

HEALTH HAPPENS IN YOUTH MEDIA

Suspended 6th graders, completing probation and a new supermarket

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[Youth Media for Building Health Communities](#): Each week in the 14 BHC places, young people knit together experiences at school, at work, at home and in their neighborhoods to tell stories about how health happens.

Health Happens in
Schools



Sixth graders interviewed about why they got suspended and how it affected their education or their attitude toward school say, "Sometimes people take it as a game, a few days off of school. But it's really serious. You could affect your grades." Listen on [Youth Radio](#).

Administrators and students in the Coachella Valley Unified School District are concerned that if mid-year cuts to education affect the school busing budget, attendance will suffer. "It's important to keep in mind that parents or guardians aren't always going to have the opportunity to drive students to school every morning, due to their jobs or simply because they don't own a vehicle." Read the story on [Coachella Unincorporated](#).

One opinion on why Los Angeles students are rejecting healthy school lunches: "Give L.A. students the opportunity to learn more about why schools are changing their meals and maybe the kids would be more receptive when it comes to eating healthier." Read the story on [Youth Radio](#).

A student shares why Crawford, in City Heights, is a great high school just the way it is. His [video](#) is part of a series of coverage on cuts that will consolidate the school and reverse its small-school model. "I've become more of an outgoing student. I'll be one of the alumni who keeps coming back and helping out." Read the background story on [Speak City Heights](#).

Health Happens with
Prevention



D'vondre Woodards gives credit to the community organizations that helped him successfully complete his probation. "When you first come out of jail they tell you to get a job and be on time for everything. They give you a lot of goals, but they don't give you the tools to accomplish all that. They have funding to put us in jail, so shouldn't they also have funding to help us stay on track?" Read the story on [Richmond Pulse](#).

"[Bullets have no names](#)," is the story of two grieving moms who are transforming their plan into action to stop gang violence through the [California Cities Gang Prevention Network](#). "We can do a lot more as parents. I could have done more. But I always said, 'My boy, he's smart.' But bullets don't have names on them. They just fly." Watch the audio slideshow on [Venice Arts](#).

Youth from Santa Ana produced "[Lideres y Promotores](#)," a video to show how their peers are passing on healthy habits to younger generations. They were winners in [CANFIT's MO Project](#), a media contest for youth to make a difference in the health of their community.

A Sacramento student takes on snitching, asking young people and a judge about what impact cooperation with a crime investigation has on victims' rights and witness safety. "Society won't work if everybody just says, 'Let people commit crimes, and we won't talk about it.'" Watch "[Witness Responsibility](#)," which was featured at the second annual [Youth Media Forum for Social Change](#).

The East Los Angeles community celebrated the grand reopening of Ramirez Market after it was transformed from a typical corner store into a colorful provider of fresh vegetables and fruits. Read the story on [Boyle Heights Beat](#), and check out “[Have You Noticed How Far You Have to Go to Get to a Supermarket?](#)” an accompanying video produced by local high school students with help from UCLA.

Raymond Chavarria, a Mexican American who works at the United Cambodian Community, serves Long Beach’s diverse immigrant community. In his view, the two cultures are identical. *“They struggle with the same issues in the City of Long Beach. These include immigration and deportation, housing, [poverty], gangs, high student drop out rates, unemployment, discrimination, language access, and a lack of health insurance, job training, and [educational development opportunities] for adults.”* Read his interview on [Voicewaves](#).

“Cultivating Community: Urban Farming in West Oakland” chronicles the history of West Oakland, through the lens of a farmstand project that aims to revive a neighborhood that was sacrificed to traffic corridors during the 1960 s. Produced by [BAVC’s Factory](#).

Find photos and a report from a recent all ages skateboard competition in Lamont Park on [South Kern Sol](#).



This wouldn’t be a newsletter of youth voices if everything they said fit neatly into our agenda. On that note... Meet Janelle Hutcherson, a lesbian with a mohawk and tattoos, who recently competed in the Miss Long Beach pageant. Inspired by the support she received, she’s now designing a line of swimwear. *“I’m not a bikini girl for sure. Nothing has really been comfortable to me, so I created my own swimsuit. It was really true to me. Many people of different backgrounds are able to identify with that same feeling.”* Read the story on [Voicewaves](#).

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