used to communicate with parents. We believe that parents and community members are key components to our students’ educational success. Together parents, students, community members, faculty, other staff, and administrators are involved in a collaborative decision making process that focuses on the ultimate goal of improving student achievement of our ESLR’s.

Kennedy strives to build a positive school culture that engages all stakeholders. Communication occurs through home-to-school communication, school-to-home communication, parents as volunteers, parent involvement in the school’s governance and decision-making, as well as a greater collaboration and connection with the community. On a weekly basis, the principal provides parents with a school update through the *TeleParent* or “Connect-ED” telecommunication system. Our parent survey revealed that 90% of parents are satisfied with the communication received from the school and the *TeleParent* or “Connect-ED” telecommunication system. Faculty and staff conduct individual phone calls in order to secure parent help in monitoring their student’s academic progress. Often the barriers of time, culture differences, socioeconomic status, and changing family structures impede partnerships between the school and families. We seek to improve parental and community involvement by focusing on the values, beliefs, and norms of both the school and surrounding community.

Findings	Evidence in Support of Findings

<p><b>Parental Involvement</b> Kennedy has an active Parent Center. In our survey, 80% of parents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the Parent Center was of great help. With two parent representatives and parent volunteers, the Parent Center provides parent workshops on topics that include leadership training, effective parenting, problem-solving techniques, gang influence and avoidance, effective communication, healthy living, and understanding CST scores and the standards. Although JFK has an active Parent Center, we still must improve our parental involvement.</p> <p>Parent volunteers help with campus activities, which include breakfasts provided by parents during CST testing and lunch time supervision. Parents also volunteer during cultural celebrations such as the Hispanic Heritage Day Celebration and our Asian Pacific Heritage Day Celebration.</p> <p>JFK holds monthly parent meetings for Title I (CEAC), Bilingual (ELAC), LEARN Governance Council, School Site Council (SSC), the Booster Club, Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), the Korean Parent Advisory Council (KPAC), and the Black Parent Advisory Council (BPAC). The suggestions from these organizations are communicated to LEARN Governance and SSC where they can influence school policy.</p> <p>On a monthly basis, the principal invites parents to attend a social gathering called “Coffee with the Principal.” During this event, the principal updates the parents on a variety of events taking place on campus</p>	<p>Parent survey Parent center sign-ins Parent center call logs Parent center workshops Title I records</p> <p>Parent center records</p> <p>PTSA sign-ins/agendas Boosters minutes/ agendas Korean Parent agendas/ minutes Black Parent agendas/ minutes Bulletin announcements ELAC sign-ins CEAC sign-ins SSC sign-ins LEARN agendas/sign-ins</p> <p>Coffee with the Principal sign-ins</p>
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<p>and gives them an opportunity to share any concerns.</p>	
<p><b>Communication Systems</b>                  There are a variety of sources from which students can receive information to communicate to parents. These include twice-weekly PA announcements, written bulletins printed three times a week, our student television broadcast of announcements, and the school newspaper, known as “<i>The Word</i>,” published twice a semester.</p>	<p>Bulletins                  School newspaper                  Announcements</p>
<p>The parent newsletter is mailed to parents twice a semester. Parents also have access to information via our school website (jfkcougars.org).</p>	<p>Parent newsletter                  jfkcougars.org</p>
<p>With the “Connect-ED” telecommunication system, formerly known as <i>Tele-parent</i>, the principal sends a weekly voice message to parents that provide them with information on various events and meetings.</p>	<p>Connect-ED records</p>
<p>Kennedy is also able to call parents via the Integrated Student Information System (ISIS). This automated online attendance-taking program contacts parents to inform them if their child has been absent or tardy to class.</p>	<p>ISIS call logs</p>
<p>Our Pupil Service and Attendance (PSA) Counselor conducts home visits for students having difficulty attending school. In extreme cases, the PSA can refer students to the Student Attendance Review Committee (SARC). This committee, made up of district officials and local law enforcement, has the authority to impose a variety of consequences on both student and parent.</p>	<p>PSA records</p>

<p>Parents and community members in need of school data can access the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) on the LAUSD website (<a href="http://www.lausd.net">www.lausd.net</a>).</p>	<p>Lausd.net</p>
<p><b>Student Progress</b> Kennedy mails home student progress reports every five weeks, and a final report card at the end of each semester. For students in danger of failing, the counseling office sends an additional letter informing parents of their child’s academic progress and the intervention programs available at the school site.</p>	<p>Counseling office records</p>
<p>LAUSD also mails home individual students’ CST and CAHSEE scores to parents. Other mailers sent home by JFK include an update on a student’s graduation status and other senior activities.</p>	
<p>Counselors meet with all students four times a year. In 9<sup>th</sup> grade, counselors begin meeting with students. However, in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, counselors meet with parents and students to formulate and discuss the Individualized Graduation Plan (IGP). Parents receive a copy of the IGP, which is updated yearly. For parents unable to attend the meetings, the IGP is sent home with the student. During 12<sup>th</sup> grade, counselors see students on a more frequent basis to inform them of their progress towards graduation.</p>	<p>IGP sign-ins Counselor records</p>
<p>Parents also visit the JFK campus to celebrate the academic accomplishments of their children. Kennedy celebrates student success by having CST Award Ceremonies for all grade levels and across content areas. Students scoring at the “Proficient”</p>	<p>Certificates of recognition CST scores Student certificates</p>

<p>or “Advanced” levels are invited to take part in the ceremony with their family and friends. In June, departments recognize the individual accomplishments of students with Department Awards.</p> <p><b>Student Success Team (SST)</b> Kennedy has an SST case manager. An SST is a multi-disciplinary team that develops an evaluation of effective interventions, strategies, and alternatives for students who are demonstrating academic and/or behavioral problems. SST meetings can involve parents, students, administrators, deans, counselors, the Pupil Service Attendance (PSA) worker, the Diploma Project Advisor (DPA) school nurse, and the school psychologist.</p> <p><b>Special Education Services</b> The Special Education office communicates with parents to update and maintain students’ Individual Education Plan (IEP). Our students with moderate to severe disabilities access community resources to gain experiences that increase independence. Community Based Instruction (CBI) students visit the community. The Special Education Department partners with the District Office of Transition Services (DOTS) to provide resources and opportunities for all students. JFK also has a two DOTS representatives. The purpose of this group is to help students with disabilities transition from middle school to high school and from high school to beyond. They also help to provide employment for our students. Through the DOTS program, both regular education and students receiving special education services take field trips to universities, community and</p>	<p>SST sign-ins SST case load SST minutes/schedules</p> <p>Student IEP’s Special Education office records CBI records DOTS documents</p>
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<p>trade colleges. DOTS also provides employment opportunities through community resources for students receiving special education services. The DOTS program also provides students with a post-graduation plan to get them ready for life after high school.</p> <p><b>Parent Nights</b> Back to School Night and the Predominantly Hispanic Black Asian or Other (PHBAO) Open House are the most important events on the school calendar. These three events give an opportunity for teachers, counselors, and parents to discuss the successes, needs, and challenges of the student.</p> <p>Our Link Crew students and Parent Center also organize a ninth grade orientation for students and parents. In addition, we also have an event, organized by the administrative staff known as “An Evening with Kennedy.” During this event, future 9<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents are invited to the campus to learn about the various programs we have to offer.</p> <p>To better ensure that our incoming students are placed in the correct classes, our counseling office staff articulates with the local feeder middle schools. During this articulation, our counselors meet, greet, and program our incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.</p> <p><b>On Campus Community Connections</b> Students in grades 10-12, as well as parents looking to attain a high school diploma or to master the English language, can enroll in classes at the San Fernando-Kennedy</p>	<p>Back to School Night sign-ins PHBAO sign-ins Announcements Connect Ed phone logs Parent newsletter</p> <p>Events calendar Student/parent sign-ins</p> <p>Counseling office records</p> <p>Adult School records Counseling office records</p>
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<p>Adult School located on the JFK campus.</p> <p>Students who are not succeeding in a traditional high school setting have an opportunity to attend Jane Addams Continuation School or a variety of other educational programs by our Diploma Project Advisor (DPA).</p> <p>Kennedy High School is home to only one of three community-based clinics located on the campuses of the greater San Fernando Valley high schools. The Kennedy campus is also the location of the John F. Kennedy Clinic &amp; Family Resource Center, which is operated by LAUSD in collaboration with Kaiser Permanente and the Family Health Care Clinic, also known as <i>El Proyecto del Barrio</i>. Members of the clinic communicate with the faculty, parents, students, and staff on a regular basis to update us on the services and resources offered to students. Some of these resources include free flu shots, free eyeglasses, and counseling services.</p> <p><b>Clubs and Organizations</b>                  JFK has 29 active clubs and organizations on campus with over 1,000 members, and 50 athletic programs with 850 student athletes. These students work with parents and local businesses to enhance the school culture and community. Students have been involved in a number of activities: Red Cross Blood Drive, community parades, business openings, Canned Food Drive, Toys for Tots, Coats for Kids Drive, and Pennies for Patients.</p> <p><b>Community Partnerships:</b></p>	<p>Jane Addams Continuation School records                  DPA records</p> <p>Clinic records                  Faculty meetings/presentations                  Hathaway referrals                  El Proyecto del Barrio referrals                  El Nino Family Center referrals                  Tarzana Treatment Center Referrals</p> <p>Leadership records                  Clubs/organization records                  Announcements                  Bulletin announcements</p>
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<p>Students on track with a four-year college plan are encouraged to participate in college enrichment programs. These students are enrolled in community college courses offered by Pierce and Mission Colleges. Some of these courses are also offered on the JFK campus either after school or on Saturdays. The College Center invites a number of guest speakers from the various colleges and universities to meet with students and parents.</p> <p>The Career Center has also established a partnership with Mission College, which allows our students to participate in their “Focus on Careers Day.” During this event, students have an opportunity to meet with representatives from a variety of disciplines, counselors, and educational professionals. In the spring semester, the Career Center invites local businesses to take part in our Career Fair for our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.</p> <p>With the support of Kaiser Permanente, UCLA, and the Nurses Association, students take part in a community-based project that teaches them to take blood pressure samples from the community to detect high blood pressure.</p> <p>The Biomedical, Health and Fitness Academy has a partnership with the USC Medical-Counseling, Organization and Recruiting (Med-COR) Program. In this program, students are prepared to enter college and compete with others in the basic science courses and subsequently in applying to health professional schools. During the academic year, students participate in the Saturday-School Year Program. This program stresses skills in</p>	<p>Mission College course offerings Pierce College course offerings College Center visitation logs</p> <p>Main Office visitation logs Career Center records Career Fair records Service Learning records</p> <p>Teaching Careers Academy records</p> <p>BHF Academy records</p>
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<p>English, math and science. During the summer months, students enter the Summer Program. This program provides students with experiences in the medical field.</p> <p>The computer science/technology department works with the community organization known as El Proyecto del Barrio, which provides funding that enables a supervising teacher to train our students to repair, maintain and address technological concerns on the JFK campus.</p> <p>The Careers with Children Program offers JFK students hands-on experience as they work with children in the community that attend the Kennedy pre-school. Students study the pre-school state standards, design and teach lessons for our pre-school students. JFK students also volunteer as teaching assistants at neighboring Knollwood Elementary School.</p> <p><b>Community Leadership</b>                  2008 was a very difficult year for our community. During the months of September and November, the San Fernando Valley experienced two tragic fires. During the September Porter Ranch Fire, Kennedy students and staff were recognized by Local District 1 for providing shelter for 250 Robert Frost Middle School students. Organizations such as the Link Crew and the Teaching Careers Academy were able to put students at ease during this period of uncertainty. Our visiting students entered the campus with fear and uncertainty. By the end of the day, they left grateful for the hospitality displayed by JFK and excited at the opportunity to return as 9<sup>th</sup> graders.</p>	<p>El Proyecto records</p> <p>Student presentations                  Student lesson plans                  Course outline</p> <p>LAUSD records                  Main Office records</p>
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<p>During the November Sylmar Fire, Kennedy became an evacuation center for 190 area residents. During this tragic event, several students and staff arrived to help the Red Cross convert our gymnasium into an evacuation center. JFK was later recognized for its service to the community by both LAUSD Superintendent David Brewer III and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.</p> <p><b>Future Partnerships</b> As we continue to transition into Smaller Learning Communities, our ultimate goal is to develop partnerships with businesses and the community that will allow for career-interest based mentorship, internships, and job shadowing opportunities for all of our students.</p>	<p>LAUSD records Red Cross records</p>
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**E-2. To what extent is the school a safe, clean, and orderly place that nurtures learning?**

**To what extent is the culture of the school characterized by trust, professionalism, and high expectations for all students, and a focus on continuous school improvement?**

*Summary of Findings:*

Kennedy High School provides a safe, clean, and orderly atmosphere that nurtures learning. The climate of most classrooms and school activities demonstrates respect and concern for others. In our faculty survey, 96% of staff members indicated that they felt safe on campus. On a culturally diverse campus such as ours, students quickly learn to respect individual differences. Staff members expect nothing less than this and are instrumental in creating a climate of caring and understanding.

Our custodial staff works at maintaining a clean campus. During the 2005-2006 school year, Kennedy High School received the Local District 1 Campus Beautification Award and in the 2006-2007 school year received an honorable mention. District Maintenance and Operations staff supplement and assist our staff, as needed.

A strong force keeping Kennedy High School a safe and nurturing environment, is the JFK staff. Kennedy High School's faculty, staff, and administration contribute to the safety of the campus and learning environment by being visible in the classrooms and on the grounds. They reinforce expected behaviors and instill pride in Kennedy. In a survey conducted during the 2007-08 school year, 61% of students indicated that they felt safe on the campus. This was the finding even after two racially-based incidents that resulted in two campus "lockdowns" during the 2006-07 year. The positive environment provided at JFK is such that many staff members have enrolled their own children here. In addition, several hundred students from outside our attendance area choose to attend JFK's Architecture, Digital Arts and Film Production Magnet. All staff members work together to make the school a place where students can learn, feel safe and feel proud.

Findings	Evidence in Support of Findings
<p><b>Campus Safety</b>                      The faculty and staff have made the student body aware of existing policies to encourage a safe and nurturing learning environment. All students are given the LAUSD Parent/Student Handbook, which includes the student conduct code, dress code, and sexual harassment policy. Policies are reviewed with students during homeroom (“Cougar Time”). The Discipline Foundation Positive Behavior Support Program was implemented in 2006-07 throughout all LAUSD schools.</p> <p>“Cougar Time” gives students an opportunity to have a connection with the same adult throughout their entire high school career. They build a rapport with the homeroom teacher, who can answer their questions and give them important information.</p> <p>Kennedy takes a proactive stance on campus safety. JFK relies on two police officers, three deans, one part-time Youth Relations Officer, and five campus security assistants to fairly enforce school policies, as well as build positive relationships with the students.</p> <p>All students are issued photo identification cards. Visitors are asked to sign-in at the front door and issued a visitor’s pass at the main entrance. Hall passes are required for any student out of class with teacher permission.</p> <p>JFK has a Safe School Plan, developed collaboratively with stakeholder input, that</p>	<p>Student survey (see appendix)                      Student planners                      Allocation of Title I funds                      Master schedule</p> <p>Morning announcements                      Campus assistants                      Student survey (see appendix)</p> <p>Student identification cards                      Front door sign-in                      Visitor’s logs                      Teacher hall passes</p> <p>Front desk sign-ins</p> <p>Safe School Plan (main office)                      District mandated earthquake drill/</p>

<p>is updated yearly to assure that we are prepared for emergency situations. Lock down and earthquake procedures are reviewed and practiced each semester.</p> <p>To encourage a safe and nurturing learning environment, student leadership, clubs and other organizations were created. Kennedy High leadership opportunities include Link Crew, Student Government, membership on LEARN Governance or the School Site Council, in 29 campus clubs or 50 athletic programs.</p> <p>The HEART Program, a student organization sponsored by Local District 1, is dedicated to ensuring that JFK is a safe and orderly campus. To celebrate diversity and promote tolerance on the school campus, a Youth Relations officer and a dean work HEART's group of student leaders to provide a learning environment free of conflict.</p> <p>The "Cougar Pack" is a group of students who meet with the administrative staff on an as-needed basis to share issues or concerns. The goal of the "Cougar Pack" is the constant improvement of JFK, and administrators are quick to respond to their concerns of the students. Last year, the "Cougar Pack" wanted the administration to provide more access to and cleaner restrooms. The administration responded by holding a meeting with the plant manager to fulfill the request. This year, the goal of the "Cougar Pack" is to improve school spirit.</p> <p>Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) promotes anti-tobacco education through assemblies, bulletins, PA</p>	<p>Clubs/campus organizations (appendix)  Master schedule  Link crew records  Student government records  Freshmen academy records  Freshmen orientation records  Club constitutions</p> <p>Dean's Office records  HEART Program records  Local District 1 records</p> <p>Cougar Pack records</p> <p>TUPE records</p>
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<p>announcements, and consciousness-raising activities sponsored by LAUSD.</p> <p>JFK works with local law enforcement to ensure that all students have a safe and orderly school. LAPD Mission Division provides a strong presence around the school community, ticketing students for truancy and returning them to the campus. To ensure constant communication and safety, Safe School Collaborative meetings are held on a monthly basis with all neighboring schools, Local District 1, and local law enforcement on a monthly basis.</p> <p><b>Clean Learning Environment</b> JFK has a staff of 14 custodians that maintain a clean learning environment for our students. Visitors on our campus often commend us on the cleanliness of the school, outside areas, and attractive landscaping. During peer observations, 93% of faculty members indicated that our classrooms were clean. Several filming companies, when scouting our campus, have been impressed by its cleanliness and have decided to film projects at our school site. Despite such recognition, cleanliness remains a high priority of students, parents, and all faculty members.</p> <p>On a regular basis, Community Based Instruction (CBI) classes provide assistance in keeping our campus clean by recycling cans and bottles, which in return helps to fund the program.</p> <p><b>Student Culture</b> The Kennedy faculty exerts tremendous energy to provide a nurturing environment. Many members of the faculty assist students through one-on-one conferencing</p>	<p>LAPD Mission patrol of community PSA records/ case load Student Attendance Review Board records Local District 1 records Safe School Collaborative minutes</p> <p><u>JAG</u> (filming) Hallmark Channel (filming) Wachovia Bank (community outreach) Pierce College (classes) Mission College (classes)</p> <p>Recycling containers CBI class records CBI student garden</p> <p>Student survey (appendix) Master schedule of classes</p>
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<p>and tutoring sessions before and after school, and often give up their lunch periods to be available to offer assistance. In our student survey, 70% of students stated that they felt supported by the teachers.</p> <p>JFK has staff and faculty members whom students can see if they are experiencing psychological, physical, and or emotional difficulties. JFK has one full-time nurse, one special education coordinator, eight counselors, one school psychologist and one magnet coordinator who support the needs of students. Despite these resources, this continues to be an area of concern. In our student survey, only 56% of students felt that at least one adult on campus cared about them. It is our hope that the growth of Smaller Learning Communities will provide students with an increased level of personalization and community environment.</p> <p>Coordination of Services Team (COST) meets weekly and provides a coordinated approach that identifies at-risk students, develops comprehensive multidisciplinary intervention plans, and regularly monitors student progress. COST consists of deans, counselors, Diploma Project Advisor, Pupil Service and Attendance counselor, administrators, school nurse, and the Freshman Academy Advisor.</p> <p><b>Tardy Policy</b> Concern about student tardies is addressed through school policies and a system of consequences that are enforced. JFK has a tardy room monitored by a full-time Attendance Dean, who works with the PSA, DPA and school police to ensure that</p>	<p>COST case load COST sign-in sheets COST flyers LAUSD COST training Professional development agendas</p> <p>Tardy lessons/strategies Attendance Dean logs/ records ISIS access PSA case load DPA sign-in sheets/ logs</p>
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all students are aware of the school and district attendance policy.	
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**E-3. To what extent do all students receive appropriate support (academic, social, and emotional) along with an individual learning plan to help insure academic success?**

*Summary of Findings:*

Both the faculty and staff highly value and care for the students of Kennedy High School. In our student survey, 69% stated they felt teachers support them. Using a shared decision-making model, Kennedy High School fosters a climate of learning and professional growth. Faculty and staff work to collaborate on various teaching strategies in order to continually improve their professional expertise and implement new practices in their classrooms.

JFK has a number of programs in place to ensure the academic, social, and emotional success of our student body. However, we are aware that an achievement gap continues to exist among our students and that we need to increase the level of personalization on our campus of over 3,000 students. In order to improve student achievement, JFK began a transition into Small Learning Communities (SLC's) during the 2007-08 school year to increase personalization and mitigate the size of our large urban campus. The faculty and staff are encouraged to sponsor student clubs/organizations and participate in student social/ athletic activities. After- school tutoring is available to students every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday in all core subjects. Reduced class size and support programs for 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade English/Language Arts classes allow for more individualized attention to help students. As a Year 1 Program Improvement school, Kennedy expects to expand its tutoring program to include a Saturday School in 2009.

Findings	Evidence in Support of Findings
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<p>support needed to transition into college. JFK provides students with the opportunity to take the community college placement examination in English and math for both Pierce and Mission Community Colleges. The center also provides guest speakers, university recruiters, financial aid information to parents, and administers AP and PSAT exams.</p> <p>The Career Center administers the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Test (ASVAB). This comprehensive career exploration and planning program includes a multiple aptitude test battery, an interest inventory, and various career planning tools designed to help students explore the work world.</p> <p>During after-school hours, tutoring services are made available to students in all core content areas, and Saturday School will be added in 2009. The groups targeted for this program are expected to include all students scoring at the “Basic,” “Below Basic,” and “Far Below Basic” levels.</p> <p>JFK also offers an intensive CAHSEE intervention program for seniors who have not passed the CAHSEE. The CAHSEE Boot Camp takes place during the instructional day one week prior to the CAHSEE. During Boot Camp, students are taken out of their classes and given intensive intervention four hours a day.</p> <p>All students have access to instructional resources in the JFK Library. The JFK Library has fifteen computers and one computer lab with an additional thirty-five computers. A full-time librarian and part-time librarian assistant are available to provide students with out-of-class assistance during the hours that the library is open. During lunch, before school,</p>	<p>Mission College records Stats: students excepted into colleges/universities</p> <p>Career Center records</p> <p>Program Improvement Year 1 budget allocation</p> <p>Library records</p>
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<p>and after school, several students can be seen in the library receiving additional help and support. The school librarian also provides lessons on the use of 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology for a variety of research projects.</p> <p>The classified staff is dedicated to supporting the academic achievement of all JFK students. On a regular basis, they often contact parents to update them on their child's academic progress. When needed, they also translate at parent meetings. Classified staff members update and monitor student records, and mail information to make parents aware of school news, events, and activities.</p> <p>Paraprofessionals are a valuable and necessary part of our staff and are respected by our parents and community.</p> <p>Paraprofessionals support student achievement by leading small group instruction, providing one-on-one instruction, assisting with the development of student study skills, and effective time management. They also model appropriate peer interaction in the classroom.</p> <p>The paraprofessionals work closely with teachers to assist our students with physical disabilities so that they may fully participate in physical education, unstructured activities, and extracurricular activities.</p> <p>Many students with disabilities need assistance with the day-to-day challenges of being confined to a locomotive device. This requires paraprofessionals to be trained to assist with personal care (diapering and toileting), and with activities that may present a safety issue, such as assistance with eating and drinking or transferring a student from one area to another.</p>	<p>Job duties of classified/paraprofessionals</p>
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<p>Through effective modeling and effective communication, with certificated, classified, and the administrative staff, paraprofessionals help to support the needs of our students.</p>	
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**E4. To what extent do students have access to a system of personal support services, activities, and opportunities at the school and within the community?**

*Summary of Findings:*

Kennedy High School offers many opportunities to access support services and activities on campus and within the community. In the past three years, several new programs have been added to address our students’ needs while successful programs have been continued. Smaller Learning Communities (SLC’s) are being implemented to increase the level of personalization on campus. The College Center is available to students and parents seeking information on university admission and financial aid. The Career Center provides students with a variety of support, including career information workshops focused on employment, and the application process. The Parent Center works closely with several departments offering various activities and support for both students and parents. The athletic program maintains academic standards for student athletes requiring them to maintain a GPA of at least 2.0 & follow the “Victory with Honor” code of conduct. Programs such as performing arts, art, music, NJROTC and numerous clubs/organizations offer students other options. Although JFK has seen an increase in the number of programs offered, more student engagement in extra-curricular and community activities is needed, to build a stronger school culture.

The Kennedy Clinic & Family Resource Center, located on the Kennedy campus, is operated by the District in collaboration with Kaiser Permanente Medical Center and the Family Health Care Clinic known as El Proyecto del Barrio. The clinic communicates with faculty, parents, students, and staff on a regular basis to update us on available services. Some of these include free flu shots, free eyeglasses, medical check ups and counseling services.

<p><b>Findings</b></p>	<p><b>Evidence in Support of Findings</b></p>
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<p>JFK students have access to a system of personal support services, activities, and opportunities at school and within the community.</p> <p><b>Personal Services at School</b> Counselors work with students to ensure their Individualized Graduation Plan (IGP) is in line with their college and career goals. In addition, JFK’s college counselor and career advisor are both available to provide assistance with students’ college and career goals. In our survey, 61% of students reported feeling supported by the counselors.</p> <p>As stipulated in their IEP, students with multiple disabilities are attended by Temporary Support Assistants (TSA’s). Support services are provided by itinerant district personnel and include Language and Speech, Adaptive Physical Education, Career and Transition Services, Deaf and Heard of Hearing, and Least Restrictive Environment. Students also receive Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Visual Impairment services. Autism Support Teachers shadow autistic students in the classroom. Students receiving special education services also have the option to visit with resource staff when they are in need of additional support.</p> <p>Kennedy’s English Language Learner Coordinator and ESL counselor both ensure that ESL students have access to a bilingual program that enables them to fulfill A- G requirements.</p> <p>Kennedy has a Student Study Team (SST)</p>	<p>Counseling Office sign-in sheets Counselor records Student IGP’s Student survey (see appendix) College Center records Career Advisor records</p> <p>Student IEP’s TSA records Special Education Office records</p> <p>Counseling office records</p> <p>SST case manager records</p>
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<p>case manager to identify students who have specific support needs. Teachers and out of classroom staff attend SST meetings with the parent to help develop intervention strategies designed to maximize the academic success for students.</p>	
<p>At-risk students whose academic progress is jeopardized by absenteeism, involvement in gangs, drug addiction and personal problems are provided with counseling and other services by deans, an Impact Coordinator, PSA (Pupil Service and Attendance) counselor, a Diploma Project Advisor (DPA), counselors, and a Youth Relations Officer.</p>	<p>Impact records PSA records DPA case load Youth Relations Officer records</p>
<p>JFK has an IMPACT Coordinator, a core team of teachers and other staff members who are responsible for implementing the IMPACT program. The program provides a systemic approach for the identification, referral, and support of students who are experiencing behavior of concern related to possible substance abuse or violence.</p>	<p>Impact records</p>
<p><b>Student Activities</b></p>	
<p>JFK offers late school bus transportation for traveling students taking part in extra-curricular activities after school.</p>	<p>Transportation branch records Dean’s office records</p>
<p>During the school year, the success of individual students, teams and the contributions of clubs/organizations are given recognition during awards ceremonies, PA announcements, in the school bulletin, our school newspaper, and the parent newsletter.</p>	<p>Bulletins announcements School newspaper Parent newsletter</p>
<p>Honor Roll student names are posted in a showcase in the main hallway of the</p>	<p>Student honor roll</p>

<p>administrative building.</p> <p>Twenty-nine clubs and organizations continually promote student interaction through events that foster understanding of cultures. This includes events such as Hispanic Heritage Day, Black History Month, and Asian-Pacific Heritage Day.</p> <p>Student Government, and Link Crew events are organized to build school pride and unity. This includes Spirit Rallies and friendly competitions such as Leadership v Student Government Softball Game, the Turkey Bowl, Football Tailgate Party, Club Rush Day, and basketball tournaments.</p> <p>Musical and drama productions give students the opportunity to showcase their talents. Student art is displayed throughout the campus.</p> <p>The school newspaper <i>The Word</i>, literary magazine, <i>Voices and Visions</i>, and yearbook provide venues for student writers.</p> <p>Our film class has begun to showcase their talents on a weekly basis by broadcasting announcements are broadcasted to some homerooms via intra-school television every Friday.</p> <p><b>Community Services/Opportunities</b></p> <p>Partnerships have been developed with Pierce College, Mission College, and California State University Northridge. All three send guest speakers to give informational workshops on college requirements. Pierce and Mission Colleges also offer courses.</p>	<p>Calendar of school events</p> <p>Calendar of student activities</p> <p>Student performances</p> <p>School newspaper Literary magazine</p> <p>Weekly video announcements</p> <p>College Center records</p>
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<p>Academy has established a partnership with the USC Keck School of Medicine Medical-Counseling, Organization and Recruiting (Med-COR) Program. In this program, students are prepared to enter college and compete with others in the basic science courses and subsequently in applying to health professional schools. During the academic year, students participate in the Saturday-School Year Program. This program stresses skills in English, math and science. During the summer months, students enter the Summer Program. This program provides students with experiences in the medical field.</p> <p>As we continue to develop our SLC's, we look forward to fully implementing the Career Technical Education portion of the SLC curriculum. By offering opportunities appropriate to the theme of each SLC, for students to experience job shadowing, mentorships, and internships from partners in our community.</p>	
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**Areas of Strength**



1. Kennedy programs such as AVID, tutoring, college-enrichment classes, and the Freshman Academy nurture connectedness and learning.
2. The Parent Center provides a vital link between parents and the school.
3. There are numerous opportunities for parental involvement and efforts to keep them informed.
4. Students have numerous opportunities for extracurricular activities.
5. Kennedy provides a clean, safe, and orderly environment.
6. The school has improved access to counseling services.

**Areas of Growth**

1. Parental involvement needs to be further increased.
2. Professional development should also address student motivation
3. Kennedy must increase personal attention given students along with the full implementation of SLC's.
4. The school must develop more community and business partnerships to assist SLC efforts to provide students with more personal support and career pathways.
5. Communication among all stakeholders should be improved.
6. Student access to counselors needs to be even further increased.