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Californians for Justice
Education Fund

www.caljustice.org

Californians for Justice



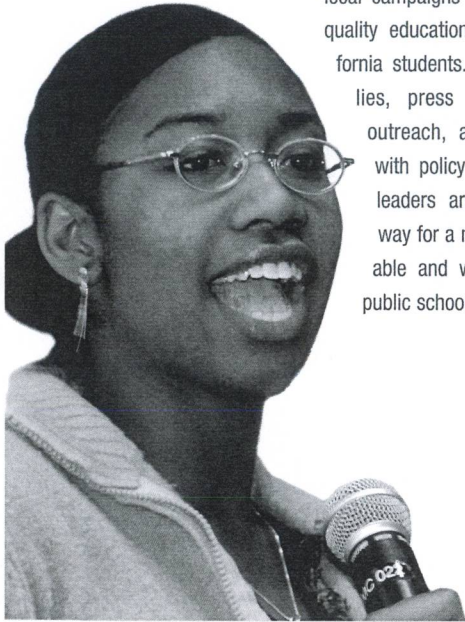
LOCAL POWER

Public policy from the grassroots

CFJ works in key cities—Fresno, Long Beach, Oakland and San Jose—that reflect the

diversity of California's population. We organize high school students and parents to wage local campaigns to fight for a quality education for all California students. Through rallies, press conferences, outreach, and meetings with policy makers, CFJ leaders are paving the way for a more accountable and well-resourced public school system.

Since 2002, CFJ has won important victories on bilingual education, clean and safe facilities, school funding and student discipline. In 2006, CFJ launched local campaigns in each of our regions to increase support for students to be prepared for and attend college. From demanding college preparatory courses for all and more college counselors per student, CFJ youth leaders have set high standards for themselves and are challenging the public school system to help them achieve their goals for a better education and a brighter future.



STATEWIDE IMPACT

The Campaign for Quality Education

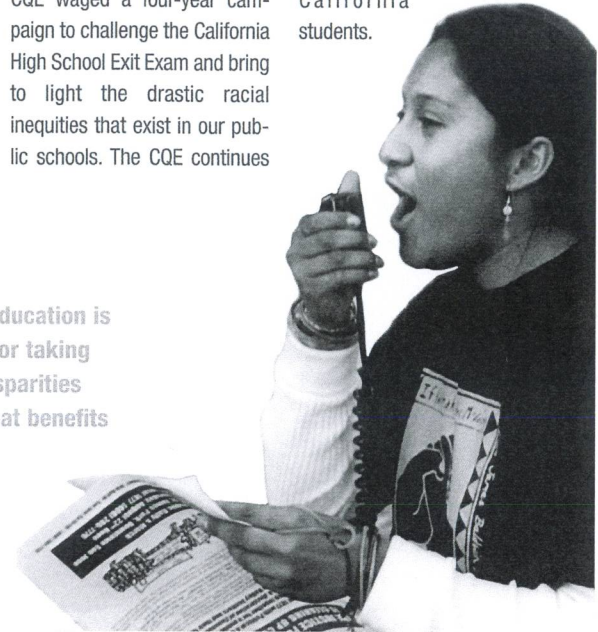
In 2002, CFJ took the lead in forming the Campaign for Quality Education (CQE), a statewide alliance of thirty organizations. The CQE brings together the power of grassroots student and parent-led community organizations with the policy expertise of research,

legal, and advocacy groups to fight for better schools for all California students. CFJ and the CQE waged a four-year campaign to challenge the California High School Exit Exam and bring to light the drastic racial inequities that exist in our public schools. The CQE continues

to wage statewide campaigns to impact public education policy for the benefit of all California students.

The Campaign for Quality Education is a vitally important means for taking research on educational disparities and turning it into policy that benefits our children.

*Linda Darling Hammond,
Professor of Education at
Stanford University and
author, "The Right to Learn"*



BUILDING LEADERSHIP

Youth as Leaders in their Schools and Communities

CFJ believes that the people that are most affected by a problem should lead efforts to solve it. The six million young people that are educated in California's public education system are not even asked for their opinion about how they would like to improve their schools, let alone involved in creating those solutions themselves.

At CFJ, youth are not the leaders of tomorrow, they are leaders here and now in the movement to win racial justice and a quality education in California's schools.

CFJ engages and trains high-school age youth leaders through a variety of activities, including:

- School-based clubs and student groups
- Weekly youth meetings
- Organizing and political education trainings
- Campaign events and actions
- An annual Leadership Retreat
- Our Summer Youth Leadership Academy, an annual seven-week intensive program that trains youth members in outreach, fundraising, media advocacy and other leadership skills.
- Internships throughout the school year

CFJ has transformed me into the person that I am. It showed me my importance and my voice, and that even though I am young, I can create change and I do have the power to help my people.

Marisol Melendrez, CFJ youth leader and Board member



JOIN OUR MOVEMENT

Donate to support CFJ's important work

CFJ invites you to be a part of winning positive changes in our schools and communities. By joining our movement, you are helping to create a brighter future for all people in California.

Please visit us at www.caljustice.org where you can sign up for our mailing list and make electronic donations to support CFJ's work for racial justice in education.

Also, you can make a donation by check, made payable to "Californians for Justice Education Fund" and mailed to:

Californians for Justice
1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 317
Oakland, CA 94612.

By contributing to CFJ you are building power from the grassroots to benefit our communities and create change in California.

YOUR DONATION OF...

\$100 Enables four youth to travel to CFJ's annual Leadership Retreat

\$250 Sponsors a student leader for two weeks of CFJ's Summer Academy

\$500 Covers the cost of one campaign action

I have been a CFJ donor since 1995, when I started knocking on doors and talking to people about racial justice.

I have learned so much about building power in our communities to achieve what really matters to us: an equitable and just society for everyone.

*Ramie Dare,
CFJ supporter*

OUR MISSION

Californians for Justice (CFJ) is a statewide grassroots organization working for racial justice by building the power of communities that have been pushed to the margins of the political process. Since 2001, CFJ's main focus has been building equity in education. We organize youth, immigrants, low-income people, and communities of color in order to improve their social, economic and political conditions. CFJ trains a new generation of grassroots civil rights leaders and mobilizes public support for statewide policy changes in California.

OUR VISION

(Developed by the youth members of CFJ)

∞ We believe in public schools that empower youth with knowledge, skills, and hope, because education is liberation.

∞ We believe in an education system that provides qualified and diverse teaching staff to open the minds of youth, and school resources to open the doors to opportunities.

∞ We believe in fighting for the rights of students of color, low-income students, immigrant students, LGBT students, and their families so that we can achieve justice in our schools.

∞ We believe that youth, parents, and communities deserve the power to participate in the collective pursuit of a quality education.

In Fall 2009, student leaders and staff with Californians for Justice in Long Beach formed the SEED (Students Empowered through Educational Democracy) committee to develop a new campaign focused on Healthy School issues. Between February and April 2010, student leaders and staff with Californians for Justice in Long Beach collected close to 200 detailed surveys from fellow students and community members to determine issues for the campaign.

Survey Findings:

90% of those surveyed want education about how to access healthy food

87% of those surveyed want access to community/urban gardens on school campuses

91% of those surveyed agree schools should provide nutritious foods

84% of those surveyed agree that LBUSD schools should provide courses such as: ethnic studies that expose students and teachers to the full range of cultures, ethnicities, and races in Long Beach

It was evident through the research gathered from the first survey that health was of priority to our communities. SEED decided to solidify CFJ's campaign by developing a second survey that would address possible solutions to the issues of health. From May through June of 2010 CFJ leaders and staff organized a Community Forum and waged a second survey to over 170 community members to identify the "Food for Thought" Campaign Goals and Solutions:

2010-2011 Campaign Goals

1. To ensure that all LBUSD High School students have access to healthy and nutritious foods and Food Justice curriculum to educate them about making healthy and sustainable food choices.
2. To build a powerful collaborative of students, local school officials, community allies and decision-makers to provide input and support to the Food for Thought campaign.
3. To embrace and celebrate the diversity of Long Beach through both community-led and school-led events, curriculum, and emotional and social supports in Long Beach schools.

Campaign Solutions – Step 1:

1. **LBUSD public schools should provide fresh and high quality food to ALL students**

Students and community members want school meal programs to offer:

- Fresher,
- Better tasting, and nutritious
- Pesticide-free and hormone-free menu options

2. **Create NEW or restore existing urban/community gardens located in areas/environments that are easily accessible to low-income families**

Students want the option to take courses that teach:

- Gardening with limited resources,
- Healthy eating and nutrition AND
- Preparing healthy and affordable meals with locally grown organic produce

3. **Promotion of week long Racial Justice cultural awareness demonstrations/events that educate students and community members of different cultural practices, teachings, and history of Long Beach's Diversity**

Students and community members want to celebrate the diversity of Long Beach communities through:

- Hands-on activities
- Workshops
- Social gatherings AND
- Expanded Ethnic study courses

Californians for Justice's Long Beach Food for Thought Campaign

ENDORSEMENT FORM

PLEASE FAX to CFJ (562) 951-9444 (fax). Questions, call (562) 951-3916.

Our vision is to promote healthy bodies, healthy, green environments, and healthy minds for all LBUSD schools to ensure their personal and academic performance through these solutions

Ensure that all LBUSD High School students have access to healthy and nutritious foods and food justice curriculum to educate them about making healthy and sustainable food choices

1. LBUSD public schools should provide fresh and high quality food to ALL students—students and community members want school meal programs to offer:

- Fresher
• Better tasting, and nutritious
• Pesticide-free and hormone-free menu options

2. Create NEW or restore existing urban/community gardens located in areas/environments that are easily accessible to low-income families—Students want the option to take courses that teach:

- Gardening with limited resources,
• Healthy eating and nutrition AND
• Preparing healthy and affordable meals with locally grown organic produce

Embrace and celebrate the diversity of Long Beach through both community-led and school-led events, curriculum, and emotional and social supports in Long Beach schools

3. Promotion of week long racial justice cultural awareness demonstrations/events that educate students and community members of different cultural practices, teachings, and history of Long Beach's diversity—students and community members want to celebrate the diversity of Long Beach communities through:

- Hands-on activities
• Workshops
• Social gatherings AND
• Expanded Ethic study courses

Please check all that apply:

- [] YES! We support the "Food for Thought" campaign efforts to ensure the improvement of the social, physical, and mental health of Long Beach students and community members
[] YES! I/We would like to join a collaborative of students, local school officials, community allies, and decision-makers to provide input and support to the "Food for Thought" campaign

We (or I if individual) support the goals of "Food for Thought".

Our organization's name (or individual name) can be used in lists of supporters in campaign materials.

[] Endorse as organization

Organization: _____

Contact person: _____

[] Endorse as individual

If endorsement is from an individual, your name: _____

Affiliation (for identification only): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Ext: _____ Fax: _____

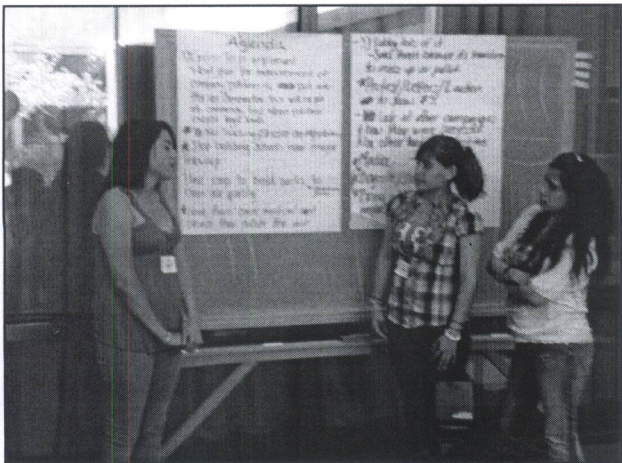
Email: _____

CALIFORNIANS FOR JUSTICE

"Food for Thought"

New Student-led Campaign in Long Beach

In Fall 2009, student leaders and staff with Californians for Justice in Long Beach formed a campaign committee to develop a new campaign focused on Healthy School issues. Between February and April 2010, student leaders and staff with Californians for Justice in Long Beach collected close to 200 detailed surveys from fellow students and community members to determine issues for the campaign. Launched in May 2010, the "**Food for Thought**" Campaign focuses on three fundamental health-related issues in Long Beach public schools in order to ensure that *all students can thrive, attend school healthy and ready-to-learn, and graduate prepared for college, careers, and community participation*:



1. Healthy Bodies

Including access to healthy and nutritious foods in Long Beach schools and low-income neighborhoods

2. Healthy, Green Environments

Including access to good air quality and clean and safe places for learning and recreation in Long Beach schools and low-income neighborhoods

3. Healthy Minds

Including positive race relations, self-identity, diversity awareness, and emotional and social supports in Long Beach schools

May 2010 Community Forum

In May 2010, CFJ student leaders organized a community forum to discuss their survey results and next steps in the campaign. More than 40 students and community members participated, including organizations such as Families in Good Health, EM3, Weed and Seed, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, Khmer Girls in Action, and the Cambodian Community Association. Forum participants agreed that a new organizing coalition needed to be formed to address these school-related health issues. Some of the possible policy demands discussed include:

- Incorporating education about access to healthy foods and how to maintain a healthy diet in all mandatory public school health classes in LBUSD
- Promoting urban gardens and urban gardening classes at LBUSD schools in located low-income communities of color in Central and West Long Beach.
- Working with broader alliances, including the Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports, to promote stricter air quality regulations for Long Beach and limiting any "cap-and-trade" practices in the Long Beach port.
- Promoting new courses and curriculum in the LBUSD such as Ethnic Studies that expose students and educators to the full-range of cultures in Long Beach.
- Promoting weeklong "Racial Justice" cultural awareness weeks at LBUSD schools to address race relations and diversity.



CALIFORNIANS FOR JUSTICE: Food for Thought Campaign Solutions Survey

Demographic Information		
Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above	Race / Ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Biracial _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Multiracial _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Age:	School (if applicable):	Zipcode you live in:

How much do you agree with each of the following statements?				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. LBUSD schools do a good job of providing healthy, nutritious, and fresh food to all students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I would like access to a community / urban garden on my school campus.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. LBUSD schools <u>should</u> provide access to healthy, nutritious, and fresh food to all students, regardless of family income, race/ethnicity, and neighborhood location.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Education about how to access healthy food and maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle <u>should</u> be a course requirement for LBUSD schools.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. LBUSD schools do a good job of addressing race relations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. LBUSD school policies contribute to tensions and conflict among races.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. LBUSD schools <u>should</u> provide courses, such as Ethnic Studies, that expose students and teachers to the full-range of cultures, ethnicities, and races in Long Beach.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. LBUSD schools <u>should</u> provide "Racial Justice" awareness weeks to address race relations and diversity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I want to get more involved in working on access to healthy foods and positive race relations in Long Beach schools and neighborhoods:

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Entered in database (CFJ use only)