

The Link between Education Equity and Health

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Alameda County Place Matters Initiative

The Alameda County Place Matters team promotes health equity through a community-centered local policy agenda focused on education, economics, criminal justice, housing, land use, and transportation. Place Matters is an Alameda County Public Health Department Initiative.

This Health Impact Assessment is part of Alameda County's Place Matters Initiative.

place matters



community engagement | criminal justice | economics | education | housing | land use + transportation

Racism, Income, and Place Impact Health

Compared to a White child in the affluent Oakland Hills,
an African American born in West Oakland is...

1.5 times more likely
to be born premature
or low birth weight

2.5 times more likely
to be behind in
vaccinations

5 times more likely
to be hospitalized
for diabetes

7 times more likely
to be born into
poverty

4 times less likely to
read at grade level

2 times more likely
to die of heart
disease

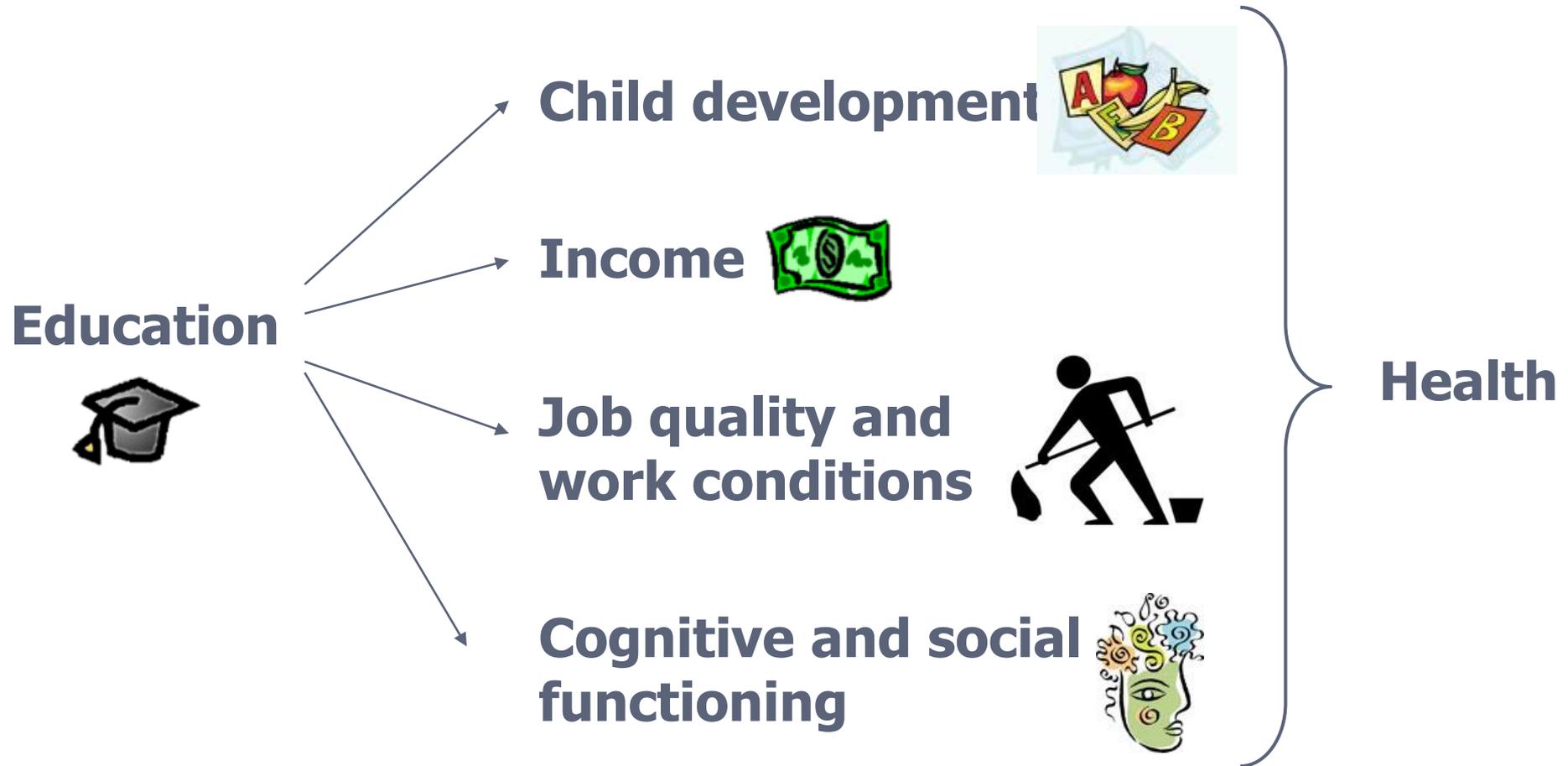
INFANT

CHILD

ADULT

Cumulative impact:
15 year difference in life expectancy

Education: A key determinant of health



Our HIA Goal

- Assess the impacts of modifying the current Results Based Budgeting (RBB) system to include a Weighted Student Formula (WSF) that accounts for varying levels of student need.
- Focus on impacts related to health equity.

Oakland Unified School District Vision

OUSD MISSION/VISION

All students will graduate. As a result, they are caring, competent, and critical thinkers, fully informed, engaged, and contributing citizens, and prepared to succeed in college and career.



OUSD GOAL

To create a FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY DISTRICT that serves the whole child, eliminates inequity, and provides each child with an excellent teacher every day.



TASK FORCE GOAL

To review, refine, and audit the finance system for schools (i.e. Results Based Budgeting) for effectiveness, efficiency, and equity, including the impact of RBB on high-needs schools.

Funding Formulas

Results Based Budgeting

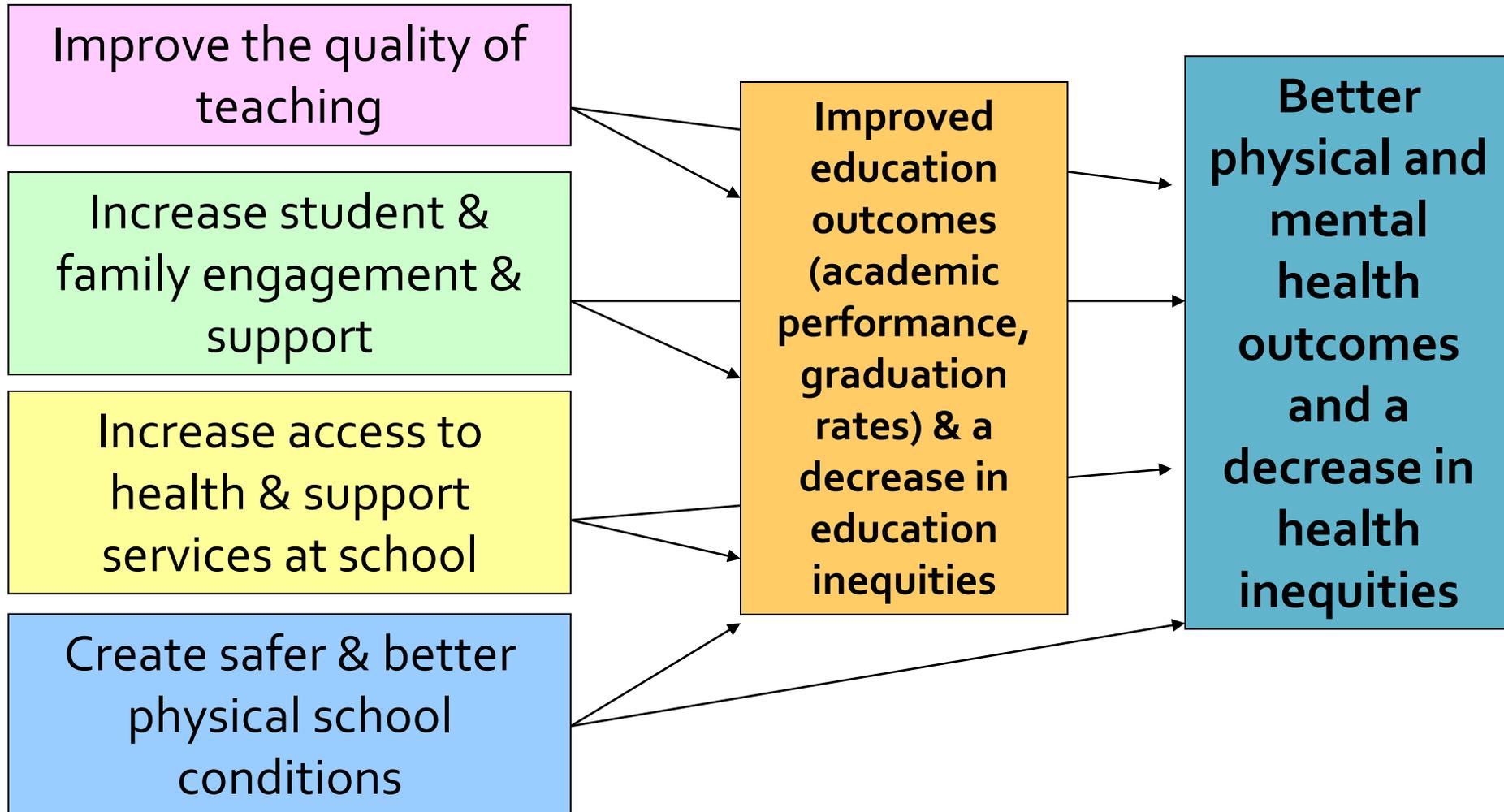
1. More autonomy at school site level
2. Money follows the students
3. Formula gives an equal amount of money per student regardless of student needs

RBB with a Weighted Student Formula

1. More autonomy at school site level
2. Money follows the students
3. High needs students receive additional funding

Pathway from Education to Health:

In high-needs schools, Weighted Student Formula may:



Current RBB System

- A study calculating the extra cost to districts of bringing low-income students up to the average level of statewide academic performance, the extra cost was estimated to be almost 2 times that of educating non-poor students.

-Center for Budget Priorities

- RBB allocates about the same level of discretionary funding regardless of school poverty and student need

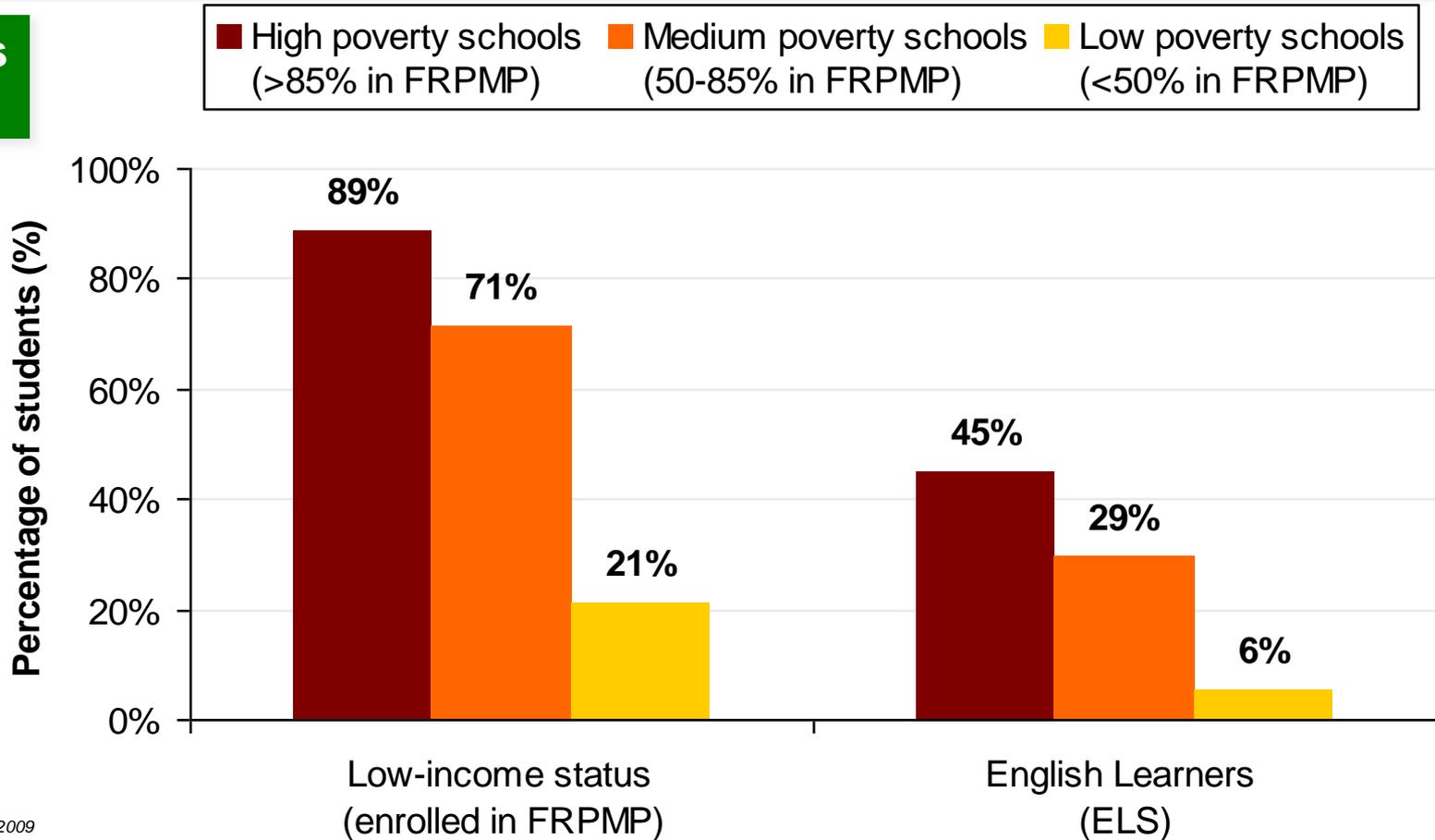
Current RBB Reality

“They treat every school like it’s the same. But place matters... Situations here are not the same every place, and you have to go in and see and calculate what is really needed and not treat every place the same. It's the band aid analogy-some schools don't need band aid. They're ok. Some need band-aids because they have a scratch, but if the school has a wound and needs stitches, then a band aid won't do.”

—Parent Focus Group Participant

Current RBB Needs

Special Needs Populations



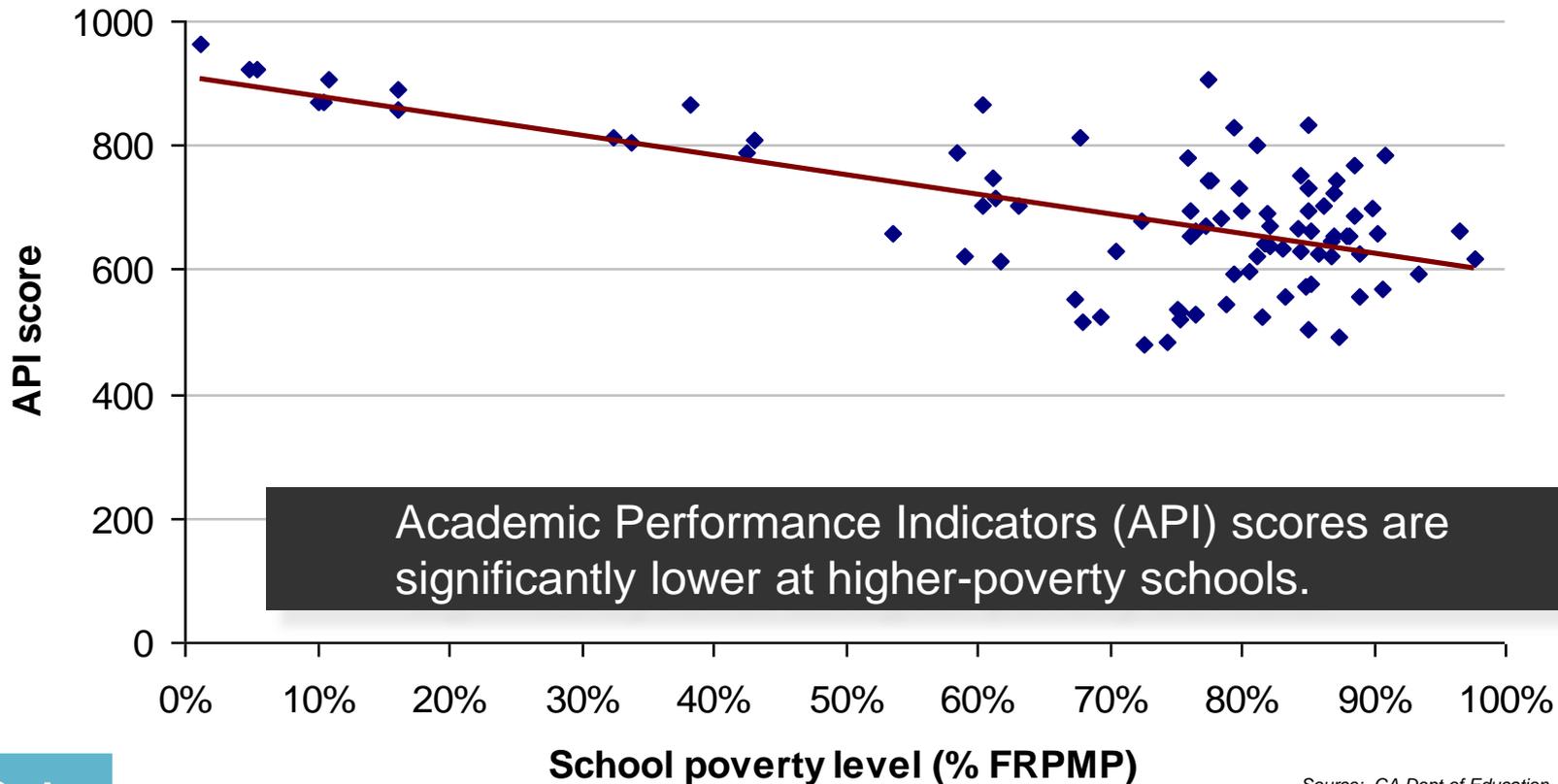
Source: CA Dept of Education, 2008-2009

Data

Much higher percentages of low-income and English Language Language students attend medium and high poverty schools.

Current RBB Results

Equal ≠ Equitable: Higher Need for Resources and Support at High-Poverty Schools



Source: CA Dept of Education, 2008-2009

Recommendations

To increase effectiveness, efficiency, and equity:

1. Include “impact on achieving health equity” as a criterion in decision-making
2. Include feedback from community members, parents, students, teachers, principals, and other partners in RBB Task Force decision-making
3. Recommend that the OUSD Board approve the move to a Weighted Student Formula

Findings

- Political savvy is a critical element
- Method vs. tool is a key consideration
- Development of new expertise

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