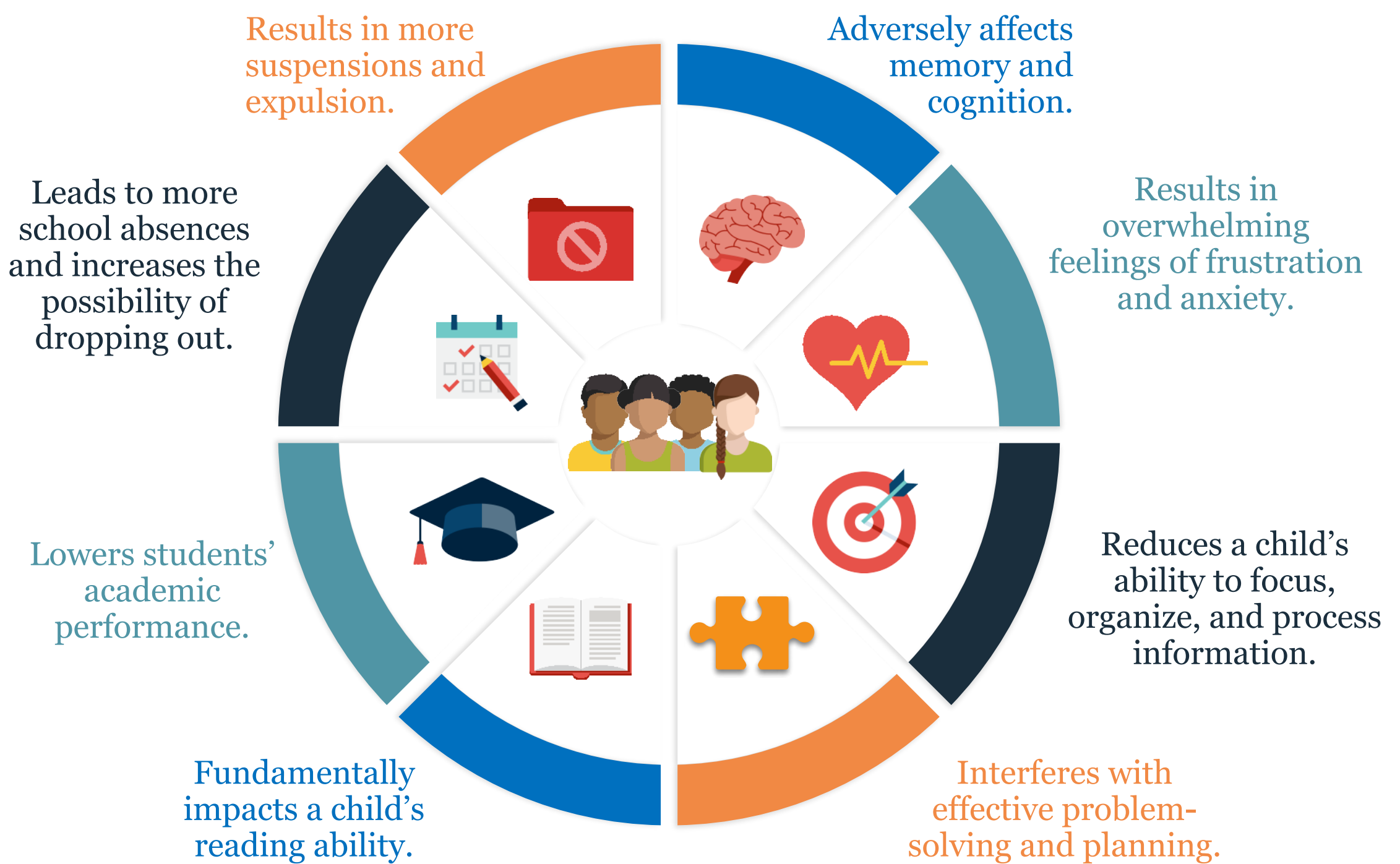




# FOSTER YOUTH & EDUCATION



## Chronic Exposure to Traumatic Events



## Challenges to Academic Success

33%

of students in foster care change schools at least once during the school year—**4x** the rate of other students

25%

of foster youth in CA are chronically absent compared to 10% for the general student population



>50%

of CA foster youth attend poor-quality high schools compared to 33% of the general student population

>20%

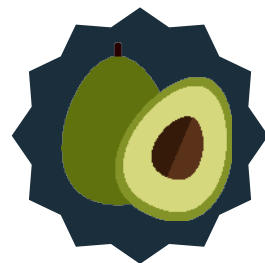
of Youth in foster care have a disability which is **almost 3x** the rate of the general population

## What Makes Foster Youth Students Different?



### DEVELOPMENTAL TRAUMA & MENTAL HEALTH

Foster youth often face significant developmental trauma and mental health challenges that can affect their academic and personal lives.



### FOOD & HOUSING INSECURITY

Foster youth students enrolled in college consistently experience basic needs insecurities at much higher rates than the general student population.



### ACADEMIC & RELATIONSHIP DISRUPTIONS

Frequent changes in schools and caregivers disrupt foster youth's education and relationships, which can impact their ability to learn and form healthy relationships.



### FAMILY PRIVILEGE & SKILL GAPS

Unlike their peers, foster youth lack the family support and privileges that general students enjoy, leading to gaps in essential skills and resources.



### INSTITUTIONALIZATION

Spending significant periods in group homes and other institutional settings can limit social and life skills, making college navigation more difficult.



### INTERSECTIONALITY

Foster youth often face multiple, overlapping forms of discrimination and disadvantage, which compound the challenges they experience in college.

## Strategies & Resources (Click the link under each image)



[5 Ways to Support Students Affected by Trauma](#)



[Strategies to Turn Trauma Into Strength](#)



[Youth Thrive Framework Protective and Promotive Factors](#)

"We have the capacity for neuroplasticity throughout our lives, and our environments shape the way that our brains respond to our experiences. Safe, stable, and nurturing relationships are healing for kids, and for all of us."  
- Dr. Nadine Burke Harris



JOHN BURTON  
Advocates  
for Youth