

Youth Law Center Executive Director Jennifer Rodriguez' email response to the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association on August 19, 2016:

I really appreciate your thoughtful reading and response to the report. As you know, YLC has been a long time partner with Probation and Education in our joint efforts to improve the lives and opportunities available to youth who are involved with the justice system. You are exactly right about the intent and spirit of the report... to ensure that the state begins to focus on this important group of students who don't lack academic potential but do lack any visibility in policy reform and resource discussions. We are glad that your administrators have taken advantage of the attention from the report to raise the needs of these students and discuss improved data collection and reporting.

I do understand the challenges and limitations of the available data, and would very much like to see how we can work together to improve collection and reporting to be able to get a more accurate picture of the status and progress of students in court schools. We would also like to partner with you all in identifying schools that are innovating and hearing about challenges and opportunities in order to disseminate best practices and identify policy and resources supports. If there are opportunities to attend the meetings you mentioned, we would welcome those.

I would love to meet with you all to see if there are ways we can work together on shared goals around education issues and to discuss the data.