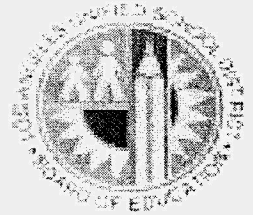




# ACADEMIC MENTOR CENTERS



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Children Uniting Nations (**CUN**) is a non-profit organization and the oversight agency for the Mentoring Partnership for Los Angeles Youth Program (**mPLAY**). **mPLAY** is a countywide collaboration that creates and supports quality academic and relationship based mentoring for foster care youth and at-risk youth.

The academic mentoring program was created for foster and at-risk youth based on the following facts:

- Poor attendance rates
- Less likely to perform at grade level
- More likely to have behavior and discipline problems
- More likely to be assigned to special education classes
- Sub-standard academic performance perpetuates already low self-esteem and can contribute to violent behavior.
- Increased school violence causes a disruption in the learning environment for all students.
- Less likely to attend college
- Today's youth are in need of positive role models
- Demonstrated benefits to youth as a result of mentoring include better school attendance, better grades, improved attitude toward school, increased chance of going on to higher education, improved social and emotional development, etc.

## Program Design

The Academic Mentoring Program was designed to provide the student with additional classroom support while also building self-esteem, life skills, confidence, all while improving the educational outcome of our youth in at-risk communities. Prior to the start of the mentoring relationship the youth's most recent California Standardized Test (CST) scores will be reviewed to determine the students' level of achievement in both Language and Math. Additionally, the selected youth will be given a Self-Esteem Evaluation. All of the data will be compiled along with commentary from teachers, counselors and the Extended Learning (ELA) staff. An individualized Academic Mentoring Plan will be developed thereafter. The mentor, in conjunction with the youth's teachers, counselors, school administrators and program staff, will work together to ensure that the plan goals are achieved.

### ***Mentoring Locations:***

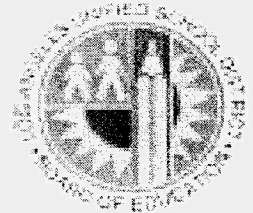
James A. Foshay Learning Center  
Principal – Veronique Wills

Van Nuys High School  
Principal – Judith Vanderbrok

John Muir Middle School – ***Opening Winter 2007***  
Principal – Michael Olivo



# ACADEMIC MENTOR CENTERS



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**Mentoring Hours:** Monday – Friday throughout the School Day and After School (BTB)

**Target Population:** Foster Youth and At-Risk Youth. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) youth reside in out of home care and also include foster youth in kinship care.

**Youth Selection Criteria:**

- Below 65% Grade Point Average
- At Risk and/or Foster Youth
- Grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>

The students will be selected by the School Site's Staff in conjunction with Beyond the Bell's ELA Staff. Youth must receive approval from their parent(s), foster parent(s), group home provider or guardian to participate in the program.

**Academic Mentors:** CUN/mPLAY will provide trained mentors to the Academic Mentor Centers. Mentor requirements are as follows:

- Minimum 18 Years of Age
- One Academic Year Commitment
- 1 ½ to 2 Hours Per Week On-Site Mentoring
- Complete a Detailed Application
- Complete a Health Screening (TB Test)
- Attend Mentor Orientation and Training
- Clear a Thorough Background Check (including Department of Justice, DMV and Reference Check)
- Participate In a Face-to-Face Interview
- Sign An Oath of Confidentiality

Academic Mentors will meet with their youth for 1 ½ to 2 hours per week. The mentoring day(s) and time(s) will be determined by both the mentors and youths schedules.

**Parent and Student Orientations:** The orientation sessions cover the following:

- ❖ Program Overview
- ❖ Mentor Role and Expectations
- ❖ Mentee Role and Expectations
- ❖ Parent (Legal Guardian) Responsibilities