



## CHILD DEVELOPMENT POLICY INSTITUTE

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CDPI TAKE ACTION BULLETIN  
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Excerpt taken from the CDPI Take Action Bulletin

### CCDAA Seeks Graduation Exception From Categorical Flexibility

In a joint hearing of the Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees on the Governor's proposal to extend Categorical Flexibility for two more years, the California Child Development Administrators Association (CCDAA) proposed a "graduation exception."

The Governor has proposed to extend local flexibility for some 40 Prop 98 Categorical programs for an additional two years. "Before you take this action," CCDAA said, "You need to know that there are some very effective programs being eliminated or reduced, even though they have higher-than-average dropout prevention and graduation rates."

"One such program is Cal-SAFE, which provides child care, academic, and other supports so that pregnant and parenting students can finish high school. Data show that only 20% of girls who become pregnant in high school graduate; 73% of cal-safe students graduate high school and nearly a third go on to community college. Perhaps more important, most of these students are your achievement gap kids. Simultaneously, their babies are cared for in protected settings, immunized, and given the best child development exposure." (ED. NOTE: Cal-SAFE programs were run in 164 high schools in 44 counties.)

"The LAO today released its new (second) survey of district actions under flexibility. In the first survey, districts reported minimal cal-safe reductions. In this second survey, Cal-SAFE's reductions have jumped significantly." Our data show that 21 schools have dropped the program and it has been reduced in 20-30 other schools. Our data show a drop of 31% since 2008 (served 13,000 students in 2008, in 2009-10, served 9,100)."

"We ask you to consider protecting categorical programs which can demonstrate higher-than-average, statewide graduation rates. We have provided you with a proposed amendment that would protect such categorical programs from reduction or elimination if they demonstrate graduation rates higher than 65% each year for at least three years, verified by independent research. There may be other categorical programs with higher-than-average graduation rates as well."

Cal-SAFE is also a unique categorical program in other ways:

- It serves more than one client: the student and the baby.
- It brings additional, non-proposition 98 funds in support of the student.
- It keeps schools in compliance with Title IX.

It appears that the Legislature will be extending the Categorical Flex program for two more years, but that there will be committees and workgroups studying new ways to protect these programs and to allocate funds to such non-Revenue Limit programs.

