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MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF CALIFORNIA'S DROPOUTS EVENTUALLY FINISH HIGH SCHOOL

Thirty Four Percent of High School Dropouts are Not in School and Not Working

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. – The latest report from the California Dropout Research Project (CDRP) looks at what happened to students from the graduating class of 2004 who dropped out after tenth grade. The study finds that, two years after their scheduled graduation, 37 percent of high school dropouts in California eventually complete high school, with 21 percent earning a regular diploma, and another 16 percent earning an alternative credential—a General Education Development (GED). In addition, 17 percent were still in high school or pursuing a GED. Compared to the rest of the nation, high school completion rates of California's dropouts were significantly lower.

“We are losing too many kids,” said Russell Rumberger, Director of the California Dropout Research Project. “Their futures are at stake and without education from either being in school or on the job, opportunities are limited. And it's not just the students who will suffer, but the community, which will be affected socially and economically.”

The report, entitled *What Happened to Dropouts From the High School Class of 2004?*, also found that two years after their scheduled graduation, 34 percent of high school dropouts in California were neither going to school nor working.

The report is the latest in a series of 24 policy and statistical briefs on California's dropouts conducted by CDRP, a research program based at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In February of this year, the CDRP Policy Committee—composed of researchers, policymakers and educators—released a state policy agenda identifying short-term and long-term recommendations for improving California's high school graduation rate.

The latest and all previous reports can be viewed at <http://www.lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/>.

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ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA DROPOUT RESEARCH PROJECT

Based at the University of California, Santa Barbara, the California Dropout Research Project began in December 2006 and is scheduled to conclude in September 2008. The purpose of the project is to synthesize existing research and undertake new research to inform policymakers and the public about the nature of – and potential solutions to – California's dropout problem.

CDRP is funded by \$850,000 in grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation. For more information about CDRP, including a copy of the Policy Committee Report as well as a complete library of the Project's research, please visit the CDRP website at: <http://www.lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/>.