

Sonoma Academy

Founded 2001

We didn't start here!



The weird rental



Mission

Sonoma Academy calls its students to be creative, ethical, and committed to learning. The school nurtures inspiring teachers, **engages with the surrounding community,** and its students communicate across cultures as they become leaders in a dynamic world.



Engage with the Surrounding Community

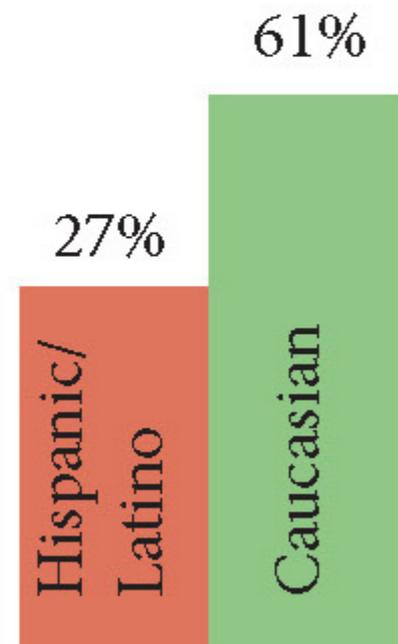
- A schedule with *time to engage*
- No “community service” per se; “no counting hours”
- Moved from broad engagement throughout the county to sharper focus on our “core expertise”
- Two neighborhood elementary schools (90% economically disadvantaged)
- “How do we know you won’t abandon us?”

Partnership



The Need is Great

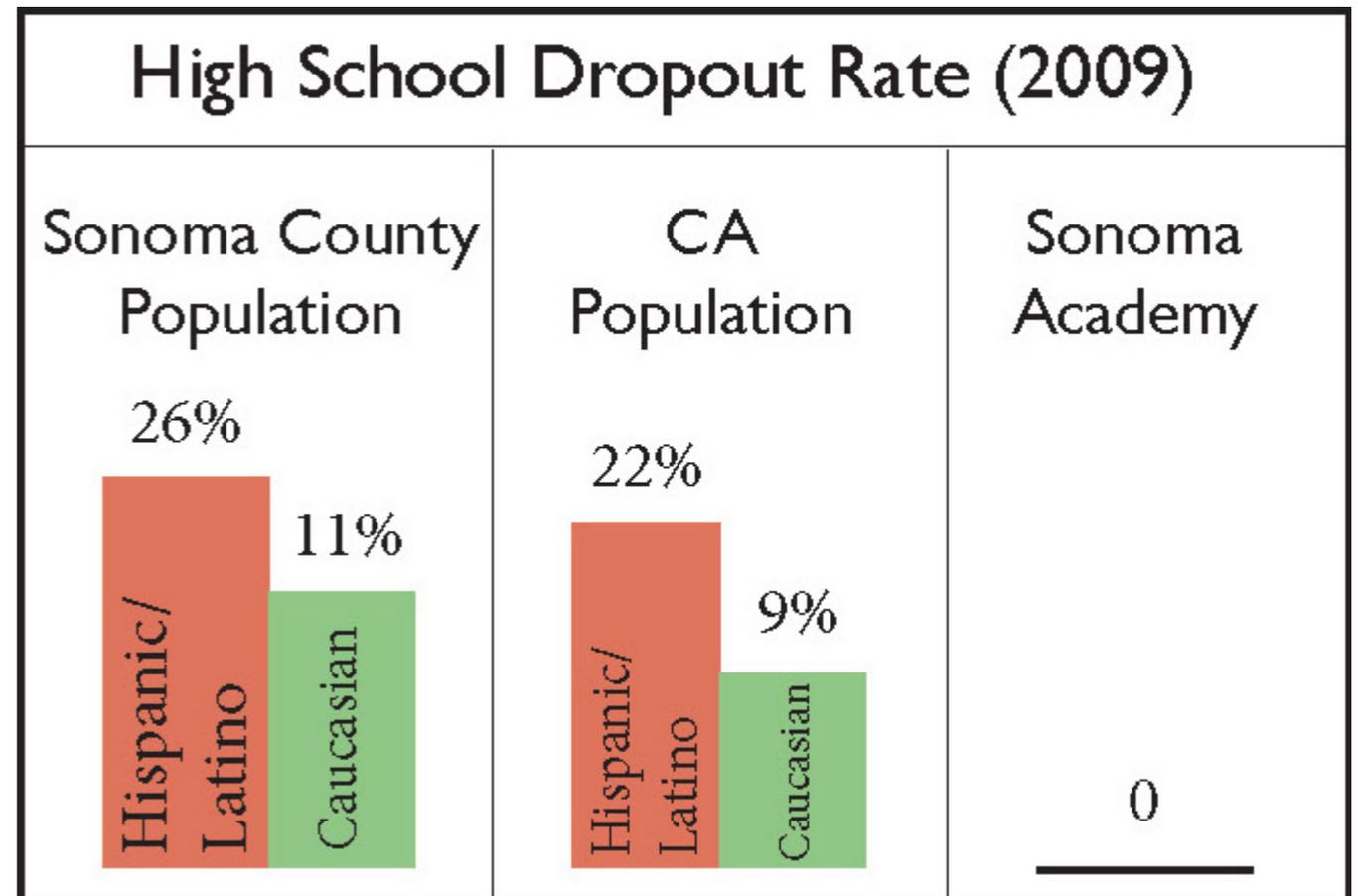
Sonoma County Percentage of 3rd Grade by Ethnicity who Achieve Reading Proficiency



Significant achievement gaps between Latinos and Caucasians that widen through K-12 years

Compounding Effect

Results in significantly higher dropout rates and lower attendance at 4-year colleges.



The early achievement gap needs to be addressed as part of improving college preparation and acceptance for this underserved population

Organic Development

- Homework Club
- Music, Theater, Sports
- Teacher share
- Free Summer Camp
- El Dia de los Ninos
- Evening ESL classes
- Governance Council and Fundraising



**INSTITUTIONAL
COMMITMENT**

**INSTITUTIONAL
ADVANCEMENT**

Meet Ahtziri, SA '12

- 50% of students are on financial aid
- Approximately 2 Latino full scholarships annually
- 94% matriculated at 4-year colleges



A PROPOSAL to a PHILANTHROPIC FAMILY

Enroll a greater cohort of first-to-college Latino students and support them through their time at Sonoma Academy and through their enrollment in higher education.

Expand current programs that currently help our neighborhood children see higher education as an attainable goal and give them the academic skills to pursue that goal.



Our Institutional Commitment and Success
The Need
Your Commitment

We got it!

Amazing Students!



“The true purpose of education is to transform possibilities, to make the world in which it occurs a better place than it would be otherwise, both for the individuals fortunate enough to have access to it and for the community of which they are a part.”—
Elizabeth Coleman, President of Bennington College

