

Project Description

The California Dropout Research Project (CDRP) began on December 1, 2006 with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation. The project was established to produce new and useful research to inform policymakers, educators, and the general public about the nature of the dropout crisis in California and to help the state develop a meaningful policy agenda to address the problem. To date the project has produced: 18 **Research Reports** and 18 **Policy Briefs** addressing four facets of the issue: (1) the measurement and incidence of dropping out; (2) the social and economic costs for individuals and the state; (3) the short-term and long-term causes; and (4) possible solutions; 15 **Statistical Briefs** that address more specific questions about the nature of the problem; 44 **City Dropout Profiles** of the impact of dropouts for all major cities in the state; and three web-based **interactive graphs**. The project also formed a Policy Committee—composed of researchers, policymakers, and educators—that issued a report on February 27, 2008 with a series of recommendations on what schools, districts, and the state should do to improve California's high school graduation rate. The recommendations were incorporated into six bills introduced into the California legislature and the governor signed four of them into law. The 96 publications produced to date have been distributed in print to all superintendents and legislators in California and have been downloaded more than 94,000 times from the project website (<http://cdrp.ucsb.edu>). The project has also generated widespread media attention with more than 25 television clips on major California and national news channels, 30 plus articles and editorials in the state's major newspapers, and three op-ed articles. The project is directed by Russell W. Rumberger, Professor of Education, UC Santa Barbara.