

THE LAUSD A-G LIFE PREP CURRICULUM AND COLLEGE ACCESS FOR THE CHILDREN OF LABOR UNION MEMBERS

The Labor And Education Collaborative

“My oldest daughter graduated from high school, but wasn’t prepared for college. I don’t want the same thing to happen to my younger children.”

SEIU Local 1877 member

“I want my children to have a better education than I did. I want them to have a better future.”

SEIU Local 721 member

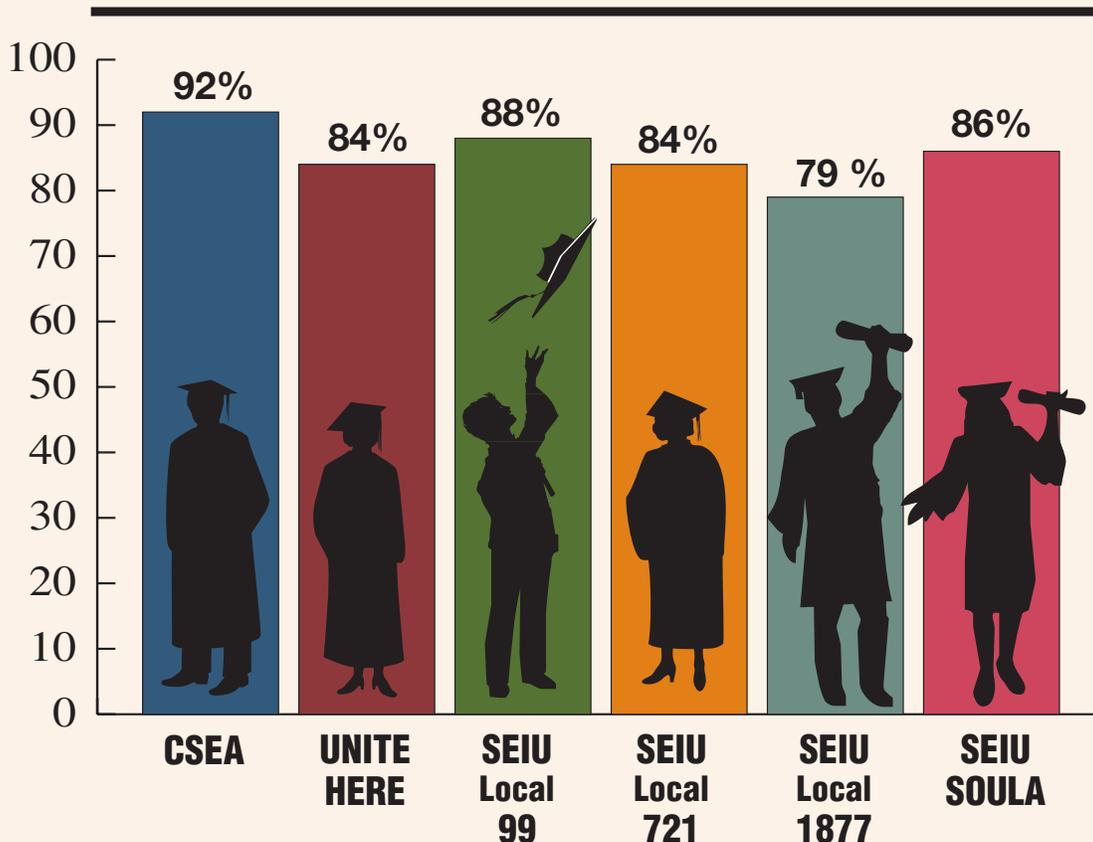
“The goals my sons have set for themselves require a college education. I want them to be as successful as possible.”

CSEA member

“My focus is for my child to go to college and finish, because I didn’t.”

SEIU Local 99 member

Percent of union parents who expect their children to graduate from college



This policy brief is based on data gathered from union members residing in Los Angeles County including: residential zip code information from over 350,000 workers belonging to the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) United Long-Term Care Workers, SEIU Local 99, SEIU Local 1877, SEIU Local 721, and United Teachers Los Angeles; telephone surveys of 530 parent members of the California School Employees Association (CSEA), UNITE HERE!, SEIU Local 99, SEIU Local 721, SEIU Local 1877, SEIU Security Officers United in Los Angeles; and 70 in-depth interviews with parent members of the CSEA, SEIU Local 99, SEIU Local 1877, and SEIU Local 721.

Data analysis by:
Veronica Terriquez,
USC Department of Sociology
& UCLA IDEA Faculty Affiliate

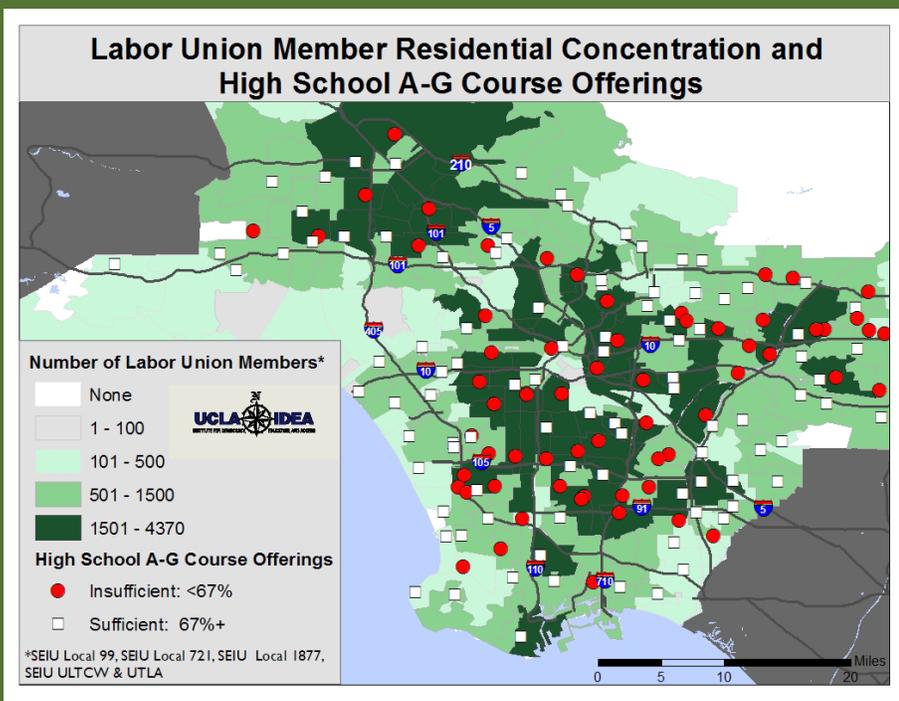
THE LAUSD A-G LIFE PREP CURRICULUM AND COLLEGE ACCESS FOR THE CHILDREN OF LABOR UNION MEMBERS

The Labor And Education Collaborative

Labor union members in Los Angeles have high hopes for their children's future. They believe that a college education can best equip their children to pursue a meaningful career, achieve economic stability, and contribute to society. Union members depend on Los Angeles public schools to offer students the learning opportunities necessary to graduate from high school ready for college.

Unfortunately, the children of many union members do not have equal opportunities to enroll in high school A-G courses, the college preparatory subject requirements for admission into a four-year public university in California. In Los Angeles County, a disproportionate number of low-wage service sector union members live in communities where the local public high schools do not offer enough A-G courses (a minimum of about 2/3 of all courses offerings) for all students to complete the college requirements. Schools with insufficient A-G courses tend to graduate fewer students who move on to four-year colleges and universities.

The Los Angeles Unified School District's A-G Life Prep Resolution has the potential to expand four-year college enrollment opportunities for the children of thousands of union members in Los Angeles. Passed in response to the demands of community groups in 2005, this resolution made the A-G curriculum the default curriculum for the district's high schools. The policy sought to increase the proportion of A-G course offerings district-wide, but particularly in schools serving working-class and low-income families. Yet the A-G Life Prep Resolution has not been fully implemented. Data from the 2008-09 school year indicate that more than half of LAUSD's non-charter high schools still did not offer sufficient A-G courses for all students to meet the four-year college entry requirements by the time they graduate. Guaranteeing access to A-G courses for all is an important step in helping realize the dream of a college education for the children of Los Angeles' union families.



This map illustrates the residential concentration of labor union members and the shortages of A-G courses in Los Angeles County's public schools. The darker green shades of the map represent zip codes with a high residential concentration of union members, while the lighter shades of the map represent zip codes with fewer union members. The red dots on the map identify high schools that do not offer enough A-G courses for all students to graduate college ready, while the white boxes identify schools with sufficient A-G courses.

