Affording Opportunities: A Closer Look at Lafayette High School

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Abstract

Last fall I completed an internship at Lafayette High School, a school that has recently been making frontline news for its low graduation rates. I was able to witness first-hand the ways in which the school was endeavoring to navigate the daunting challenge of educating over 500 students (70% of their student body) who are immigrants and refugees, coming from countries across the world and speaking over 42 different languages. This study endeavors to dissect negative headlines and plummeting test scores to discover the real situation at the school, highlighting student and teacher perseverance, and finding reasons for hope.