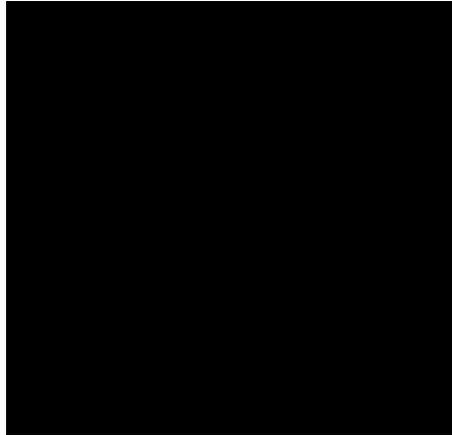


**The California School Age Families Education (Cal-SAFE) Program**

**Report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the Legislature  
As required by California *Education Code* Section 54748(I)**



**Submitted by  
California Department of Education  
Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction**

**Prepared by  
Brenda G. LeTendre, Ed.D.,  
Evaluation Consultant  
Branagh Information Group**

**Mitzi Inouye, MSW, Education Programs Consultant  
Child Development Division  
California Department of Education  
1430 N Street, Suite 3410  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901**

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# **The California School Age Families Education (Cal-SAFE) Program**

## **Background Information**

### **Program Description**

The California School Age Families Education (Cal-SAFE) Program is a comprehensive, integrated, community-linked, school-based program that serves expectant and parenting students and their children. The Cal-SAFE Program is designed to improve the educational experience, increase the availability of support services and provide child care and development services for the children of enrolled students. The program provides the first opportunity for local educational agencies (LEAs) throughout California to access sufficient resources to support a seamless, cost-effective service delivery system from point of entry into the program until graduation.

### **Program History**

Senate Bill 1064 (Chapter 1078, Statutes of 1998) established the Cal-SAFE Program [California *Education Code (EC)* sections 54740 through 54749.5]. *EC* Section 54748(I) requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to submit an evaluation report to the Legislature commencing March 1, 2005, and every five years thereafter. The program became operational July 1, 2000, and incorporated many elements of the former Pregnant Minors Program (PMP), School Age Parenting and Infant Development (SAPID) Program, and the Pregnant and Lactating Students (PALS) Program, administered by the CDE.

In February 2009, SBX3 4 placed the Cal-SAFE Program and several other categorical programs into a block grant (Tier 3), allowing the LEAs flexibility with regard to the use of funds and program requirements through 2013. In July 2009, SBX4 2 restored the Cal-SAFE Program requirements for the child care and development component of the program.

### **Student Eligibility**

Cal-SAFE services are provided to both female and male students, age eighteen and younger who have not graduated from high school and are an expectant parent, custodial parent, or non-custodial parent taking an active role in the care and supervision of their child. Enrollment into the program is voluntary by the student. An eligible student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is eligible as long as there is an active IEP. If a student is continuously enrolled in the program and has not graduated before reaching age nineteen, the student may be enrolled for one additional semester.

As long as students are enrolled in the Cal-SAFE Program, their children are eligible for child development services until age five or entry into kindergarten, whichever comes

first. Enrollment of the children in the Cal-SAFE child care is also voluntary. Child care and development services provided through the program must meet California *Code of Regulations*, Title 5 (5 CCR), and Title 22 (22 CCR) requirements.

## **Status on the Cal-SAFE Program Legislative Goals**

EC Section 54742(b) lists 11 goals that guide the efforts of the Cal-SAFE Program. Data collected since the program's inception indicates substantive progress on these goals.

**Goal 1: A significant number of eligible female and male students in need of targeted supportive services related to school success will be served.**

Since its implementation in the 2000–2001 school year, the Cal-SAFE Program has enrolled 98,448 expectant and/or parenting teens and their over 62,000 young children.<sup>1</sup>

**Goal 2: Students shall have the opportunity to be continuously enrolled in the Cal-SAFE program through graduation from high school.**

Data from 2005 to 2009 showed the vast majority (66 percent) of Cal-SAFE Program students attended classes in a mainstreamed setting (comprehensive, continuation, alternative education high schools) for all or a portion of the year. Slightly over 24 percent received some or all of their academic instruction in a self-contained classroom. Additionally, at some part of the school year, just over 20 percent received their academic services through an independent study arrangement and only 5 percent received home or hospital academic services for a portion of the school year.

**Goal 3: Students served who receive program services for one or more years will earn a high school diploma or its equivalent or demonstrate progress towards completion of education goals.**

During the four school years for which comparable data are available (2001–02, 2002–03, 2003–04, and 2008–09), over 73 percent of the students who exited the Cal-SAFE Program left having completed their high school education, 96 percent having attained a high school diploma rather than taking the General Education Degree (GED) exam or the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE).

This successful completion rate for Cal-SAFE students far exceeds both the 38 percent graduation rate for teen mothers cited recently by Perper, Peterson, and Manlove in their 2010 report titled *Diploma*

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<sup>1</sup> The counts for students and children served are duplicated counts calculated by adding up the number of students and children served each school year from July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2009.

*Attainment Among Teen Mothers*<sup>2</sup> and the expected 30 percent rate reported by Berglas, Brindis, and Cohen in their 2003 study titled *Adolescent Pregnancy and Childbearing in California*.<sup>3</sup>

Over this same four-year period, only 18.39 percent of the students who left the Cal-SAFE Program dropped out of school, aged out (exceeding the age limit), or were expelled from school.

Furthermore, data for the 2008–2009 school years indicate that 74.2 percent of the 12th grade Cal-SAFE students demonstrated progress towards graduation by passing the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).

**Goal 4: Students served who graduate will transition to postsecondary education, including a technical school, or into the world of work.**

Data concerning progress on this goal are available for only five of the nine years, (2002–2005 and 2009). Over this time period, 66 percent of the students who exited the Cal-SAFE Program indicated that they would pursue further education or employment, with 28.4 percent planning to enroll in a local community college.

**Goal 5: Students served and their children will not become welfare-dependent.**

Due to funding limitations, no longitudinal data were collected concerning Cal-SAFE Program students' dependence on welfare.

**Goal 6: Students served will demonstrate effective parenting skills.**

Although no specific data were collected to determine the quality of Cal-SAFE students' parenting skills, several data items can act as indicators.

- Over the nine years, the vast majority of students enrolled in the Cal-SAFE Program have received parenting and life skills training as part of their instructional schedules.
- Over 94.9 percent of the children of students enrolled in child care funded by the Cal-SAFE Program from 2001 to 2004 and during 2009 were up-to-date on their immunization schedule. These percentages substantially exceed the immunization rates for children nineteen to thirty-five months nationally (82 percent)

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<sup>2</sup> Perper, K., Peterson, K., & Manlove, J. (2010). *Diploma attainment among teen mothers*. Retrieved February 15, 2010 from [http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child\\_Trends-2010\\_01\\_22\\_FS\\_DiplomaAttainment.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2010_01_22_FS_DiplomaAttainment.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Berglas, N., Brindis, C., & Cohen, J. (2003). *Adolescent pregnancy and childbearing in California*. Retrieved March 1, 2005 from <http://www.library.ca.gov/html/statseg2a.cfm>

and in California (81 percent)<sup>4</sup>. There were no data available on immunization rates for the 2004–2005, 2005–2006, and 2006–2007 school years.

- The data available for five of the nine years show that almost 48 percent of the students reported having a high degree of involvement with their child's other parent. This could indicate that both the mother and father provide parenting to the child.
- Finally, 61.11 percent of the children of Cal-SAFE students attended a Cal-SAFE funded child care center that meets 5 CCR, and 22 CCR requirements for services and a quality early education program. Placing their children in a quality child care setting demonstrates effective parenting decisions.

**Goal 7: Students served will not have a repeat birth or father a repeat pregnancy before graduating from high school.**

Overwhelmingly, students in the Cal-SAFE Program did not have a repeat birth or father a repeat pregnancy while enrolled in the program. Data from 2004 to 2009 indicated that 8.47 percent of the children born to Cal-SAFE mothers during these years were repeat pregnancies.

This percentage falls considerably below the 20 percent<sup>5</sup> repeat birth rate in 2004 for the nation and the 25 percent repeat pregnancy rate reported by Berglas, Brindis, and Cohen in their 2003 report titled *Adolescent Pregnancy and Childbearing in California*.<sup>6</sup>

**Goal 8: Pregnant students served will not have a low birth weight baby.**

The data show that only 6.7 percent of the children born while their parents were enrolled in the Cal-SAFE Program weighed less than 2,500 grams at birth (the definition of low birth weight). This is lower than the 2006 national rate of 13.4 percent<sup>7</sup> for mothers under fifteen, and 10 percent<sup>7</sup> for mothers aged fifteen to nineteen.

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<sup>4</sup> Center for Disease Control. (July 30, 2004) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. Retrieved January 30, 2005 from <http://www.immunofacts.com/statistical.asp> See the section on Childhood Immunization Delivery by State and Major Cities: 2003 Levels Among Children 19-35 Months, Table 2: Estimated vaccination coverage levels with 4:3:1\*, 4:3:1:3†, 4:3:1:3:3§, and 4:3:1:3:3:1¶ series among children aged 19-35 months, by state and selected urban area – National Immunization Survey, United States, 2003.

<sup>5</sup> Schelar, E., Franzetta, K., & Manlove, J. (2007). *Repeat teen childbearing: Differences across states and by race and ethnicity*. Retrieved February 15, 2010 from [http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child\\_Trends-2007\\_10\\_25\\_RB\\_Repeat.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2007_10_25_RB_Repeat.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Berglas, N., Brindis, C., & Cohen, J. (2003). *Adolescent pregnancy and childbearing in California*. Retrieved March 1, 2005 from <http://www.library.ca.gov/html/statseg2a.cfm>

<sup>7</sup> Center for Disease Control. (January 7, 2009). From *National vital statistics reports*, Volume 57, Number 7. Retrieved February 15, 2010 from

**Goal 9: Children of enrolled teen parents will receive child care and development services based upon the assessed developmental and health needs of each child.**

Just over 61 percent of the 62,240 children of Cal-SAFE students for the eight-year period from 2001–2009 attended a Cal-SAFE Program funded child care center. Within 60 days of initial enrollment, the center’s staff assessed each child’s social, emotional, physical, and learning competencies using the Desired Results Development Profile. The staff then used this information, along with subsequent periodic assessments, to design programming and services to meet the developmental needs of the children attending the center. This child-centered programming mirrors research-proven practices that prepare children for success in school.<sup>8</sup>

**Goal 10: Children of enrolled teen parents will receive health screening and immunizations except when the custodial parent annually provides a written request for an exemption pursuant to Section 49451 and Section 120365 of the *Health and Safety Code*.**

Over 94 percent of the children of students enrolled from 2001–2004 and 2008–2009 in child care sponsored by the Cal-SAFE Program were up-to-date on their immunization schedule, while 91.7 percent of all children of Cal-SAFE students were up-to-date. These percentages substantially exceed the immunization rates for children nineteen to thirty-five months nationally (82 percent) and in California (81 percent)<sup>9</sup>. No data on immunization among Cal-SAFE children were obtained for 2005–2007.

**Goal 11: Children of enrolled teen parents will have enhanced school readiness, demonstrate progress towards meeting their assessed developmental goals, or both.**

Although no specific data were collected to determine the level of school readiness of children whose parents were enrolled in the Cal-SAFE Program, we do know that for the seven-year period from

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[www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57\\_07.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57_07.pdf). See Table 35: Number and percentage low birth weight and number of live births by low birth weight, by, age, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, each state and territory, 2006 on page 78.

<sup>8</sup> Karoly, L. A., Kilburn, M. R., & Cannon, J. S. (2005). *Early Childhood Interventions: Proven Results, Future Promise*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, MG-341. Available at [http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/.../RAND\\_MG341.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/.../RAND_MG341.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Center for Disease Control. (July 30, 2004) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. Retrieved January 30, 2005 from <http://www.immunofacts.com/statistical.asp> See the section on Childhood Immunization Delivery by State and Major Cities: 2003 Levels Among Children 19-35 Months, Table 2: Estimated vaccination coverage levels with 4:3:1\*, 4:3:1:3†, 4:3:1:3:3§, and 4:3:1:3:3:1¶ series among children aged 19-35 months, by state and selected urban area – National Immunization Survey, United States, 2003.

2001–2009 just over 61 percent of the children attended a Cal-SAFE Program funded child care center that employed child development practices shown by research to have positive effects on a child’s readiness for school.

### **Academic and Support Services**

To help students remain in school, agencies provided a variety of support services to Cal-SAFE program students. Specifically, during 2005–2009, Cal-SAFE agencies provided the following support services to a majority of the students enrolled statewide:

- Academic Support, Mentoring
- Attendance, Case Management, Counseling
- Career Counseling, Job Training
- Health, Nutrition, Prenatal Education
- Meal Supplements
- Parenting and Life Skills Education
- Prevention Services

In addition, one-third of the students received transportation services to attend school.

### **The Typical Cal-SAFE Program Student<sup>10</sup>**

Since its inception in July 2000, the Cal-SAFE Program has served 98,448 (duplicated count<sup>11</sup>) expectant and/or parenting students across the state of California. Over this time, the typical student served by the Cal-SAFE Program has remained the same.

Overwhelmingly, the typical student served by the Cal-SAFE Program has been:

- Female
- Single

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<sup>10</sup> The profile data for “The Typical Cal-SAFE Program” students and their children listed in bold face represent information gathered throughout the nine years covered in this report, from the Program’s inception in 2000–2001 until June 30, 2009. Information not in bold face comes from the more detailed data collected during 2001–02, 2002–03, 2003–04, 2004–05, and 2008–09 using the GradStar Information Management System. GradStar was not available during the Program’s first year of implementation or during the 2005–06 and 2006–07 school years. Despite the lack of specific demographic information on students served during these three years (2000–2001, 2005–06, 2006–07), it can be safely assumed that the background characteristics of the students served by the Cal-SAFE Program did not deviate markedly from the student profile for the intervening years.

<sup>11</sup> The 98,448 number of students served represents a sum of the number of students (whether returning or newly-enrolled) served by the Cal-SAFE Program during each of the nine academic terms from 2000–2001 to 2008–09.

- Hispanic
- Age sixteen or seventeen
- In the twelfth grade
- Still under the guardianship of her parents and
- Living in a highly populated urban area rather than a moderately populated county or rural location.

Furthermore, the typical Cal-SAFE Program student did not have a job nor was she seeking a job when she enrolled.

### **The Typical Cal-SAFE Program Female Student**

Just over **92 percent** of the students served by the Cal-SAFE Program were female and most entered the program either expectant or parenting but not both. Indeed, less than 3 percent of the Cal-SAFE students were expectant and parenting when they enrolled.

If a student was pregnant when she enrolled, the typical Cal-SAFE student:

- Entered the program during her second trimester
- Was age sixteen or seventeen years, and
- Lived in a densely populated urban area rather than a moderately populated county or a rural location

If a student was parenting at entry, the typical Cal-SAFE student parented only one child whom she had birthed and for whom she held custody.

If a student birthed her child while in the Cal-SAFE Program, the typical student:

- Delivered a healthy baby 38 weeks after conception
- Began prenatal care in her 1st trimester
- Received prenatal care in a health care clinic
- Paid for her prenatal care through Medi-Cal
- Spent 2.69 days in the hospital at delivery

### **The Typical Cal-SAFE Program Male Student**

Although males made up only **7.4 percent**<sup>12</sup> of the students served by the Cal-SAFE Program, the typical male student mirrored the characteristics of his female counterpart except in one aspect. While the majority of female Cal-SAFE Program students lived in highly populated areas, the male students were spread almost equally across the urban, suburban and rural sections of the state.

The typical male Cal-SAFE Program student was:

- Single
- Hispanic
- Age sixteen or seventeen
- In the twelfth grade
- Under the guardianship of his parents
- Not working or seeking employment when he enrolled

Furthermore, the typical male Cal-SAFE Program student was either parenting or had a partner who was pregnant but not both. The typical male student with a pregnant partner tended to enroll when his partner was in her second trimester of pregnancy. Finally, if parenting, the typical male student had only one child.

### **The Typical Child of a Cal-SAFE Program Student**

The primary mission of the Cal-SAFE Program has centered on helping expectant and parenting students stay in school and complete their high school education. In fulfilling this mission, the program has also provided early education services to over **62,000** infants and young children (duplicated count) whose parents were enrolled in the Cal-SAFE Program. Over **38,000** (61.1 percent) of these children attended a child care center sponsored by the Cal-SAFE Program.

Typically, the child of a Cal-SAFE Program student was:

- An infant under twelve months of age when the student parent enrolled
- A boy
- Healthy with no serious medical condition
- Developmentally normal
- Very up-to-date on his immunizations
- Weighed within the normal range at birth

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<sup>12</sup> Gender data was available for 93 percent of the 98,448 students served by the Cal-SAFE Program over the nine years covered in this report.

- Stayed at a Cal-SAFE sponsored child care center while his parent(s) attended school
- Lived in a home where the household members spoke English as their primary language
- Experienced a moderate level of involvement with both his parents

The typical child **born** while the parent was enrolled in the Cal-SAFE Program:

- Was almost equally split between boys and girls
- Had a normal birth weight
- Showed no evidence at birth of a serious medical condition or a developmental delay
- Remained in the hospital for 2.71 days after his birth
- Had a mother who planned to have him stay in a child care center sponsored by the Cal-SAFE Program when she returned to school

The typical child who attended a Cal-SAFE sponsored child care center:

- Was an infant under 18 months of age
- Was a boy
- Attended the center five days a week for 6.5 hours per day
- Was up-to-date on his immunizations.

### **The Typical Cal-SAFE Program Student Who Exited the Program**

Data collected during 2001–04 and again in 2008–09, showed that slightly over 11,300<sup>13</sup> students exited the Cal-SAFE Program. Evaluators defined exits as any student who left the program and was not expected to return to the Cal-SAFE Program. Reasons for exiting the program ranged from the positive such as graduation, to the negative, such as dropping out or miscarriage. Overwhelmingly, the reasons for exiting the Cal-SAFE Program fell in the positive area, with 76 percent having completed their high school education.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> This number represents the number of students who exited over the years for the following reasons originally identified during the 2001-2002 data collection year: Attained High School Diploma, GED, or Adult School Diploma, received Certificate of Completion, passed California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE), dropped out, aged out, miscarriage or pregnancy terminated or lost custody, expelled, lost custody of child (not pursuing), death of child, or death of student.

<sup>14</sup> Evaluators defined positive outcomes at exit as: Attained High School Diploma, GED, or Adult School Diploma; received Certificate of Completion; or passed CHSPE.

Overall, the typical Cal-SAFE Program student who exited the program:

- Left having received a high school diploma
- Was 18 years of age
- Planned to enroll in a local community college
- Was not working or seeking employment at the time she left the program
- Was not married
- Was not pregnant
- Was parenting only one child

### **Data Sources**

The data shared in this report came from two major sources:

The first major source of data shared in this report came from the GradStar Management Information System (MIS), developed and maintained by the Branagh Information Group, under contract with the CDE. Staff at each of the Cal-SAFE Program agencies collected the data and entered the information into the GradStar MIS.

The second source of data came from the 2005–06, 2006–07, 2007–08, and 2008–09 Consolidated Application forms that LEAs submitted to the CDE. These forms included the data covering the 2004–05, 2005–06, 2006–07, and 2007–08 school years.

The following is a complete listing of the data sources:

1. State-wide GradStar MIS data covering July 2001 to December 31, 2004, including:
  - a. Student Enrollment Form Parts I, II, and III
  - b. Pregnancy Outcome Form
  - c. Student Exit/Temporary Withdrawal Form
  - d. Child Care Enrollment Form
2. Online GradStar State-wide Database information entered by LEAs during the 2008-09 academic year including:
  - a. Student Enrollment Form
  - b. Pregnancy Outcome Form
  - c. Student Exit/Withdrawal Form
  - d. Child Information Form
  - e. Care Enrollment Form
  - f. Support Services RECEIVED Form
  - g. Exit Outcome Update Form

3. CDE Form E Site Information for 2000–01, 2001–02, 2002–03, 2003–04, and 2004–05.
4. CDE contact information for the program coordinators, site leaders, and childcare coordinators for each of the nine funded school years; 2000–01, 2001–02, 2002–03, 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06, 2006–07, 2007–08, and 2008–09.
5. Data from the Implementation Surveys conducted in spring 2001.
6. Data from the 2005–06, 2006–07, 2007–08, and 2008–09 Consolidated Applications that collected data for the 2004–05, 2005–06, 2006–07, and 2007–08 school years.
7. 2004–05 Coordinated Compliance Review GradStar reports submitted voluntarily by 53 agencies representing 52 percent of the students served state-wide.

A copy of this report is available on the CDE Cal-SAFE Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/cg/pp/overview.asp> or contact Mitzi Inouye, Education Programs Consultant, by phone at 916-319-0546 or by email at [minouye@cde.ca.gov](mailto:minouye@cde.ca.gov) to request a hard copy.