

Men's Leadership Academy (MLA) is a part of Sacramento City Unified School District's (SCUSD) collective conscious effort to intentionally combat the school-to-prison-pipeline for underserved low-income male students of color.

The focus of MLA is to create and foster supportive learning environments. Through a framework of Social Justice Youth Development and with an active collaboration of district administration, school counselors, certificated teachers, and youth voice, MLA empowers students through wrap-around services that promote:

- Social Emotional Learning
- Culturally responsive leadership development
- Meaningful mentorship
- Academic support that engages students through their own means of learning.



MLA builds on the needs, strengths and aspirations of the youth to unlock potential and inspire leadership.

## PROGRAM IMPACT

**Individual Growth:** MLA students provide qualitative feedback that helps evaluate program success beyond easily measured outcomes.

**Systemic Change:** MLA students successfully contributed to the adoption of a new Positive School Discipline policy in line with restorative justice practices by attending SCUSD Board Meetings and strategically voicing their concerns, stories, and hopes.

**College Exposure:** MLA Students have the opportunity to visit a variety of community colleges, California State Universities, Universities of California, and private universities.

**Career Development:** MLA students received priority registration for Summer Learning opportunities to increase their exposure to career development.

## YOUTH VOICE

*"I, like many of you am trying to be a better man ... I like how we grew as men and bonded together"*

*"I feel we formed a brotherhood against injustice to create a better future"*

*"Being humble and content ... maybe that's power too!"*

*"I can make change in my community; its cultural diffusion - it will just disperse"*

## MLA COURSE

### Core Values

All MLA programming is aligned with the MLA Core Values of **confidence, self-discipline, self-motivation, and lifelong learning.**

### Curriculum

MLA functions under an A-G level customized course curriculum. The curriculum was developed through the engagement of administrators, teachers and students.

### Four Focus Areas

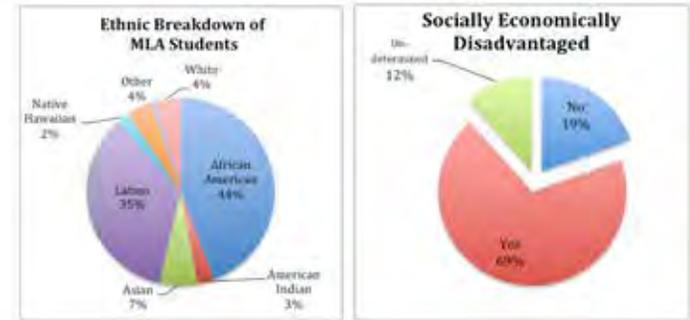
1. Education to career path
2. Identity development
3. Social Justice Youth Development
4. Personal and community impact

### Alignment

The MLA course aligns with Common Core State Standards, and follows Social Emotional Learning Social Justice Youth Development frameworks.

## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Created during the 2011-2012 academic year, MLA has evolved from an after-school club to a multi-site program. During the 2013-2014 academic school year, MLA operated in 7 different sites, enrolled 170 participants, and had a student body composed of student populations who are most underserved.



The growth of the Men's Leadership Academy has been fueled by student interest and advocacy. The youth have taken a school program and created a fellowship, a brotherhood, and a community of youth who share a common struggle - but who recognize themselves as agents of change.



**Preparing college and career ready graduates for personal and social transformation by integrating social justice education and curriculum centered on empowering young men of color.**

For more information about the Men's Leadership Academy  
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