

SEA's History

In 1972, mothers in East Los Angeles who had lost children to gang violence said enough was enough. They founded Soledad Enrichment Action as a support group, but the community's need for guidance for youth and families transformed the small group into a vast network for growth and opportunity. Today, at 22 sites across L.A., SEA provides education, job training and counseling services to youth and parents who need support outside of traditional educational services.

How SEA Is Different

- SEA provides not only 19 campuses with structured learning environments for students in grades 9-12, but also community-based services on all campuses and at four additional sites to keep our students and their families on track for academic and personal achievement.
- Family services staff work with students, parents and siblings to provide guidance for improving the environment at home, and the Youth-Parent Network organizes weekly sessions to give parents resources and references to additional services.
- On-site counseling for preventing violence, teen pregnancy and drug and alcohol abuse mean students go no further than their own campus for support.
- An array of career development, training and placement services encourages students to explore long-term career options, rather than to simply get a job.

The SEA Curriculum

- The three-station model ensures that every day students receive direct instruction from teacher, work independently or in collaborative learning groups, and participate in computer-assisted learning.
- A support-services specialist meets with each student on a regular basis to determine realistic career objectives and supervise service-learning projects.
- Classes average 18 students and are never larger than 25.

SEA's Results

- SEA's curriculum elevates a student's GPA — on average — by more than one point.
- As of 2006, students added 126 points to the school's Academic Performance Index, the state's measure of academic performance and school growth.
- Nearly 90% of students graduate with a high school diploma.
- One-third of those continue on with more education.
- Of the 220 alumni who graduated between 1998 and 2003, 94% were confirmed to be working or in college.
- About three out of four SEA parents attend a 20-week parenting course.