

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

TO: Members, Board of Education
Ramon C. Cortines, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: December 3, 2009

FROM: Edgar Zazueta, Interim Director

SUBJECT: 2010 Legislative Package

Attached you will find the 2010 legislative package approved by Superintendent Cortines. The Office of Government Relations is scheduled to appear at the December 15th Committee of the Whole to discuss the following issues with the Board of Education. Specifically, the report includes:

- District-sponsored proposals for the California Legislature
- Updated recommendations for the reauthorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
- Updated Board of Education positions on local, state, and federal legislative issues

The fiscal situation in Los Angeles and Sacramento has forced our office to use our limited resources to primarily focus on proposals that may achieve general fund savings to the District. Our office will also continue to work on the priorities previously endorsed by the Board of Education. In addition to the proposed legislation included in this report, our office is actively working on issues involving the special education encroachment to the District and a number of budget-related flexibilities.

I look forward to the discussion on December 15th. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

c: James Morris
David Holmquist
Judy Elliott
Jefferson Crain
Jerry Thornton

Enclosed: Attachment A, B, and C

**Los Angeles Unified School District
Proposals for District-Sponsored Legislation in 2010**

Request for New Legislation in 2010

I. Three-Year Budgeting Requirement (AB 1200 Reforms)

Source: Office of the Superintendent

Proposal: The legislation would change the period of time that a school district is required to submit a prospective balanced budget to the county office of education from three to two years. County superintendents would maintain the assigned authority to approve or reject school districts' budgets, thereby, assuring due diligence while avoiding insolvency by respective districts.

Rationale: School districts are funded by the state on a year-to-year basis, and approximately 90 percent of school district revenues are determined at the state level. The present economic recession has created a volatile state budget situation, where by revenues are not predictable which causes the state to impose additional cuts to school districts mid-year. As happened in FY 2008-09, mid-year cuts to school districts create chaos because fiscal planning assumptions are invalidated by the drop in revenues, much of which is ongoing into subsequent years.

II. Recommendations from the Quality Leadership and Teaching to Ensure a World Class Education for All Students Task Force (Board of Education Resolution; April 26, 2009)

Source: Board of Education

Proposal: The Office of Government Relations will submit legislation known as a "spot bill" which will serve as a placeholder for any proposals that may originate from the work of the task force. All recommendations will be submitted to the Superintendent and the Board of Education for approval prior to introduction.

III. Clarification of Law Relating to Disruptive Messages Near Schools

Source: Office of General Counsel

Proposal: Request legislation that would add language to Penal Code Section 626.8 addressing disruptive messages where the disruption threatens the physical safety of school children where they are coming to, leaving from, or attending school.

Rationale: In a recent ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, it was held that Penal Code Section 626.8 does not, as written, permit school administrators to contact law enforcement in the event that a person or entity conveys disruptive messages near a school property. This proposed legislative amendment to the penal code would provide schools an important tool to ensure safe campuses.

IV. General Fund Relief Proposals

Source: Facilities Division

Proposal #1: Request legislation that would allow the District to utilize any available electronic medium such as the District's website to advertise the bidding process on a public works project.

Rationale: Public Contract Code Section 20164 and 20112 require the use of newspapers to advertise and invite bids on public works projects. Though, PCC 20112 does allow a school district to utilize its website to advertise, the Section still requires the use of newspapers. This proposal would allow the District to select either option to advertise saving costs in print advertising.

Proposal #2: Request legislation that would allow the school district to transfer paper documents to electronic versions and store those documents electronically.

Rationale: Education Code Section 35254 authorizes a school district to transfer paper documents to electronic versions; however the Section requires the original paper documents that are considered basic to any required audit be stored until the second July 1st after the completion of the audit. The original paper documents are currently being stored for an undetermined period of time costing the District approximately \$1 million in lease storage fees when there are safe and reliable electronic storage applications.

V. New School Site Acquisition

Source: Facilities Division

Proposal: Request legislation that would allow the City of Los Angeles to transfer the Vernon Library Park to the District as part of the Central Region Elementary School #21 new school project.

Rationale: Section 5096.343 of the Public Resources Code requires legislative approval to transfer park land that was acquired with state grant funds when the project site will no longer be used for the purpose for which state grants were provided. The State Department of Parks and Recreation has approved the land transfer but is unable to sign off on the deal until they receive legislative approval.

Existing Proposals (Previously Approved by Board of Education)

I. Temporary Relief from Requirements ROC/Ps Limiting Service to Adults

Source: Division of Adult and Career Education

Proposal: The legislation will give school districts an additional two years to meet the existing requirements that ROC/Ps serve no less than 90% of high school students by July 1, 2011.

Rationale: In 2006, AB 2248 (Hancock) was enacted which requires ROC/Ps to enroll at least 90 percent of high school students. These mandates have been difficult to reach given the difficult budget situation. The high unemployment rate in Los Angeles has also made these programs more essential to its participants. From a state policy perspective, it does not make sense to turn away

adults who are in need of the services when other institutions like the community colleges have no room to take these students. Furthermore, the cost of servicing adults in ROC/P programs tend to be less because of the allowable fees and less demand for specific schedules and pupil transportation.

Status: The provisions of this proposal will be contained in AB 553 (Furutani). The bill, which was introduced in 2009, is currently eligible for action in the Assembly Education Committee.

II. Superintendent of Public Instruction's Task Force on Education Technology

Source: Office of Information Technology

Proposal: Request to re-introduce legislation to require the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to establish a publicly funded task force of stakeholders to make recommendations to the SPI and State Board of Education on technology literacy content standards while also addressing professional development, hardware, telecommunications, infrastructure, and funding.

The task force is also charged with making recommendations on use of interactive, multimedia, on-line materials as a substitute for traditionally approved state instructional materials. The goal is to establish a better mechanism for schools to obtain ADA for students that are enrolled in traditional schools that also offer on-line distance learning opportunities

Rationale: While the Governor's past veto messages state that this legislation is not needed and can be accomplished with leadership from the current SPI or State Board, that leadership has yet to be demonstrated and California, the home of Silicon Valley, lags far behind most other states in promoting and implementing technology education standards for its six million students.

Currently, the only way to accomplish on-line distance learning is to use the Education Code for independent studies which puts most secondary schools in direct competition for ADA funding with their own independent studies programs. A recently signed law now allows schools to purchase state-adopted instructional materials in an electronic format (SB 247, Alquist). The question of how to give schools attendance credit for traditional "seat time" when using on-line courses still needs to be addressed.

Status: The provisions of these proposals were contained in two separate bills authored by Assemblyman Tom Torlakson (D-Antioch) and co-sponsored by the District. Assemblyman Torlakson will re-introduce the provisions in a new bill in 2010.

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of Government Relations

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT
REAUTHORIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS

BACKGROUND

The overall focus and framework of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) should be retained. However, many of its provisions must be redefined and reoriented to place greater emphasis on proven instructional strategies, rather than on regulatory compliance. This is particularly needed in the realm of English learners.

Twenty-five percent of California's students are English learners (EL). Within the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), over forty percent of the students are EL, with as many as ninety percent in many schools. Ninety-four percent of the ELs (275,854) in LAUSD speak Spanish as their native language. In LAUSD, 297 schools are identified as Program Improvement schools, with the EL population the most common subgroup that has not met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets within the school. The methodology for the AYP calculation does not allow a school credit for success with English learner students.

Modifications to ESEA are needed that will enhance and strengthen the Act and the support provided English learners under the Title III legislation for the purpose of:

1. Ensuring that English learners are given the necessary time to develop cognitive, academic English language proficiency and
2. Providing the support to allow English learners to fully access core and score proficient or advanced on the state's standardized measure

RECOMMENDATIONS

Assessment and Accountability

- Retain the current provision regarding the allowable use of state assessments in the students' native language
- Strengthen the provision that requires testing in a language or form that most accurately reflects what students know and are able to do
- Continue to test English learners in the state's testing program and formally monitor their annual growth, with the stipulation that their scores will be factored into AYP after the end of the child being enrolled in a language instruction program for three years

- Continue to count Redesignated Fluent English Proficient students as English Learners for five years after redesignation for AYP purposes
- Modify the “Safe Harbor” provision for meeting the AYP by lowering the threshold from 10 percent to 5 percent of students moving from “below proficient” to “proficient”
- Adopt an individual/growth cohort model that focuses on the rate of change over time, set benchmarks for growth for each year of enrollment, and include longitudinal student data that disaggregates English learner data by proficiency in L1 and English
- Move toward establishing national standards for proficiency

Interventions

- Require that interventions be based upon research-based effective practices for English learners in first and second language development and that the interventions support the instructional modality
- Require that both the personnel working with the outside entities and the entities that contract with Program Improvement schools and districts have experience and expertise with English learners

Instruction

- Allow school districts to include pre-Kindergarten English learners in Title III services
- Align IDEA and ESEA by utilizing a Response to Intervention model for at-risk students
- Enact and strengthen coordinated literacy programs – infant through adult

Highly Qualified Teachers/Professional Development

- Require that Title I, Title II, and Title III professional development supports teachers who work with English learners with strategies to differentiate the instruction for English learners to meet their language and content standard goals
- Require that paraprofessionals working with English learners have knowledge of first and second language acquisition and appropriate strategies
- Re-institute grants for graduate students studying English language development and bilingual education
- Allow middle or high school teachers teaching multiple subjects to continue teaching if they meet “highly qualified” definition in one subject, and are making progress toward “highly qualified,” or have an academic minor, in the other subjects
- Allow secondary special education teachers teaching multiple subjects, consulting with general education teachers, or teaching at lower instructional levels to not be subject to content area certification
- Allow alternative methods for special education teachers of multiple subjects for demonstrating subject area competency
- Allow partnering between special education teachers and content area teachers

- Allow advanced credentials and master’s degrees to automatically be deemed highly qualified at elementary level just as at the secondary level
- Allow middle school generalist examination, and allow for general social studies and general science certification

Community Building

- Require that schools and districts that receive Title III funds establish English learner parent advisory councils with a significant representation of English learner parents and specific roles for parents

Fiscal Issues

- Fully fund Title III to enable school districts to refine the effort to meet the linguistic and core instructional needs of elementary English learners and Secondary English learners
- Allocate Title III annual funds for immigrant students on a per pupil basis instead of using a growth formula to determine release of funds
- Adjust the administrative costs for all Titles to align with the administrative costs of Title I under ESEA (e.g., Title 1 is 3.5%)
- Use the most accurate method to determine English learner population counts
- Clarify the authority of school districts to target their allocations to concentrations of English learners
- Expand the current \$400 million state assessment grant program to support longitudinal progress reporting and alternative assessment and testing modifications for English learners
- For the duration of the nationwide fiscal crisis, hold states and local education agencies harmless regarding the “comparability” provision in the calculation of Title I allocations
- Re-benchmark all “maintenance of effort” calculations, using 2008-09 as the base year

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Rev. 12-3-09

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**Los Angeles Unified School District
Positions on Federal Legislative Issues
2010**

The Los Angeles Unified School District will support federal legislation that would:

Elementary and Secondary Programs

- Support the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to focus on the improvement of instructional strategies rather than on compliance (*Support of HR 5709 No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2006 - 12/12/06; Support of the Improvement and Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Act also Known as the No Child Left Behind Improvements Act Through HR 648 and Other Measures - 6/28/07*)
- Target ESEA funding to the students and districts with the greatest need, based on the most recent population information (*Motion Regarding Increase in Federal Funding - 9/24/02*)
- Target increases in ESEA funding based on district eligibility for Title I, Title II, and Title III
- Allocate Title III funds based on the data that will yield the most accurate, up-to-date numbers of English Language Learners
- Allocate Title III annual funds for immigrant students on a per pupil basis instead of using a growth formula to determine release of funds
- Support programs to assist English learning students and their families to acquire proficiency in English (*Resolution to Support “Strengthening Communities Through Education and Integration Act of 2008” – 10/28/08; Support of the English Plus Resolution (HR 3) – 3/24/09*)
- Support programs that enhance dual language and second language instruction and understanding of the world’s cultures (*Support to Providing Resources to Improve Dual Language Education (PRIDE) – 11/27/07; Resolution to Support “U.S. and the World Education Act” – 10/28/08*)
- Allocate funds directly to school districts rather than as block grants to states (*Motion Regarding Increase in Federal Funding - 9/24/02*)
- Allow districts flexibility in the use of federal funds received
- Provide resources to meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind
- Prohibit the diversion of state and local funds for tax credits and vouchers for nonpublic education (*Opposition to Proposition 38, School Voucher Initiative - 8/29/00*)
- Modify accountability requirements of No Child Left Behind (*Alternative Assessment Motion - 4/8/03; Resolution on No Child Left Behind - 4/26/05; Support of HR 5709 No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2006 - 12/12/06; Support of the Improvement and Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Act also Known as the No Child Left Behind Improvements Act Through HR 648 and Other Measures - 6/28/07*)
- Determine that districts that are making progress in hiring highly qualified teachers have met the required targets
- Require that Title I, Title II, and Title III professional development supports teachers who work with English learners with strategies to differentiate the instruction for English learners
- Provide resources for teacher training, recruitment, and retention
- Increase resources for after-school programs (*Support Proposition 49 - 10/8/02*)
- Expand early childhood development programs (*Support of Los Angeles County Proposition 10 Commission - 6/11/02; Support Federal Grants for Early Education – 6/24/08*)
- Provide additional resources for magnet programs (*Increase of Magnet Schools - 12/12/00; Motion Regarding Magnet School Seats - 10/8/02*)
- Maintain the Advanced Placement fee reimbursement program as a state grant program available by application rather than by competition
- Increase parent and community involvement (*Parent Participation - 7/10/07*)

Special Education

- Ensure educational accountability by redirecting the focus of special education from process to learning
- Simplify and streamline special education processes, dispute resolution, and paperwork by modifying laws and regulations
- Revise the IDEA language to clarify that evaluations are to be provided in relevant areas of need and disability
- Develop and promote interagency support for special needs students
- Provide early prevention, identification, and intervention programs
- Fully fund special education to the Federal commitment (40% of excess costs) (*Increasing Federal Funding for Special Education - 8/24/99; Motion Regarding Increase in Federal Funding - 9/24/02*)

Adult and Career Technical Education

- Maintain and strengthen federal adult education and vocational training programs (*Child Well-being Motion - 4/22/03; Career Technical Education Motion - 1/13/04; Support Green Jobs Act of 2007 – 11/27/07*)
- Promote and ensure interagency cooperation regarding vocational training programs

Higher Education

- Target Higher Education Act (HEA) Title II funding to areas with the greatest need for teachers
- Emphasize HEA programs that give school districts direction over alternative certification programs
- Remove barriers to high school student access to higher education, especially those barriers pertaining to immigration status and disabilities (*Support AB 540, Public Post Secondary Education and Residency - 8/28/01; Support the Proposed Federal DREAM Act - 8/24/04; Support of S 774 and HR 1275 The American Dream Act – 10/23/07; The DREAM Act – 9/22/09*)
- Increase student access to financial aid and other financial assistance for post-secondary education (*Support Increasing Financial Aid Applications Among District Students - 1/11/05*)

Technology

- Continue and expand the E-Rate technology program
- Expand federal tax credits for donations of technology to schools

Student Support, Access, and Equity

- Ensure student access to public and private support systems (*Access for All Resolution Concerning the District's Homeless Children - 1/24/06*)
- Enact meaningful immigration reforms that reunite and strengthen the integrity of families (*Support of District Student's Families and Opposition to HR 4437 - 4/25/06*)
- Protect student privacy (*Support of Student Privacy Protection Act of 2005 (HR 551 - 10/11/05)*)
- Protect the intent and purposes of the District's integration programs (*United States Supreme Court Review of Voluntary Integration Efforts - 12/5/06*)
- Support access to child health and mental health services (*Support of Healthy Child Act of 2007 - 6/28/07; Support of the Mental Health in Schools Act of 2007 – 11/27/07*)

- Enhance student support programs and services (*Support of the Communities of Color Teen Pregnancy Prevention Act of 2007 – 11/27/07; Resolution to Support “Increased Student Achievement through Increased Student Support Act” - 10/28/08*)

Human Rights

- Support human rights (*Support for Iranian Dissidents – 9/8/09*)

Safety

- Support safe schools and communities (*Creating and Maintaining a Safe School Environment - 7/10/07; Resolution for Climate Action and Sustainability Through Collaboration – 11/25/08; Wireless Telecommunication Installations – 5/26/09; Support of Youth Promise Act (HR 1064, S 435) – 6/14/09*)

Child Nutrition

- Improve Services Through the School Lunch Program (*Resolution In Support of Reauthorization of Federal Child Nutrition - 11/25/03*)
- Eliminate reduced price school meals program and provide free meals for all children with family incomes below 185 percent of poverty
- Support and fund the expansion of nutrition and nutrition education programs
- Provide adequate reimbursement rates for meals
- Allow program funds to be used for air conditioning

School Facilities

- Provide school construction and modernization assistance, targeted to districts with large numbers of poor children
- Identify additional funding streams to assist districts in providing facilities for charter schools if the charters agree to become schools of choice
- Provide resources to clean brownfield properties (*Motion Regarding High-risk Land Use - 1/14/03*)
- Support efforts to enhance environmental conditions, including air, sound, and water quality (*Reduction in Air Pollution Health Risk at Schools – 1/22/08*)

Revenue and Reimbursements to School Districts

- Maximize revenue (*Support of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 – 2/3/09 ; “Everyone Counts” – 2010 Census – 6/23/09*)
- Authorize Medicaid reimbursement for necessary medical costs incurred in services provided to special needs children
- Ensure school district access to Medicaid funds commensurate with non-school agencies (*Resolution in Support of School Medicaid Services - 7/11/06; Support HR 5613 and Other Similar Congressional Efforts to Preserve the Ability of School Districts and Other Entities to Access Medicaid Funding for Covered Services – 5/13/08*)
- Maximize Federal Impact Aid payments
- Provide federal tax credits for unfunded federal liabilities

Employee Compensation and Rights

- Allow school employees to access social security commensurate with their social security-covered employment (*Resolution Supporting Repeal of the Penalties in Social Security - 7/13/04; Support of HR 82, Social Security Fairness Act and S 206 – 9/11/07*)
- Support employee rights (*Employee Free Choice Act – 6/9/09*)

Positions on State Legislative Issues 2010

The Los Angeles Unified School District will support legislation, including state budget provisions, that would assure equity and access to quality programs for all District students and forward the District's primary goal of improving student learning to enable all students to achieve high academic standards.

Specific issues have been identified in anticipation of legislative focus in the coming year: District priorities and Board actions. Pertinent Board motions are italicized and in parentheses.

Student Achievement

- Provide resources to improve the achievement of all students, with particular emphasis on closing the achievement gap (*Achievement Gap Motions - 6/24/03 and 12/10/02; Oppose Proposition 54 - 9/9/03; Civic Education Motion - 4/13/04; English Learners: Hope on the Horizon - 7/10/07*)
- Provide appropriate interventions to ensure that students will meet the requirements of standards-based promotion and the high school exit examination
- Provide instruction and supports to ensure all students graduate from high school (*Diplomas for All: Increasing the Number of High School Graduates - 7/10/07*)
- Provide resources and programs that support the arts at all grade levels (*Support of SB 1390 -Visual and Performing Arts Standards - 6/13/00; Support AB 869, Arts Instructional Materials Equipment and Assistance Program - 5/22/01; Support for AB 351 (Salas) Physical Education – 4/28/09*)
- Provide resources and programs that address the educational needs of at-risk students prior to referral to special education
- Recognize the need and provide funding for before- and after-school activities and school-age and child-care programs that reinforce the academic achievement of all students (*Opposition to Proposition 22-limit on Marriages Initiative - 2/22/00; Beyond the Bell Los Angeles Unified School District Extended Learning and Enrichment Programs - 10/10/00; Support Proposition 49 - 10/8/02*)
- Provide resources and programs that address the educational needs of students (*Support Low-performing Students in High-performing Schools - 10/12/9; Motion Regarding Title III Programs for English Language Learners - 10/22/02; Motion in Support of Gifted Programs - 4/18/03; Support of Full Day Kindergarten - 2/10/04; United States Supreme Court Review of Voluntary Integration Efforts - 12/5/06; Preserving and Sustaining School Gardens – 9/25/07; Physical Education is a Priority – 7/8/08; Resolution Endorsing Multiple Pathways as a Comprehensive High School Reform Strategy at the Los Angeles Unified School District - 10/28/08*)

College Access

- Promote and increase access to higher education for all students through enhanced opportunities to participate in Advanced Placement and approved honors courses, college entrance examination preparation, higher education grants, counseling, and early college-awareness and outreach programs (*Resolution Endorsing Early Commitment to College (SB 890) – 4/22/08*)
- Promote the college readiness of all students, particular those of ethnic groups that have traditionally been underprepared to meet college entrance requirements upon graduation from high school (*Support SB 1731 - 4/9/02; Create Educational Equity in Los Angeles Through the Implementation of the A-G Course Sequence as Part of the High School Graduation Requirement - 6/14/05*)
- Remove barriers to high school student access to higher education, especially those barriers pertaining to immigration status and disabilities (*Support AB 540, Public Post Secondary Education and Residency - 8/28/01; Resolution to Support SB 1301 (Cedillo), The California Dream Act, and AB 2083 (Nuñez), The Student Financial Aid Eligibility Act – 5/13/08*)

- Increase student access to financial aid and other financial assistance for post-secondary education (*Support Increasing Financial Aid Applications Among District Students – 1/11/05, Raising Awareness of College Financial Aid Options - 1/31/06*)
- Support early access to higher education courses (*Concurrent Enrollment in Community College Courses – 5/12/09*)

Counseling, Health, Nutrition, and Support Services

- Provide increased and early access to physical and mental health services and health insurance for children (*Child Well-being Motion - 4/22/03; Support of SB 840 (Kuehl) California Health Insurance Reliability Act (CHIRA) - 5/9/06; Mental Health Awareness – 9/11/07; Opposition to Propositions 1D and 1E – 5/12/09*)
- Address the causes of at-risk behavior and provide appropriate alternatives and needed resources for students involved (*Opposition to Proposition 21- Juvenile Crime - 2/22/00*)
- Increase support for school psychologists, counselors, pupil services, attendance personnel, school nurses, and mental health programs (*Access for All Resolution Concerning the District’s Homeless Children - 1/24/06*)
- Preserve, develop, and augment those programs that are directly related to dropout prevention, intervention, and recovery (*Excellence and Equity in the Reduction of High School Drop-outs/Push-outs through Prevention, Intervention and Recovery - 4/12/05*)
- Provide funding for the County healthcare system, and particularly for school-based clinics, programs, and services which benefit school-aged children in the District (*School-based and School-linked Health Centers Motion - 3/25/03; Balanced Solution to the State Budget Crisis Motion - 7/22/03*)
- Promote the coordination of services for the various pupil health and support programs (*Improve Service For Dependent And Probation Youth - 11/25/03*)
- Assure racial and social justice and educational equality (*Support Equal Protection and Civil Rights for all Students in the Los Angeles Unified School District – 11/13/07; Celebrating Safe Spaces: Oppose Proposition 8 – 9/9/08*)
- Protect the rights and ensure the safety of students (*Opposition to Proposition 4: Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor’s Pregnancy – 9/23/08*)
- Support proper nutrition and nutrition education (*Promote Healthy Beverage Sales - 8/27/02; Obesity Prevention Motion - 10/28/03; Resolution In Support of Reauthorization of Federal Child Nutrition Programs - 11/25/03; Support for SB 1420 to Ensure the Health of LAUSD Students and their Families – 6/24/08*)
- Provide appropriate facilities and services to ensure a safe, nutritious food program (*Motion Regarding Cafeteria Facilities - 8/26/03; Motion Regarding Irradiated Food - 9/9/03*)

Parent and Community Involvement

- Increase parent and community involvement (*Parent Participation - 7/10/07*)
- Provide information and strategies on ways in which parents can support the instructional program, with a focus on parents of at-risk students
- Increase the opportunities for the District to collaborate with public and private agencies and the community to address the needs of individual schools
- Increase opportunities for joint use of school, health, recreational, and social service facilities
- Support increased civic engagement (*Resolution to Register the Youth Vote – 5/12/09*)

School Accountability

- Coordinate and consolidate, to the extent possible, the various accountability programs (*States' Academic Performance Indicator - 5/23/00*)
- Ensure the uniformity of student data collection processes and expedite the development of statewide student data systems
- Target resources that recognize and address poverty factors at schools to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to learn and equal access to the curriculum, with emphasis on teacher recruitment and retention, staff development, instructional materials, and educational technology (*Support the High Priority Students Block Grant - 8/18/01*)
- Provide accurate and meaningful data related to student learning and school and District performance (*District Accountability: Transformation Metrics - 7/10/07*)
- Support reform efforts to improve achievement (*Supporting Education Reform in California – 9/8/09*)

Student Assessment

- Provide the necessary resources and establish testing schedules to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to learn the material on which they are tested (*California High School Proficiency Exam - 1/11/00*)
- Support the fair and appropriate use of state and local tests, with particular attention given to high-stakes tests (*Alternative Assessment Motion - 4/8/03*)
- Ensure that the statewide assessment system is aligned with state standards
- Provide easily accessible data that is disaggregated by income status, learning disabilities, English-language proficiency, and other relevant factors
- Make assessment data available to teachers in a manner that can be used to drive instruction (*Alternative Assessment Motion - 4/8/03*)
- Minimize time away from instruction
- Minimize the redundancy of assessments, particularly at the secondary level
- Provide adequate resources for assessment purposes

School Safety

- Provide programs and fiscal support for the reduction of school crimes
- Provide support for programs that address racial conflict and hate crimes (*Hate Violence and Bias-Related Incidents Motion - 11/25/03*)
- Provide support for courses and activities in conflict resolution
- Recognize the violence caused by firearms and identify methods to curtail young people's access to these weapons
- Provide support for the prevention of bullying (*Bullying policy motion - 11/27/01*)
- Provide support for zero-tolerance policies for drug-, alcohol-, and tobacco-free schools and workplaces (*Support of AB 216, Fee on Alcoholic Beverages - 12/9/03*)
- Ensure the safety of children in their schools, homes, and communities (*Support of AB 2053 - Toy Guns - 4/11/00; Terrorism Preparedness Motion - 3/25/03; Child Well-being Motion - 4/22/03; Adult Entertainment Facility Motion - 8/26/03*)
- Provide safe schools and support residents in their efforts to eliminate violence in the community (*Designation School Safe Zones - 6/28/05; Creating and Maintaining a Safe School Environment - 7/10/07*)

School Facilities

- Provide the best possible learning environment (*Small Schools for Success* - 7/10/07)
- Support programs and funding sources that will allow all schools to operate on a two-semester calendar (*Support AB 2027, Phasing out of Concept 6* - 4/23/02; *Mandating a 180 Day Single Track Calendar for All Elementary, Middle and Senior High Schools* - 3/11/04)
- Enhance the District's ability to receive funds from the State's school construction program (*Support of Proposition 47, State School Bond of 2002* - 8/13/02; *Support of State School Bond of 2004* - 9/9/03; *Access to State School Construction Dollars* - 9/12/06; *Resolution Supporting Passage of Proposition 1D (Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act) and Opposing Passage of Proposition 90 (Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property Constitutional Amendment)* - 10/24/06)
- Acknowledge the importance of state funding for facilities for all District programs, including special education, preschool and child development, vocational education, adult education programs, and nutrition programs (*Facilities Master Plan for Adult and Career Education* - 8/26/03; *Cafeteria Facilities Motion* - 8/26/03; *Early Childhood Education Motion* - 10/8/03)
- Provide state funding for deferred maintenance (*Emergency Breakaway Security Grilles* - 2/22/00)
- Maintain health and safety standards for school cafeterias and restrooms (*Facilities Health and Safety Initiative* - 1/13/04)
- Provide State funding for the accessibility needs of people with disabilities
- Provide State funding for student lockers (*Campus Locker Policy* - 5/28/02)
- Reduce exposure to environmental hazards, including, but not limited to, lead, asbestos, and pesticides (*Proposed Sunshine Canyon Landfill* - 10/26/99; *Motion Regarding High Risk Land Use* - 1/14/03; *Siting of New Schools Near Industrial Facilities* - 2/22/05)
- Support efforts to enhance environmental conditions, including air, sound, and water quality (*Support of Proposition 12- Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000* - 2/22/00; *Effects of Non-ionizing Radiation* - 6/27/00; *Indoor Air Quality and Respiratory Health in Schools* - 1/23/01; *Child Well-being Motion* - 4/22/03; *Reduction in Air Pollution Health Risk at Schools* – 1/22/08; *Support of AB 2965 (Krekorian), Access to Clean Water at Schools* – 5/27/08)
- Promote and facilitate the joint use of school facilities (*Secondary After-School and Parks Program* - 3/24/06; *Small Schools for Success* - 7/10/07)
- Streamline the process of school siting, construction, and repair (*Re-examination of School Site Size Standards* - 11/23/99)
- Promote energy and water efficiency and high performing schools (*High Performance School Construction* - 2/13/01; *Energy Conservation in the Los Angeles Unified School District* - 3/13/01; *Green LAUSD* – 10/27/07)

Teacher Certification, Recruitment, and Retention

- Provide support for the recruitment and training of teachers to provide the skills needed to meet California's academic standards (*Los Angeles Teacher Mortgage Assistance Program* - 7/25/00; *Support Web-based Teacher Professional Development* - 5/22/01; *Teach LAUSD Campaign* - 7/10/07)
- Recognize the costs associated with attracting credentialed teachers to the teaching profession and the costs associated with retaining teachers in a competitive job market
- Support programs to encourage secondary students to pursue teaching as a profession
- Maintain and enhance State support for District intern and pre-internship programs
- Provide credentialing methods that accelerate the ability of applicants to earn credentials while ensuring that these teachers are highly qualified
- Expand and enhance paraprofessional career ladder programs

- Establish an early education credential
- Create an incentive program for teachers to work in priority staffing schools, particularly those in the lowest deciles, and in shortage subject fields (*Challenged-School Teacher Attraction and Retention Program - 1/11/00*)
- Expand access to and funding of tuition reimbursement programs for the teaching profession
- Encourage recruitment of teachers that reflect the ethnic diversity of students
- Streamline due process (*Teacher Quality: A Call to Legislators – 6/9/09*)

Professional Development

- Recognize the need for and the importance of the professional development of K-12, adult, vocational education, and preschool teachers, administrators, and classified staff, with a focus on at-risk students (*Leaders of Leaders Program - 7/10/07*)
- Focus teacher training funding on the improvement of student academic achievement, especially in low-performing schools and with at-risk students
- Provide training funding for teachers, administrators, and support staff in addressing behavioral needs of students
- Provide teachers training to meet the needs of the diverse language population of students

Class-Size Reduction

- Continue support for existing class-size reduction efforts with the necessary flexibility in the use of class-size-reduction funding in schools with limited space and sufficient flexibility to ensure instructional program integrity (*Phase out the Class-size Increase - 11/2/02*)
- Support class-size reduction in grades 4-9 (*Class size reduction motion - 1/25/05*)
- Enhance the recruitment and training of new teachers employed for the CSR programs
- Provide support for facilities required for the programs
- Authorize the continued employment of retired teachers as necessitated by reduction in class size

Instructional Materials/Libraries

- Increase funding for textbooks and instructional materials, including specialized materials for students with disabilities
- Increase funding for library collections and library services
- Support the use, adoption, and funding of standards-aligned materials
- Support the inclusion of culturally relevant and historically significant information in instructional materials (*Support of AB 531 (Salas) (Mendez v. Westminster case) – 6/10/08*)

Education Technology

- Increase the fiscal support of education technology to improve instruction and student learning
- Assure equity and access to quality instructional technology and programs for all District students
- Allocate education technology funding on a per-pupil basis
- Lift the deferment on, and reinstate, ongoing funding of Digital High Schools
- Provide ongoing funding for technology, training, and support to implement a technology program at the middle school level
- Fund exploring technology programs at the middle school level
- Provide teacher training in the use of technology to support the instructional program for all students
- Require new teachers to meet technology competency levels already in law

- Provide technology for supplemental instruction to meet the requirements of standards-based promotion and the high school exit examination
- Clarify that instructional materials funds may be used for instructional technology
- Expand distance learning opportunities as an alternative or supplement to traditional course attendance requirements and as an opportunity to offer additional courses
- Modify State bid threshold requirements to apply to individual school technology orders, rather than the aggregate of district-wide orders
- Provide funding, beyond the limits of low-incidence funding, for assistive technology to support the education of students with disabilities

Career Technical Education

- Improve programmatic and fiscal support for K-12 school-to-work programs, industry-based technology instruction, work experience education, youth apprenticeships, transition services for students with disabilities, and workplace learning experiences (*Child Well-being Motion - 4/22/03; Career Technical Education Motion - 1/13/04*)
- Equalize regional occupational centers/programs (ROC/P) revenue limit statewide
- Provide a cost-of-living adjustment for regional occupational centers and programs that is equal to the cost-of-living adjustment for K-12 programs

Adult Education

- Provide a cost-of-living adjustment for adult education programs that is equal to the cost-of-living adjustment for K-12 programs
- Provide funding for the construction and leasing of adult education facilities (*Facilities Master Plan for Adult and Career Education - 8/26/03*)
- Increase opportunities for adult education by authorizing programs to be offered at work sites and expanding the list of currently authorized subjects (*Addition of Foreign Language Instruction for Adult Education Students to the State Education Code - 6/22/99*)
- Allow the use of adult education to support secondary students at risk of failing the high school exit exam

Early Care and Education

- Provide resources to improve the school readiness of preschool children (*Opposition to Repeal of Proposition 10-Tobacco Surtax - 2/22/00; Early Education and Wage Equity Act - 2/27/01; Oppose the Proposed Realignment of Child Care and Development Programs - 3/25/03; Opposition to Propositions 1D and 1E - 5/12/09*)
- Provide resources and programs that address the educational needs of at-risk preschool children (*Ensuring Success for All Preschool Children - 10/9/07*)
- Include preschool children in State funded student data systems
- Provide a cost-of-living adjustment for child development programs that is equal to the cost-of-living adjustment for K-12 programs
- Increase the standard reimbursement rate for child development programs to eliminate the need for District general fund support
- Establish an early education credential for teachers
- Recognize the need for and the importance of professional development for preschool teachers, administrators, and classified staff

- Provide a system to identify all early care and family child care providers in the attendance areas of elementary schools in order to provide support for school-readiness for these pupils
- Provide funding for the construction of child care facilities (*Early Childhood Education Motion - 10/8/03*)
- Provide universal preschool for all children ages three and four and access for all preschool children (*Support of Los Angeles County Proposition 10 Commission - 6/11/02; Early Childhood Education Motion - 10/8/02; Support of Proposition 82, Pre-School For All - 5/23/06*)

Funding, Budget, and Governance Issues

- Increase the basic general fund program of the District (*Increasing California's per Pupil Spending - 2/22/00; School Funding - 5/9/00; Workers' Compensation Motion - 4/22/03; Support ACA 4, Parcel Tax - 6/24/03; Balanced Solution to the State Budget Crisis Motion - 7/22/03; State Proposition 98 Funding - 2/22/05; Stand Up for Children and Fight Devastating State Budget Cuts – 1/27/09; Support for AB 267 and ACA 10 – 6/23/09; Opposition to Continued Additional Budget Cuts - 6/23/09*)
- Maintain the authority of elected boards of education
- Fully fund mandates and entitlements for new and existing programs
- Prohibit the diversion of state and local funds for tax credits and vouchers for nonpublic education (*Opposition to Proposition 38, School Voucher Initiative - 8/29/00*)
- Continue the State's policy of targeting categorical funds to students with the greatest needs, based on poverty and other special factors (*Preserving Funding for District Priorities - 2/13/01; Standing Up for Children: Opposition to State Budget Cuts to Education – 2/26/08*)
- Recognize district and school enrollments as a key factor in the distribution of categorical state funding, including grants
- Promote funding formulas that address the needs of students with disabilities (*Increasing Federal Funding for Special Education - 8/24/99*)
- Provide equal cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for all regular and required categorical programs, including K-12 and child development, adult and vocational education, and special education
- Increase flexibility in the use of categorical funds while assuring that the needs of the targeted pupil populations are met and that the District's funding is not diminished (*Support the High Priority Students Block Grant - 8/18/01*)
- Support policies that will ensure an efficient and fair budgeting process (*Support the Adoption of the 02-03 State Budget by 6/30/02 - 6/25/02; Resolution in Support of Proposition 56: the Budget Accountability Act - 2/24/04; Opposition to Proposition 88 (Real Property Parcel Tax) - 10/31/06; Standing Up for Children: Opposition to An Anti-Urban, Anti-Poor Student Budget – 5/27/08*)
- Reduce the two-thirds vote requirement to pass a parcel tax (*Support of Senate Constitutional Amendment 8 - 6/14/05*)
- Retain defined benefit pension plans with defined contribution plans as the core retirement benefit of employees (*Motion Opposing the Elimination of Pensions for Public Employees - 6/14/05*)

Charter Schools

- Assure fiscal and legal protections for a chartering school district
- Assure legal protections and services for students with disabilities attending charter schools
- Provide facilities for charter schools to enable the District to comply with State requirements
- Require that school districts be informed regarding schools chartered by other entities that operate within their geographic boundaries.

Los Angeles Unified School District Positions on Local Government Legislative Issues

2009

The Los Angeles Unified School District will support local government legislation that would:

- Provide funding for before- and after-school activities and programs (*Support Proposition 49 - 10/8/02*)
- Expand the availability of child care and child care facilities (*Support of Los Angeles County Proposition 10 Commission - 6/11/02; Support Proposition 49 - 10/8/02*)
- Ensure safe transportation routes to and from school (*Recognize the Child Safety Task Force and Safety Valet Program - 4/26/05; Exposition Light Rail Line Phase 2 Project – 6/23/09*)
- Improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety around school sites
- Increase resources at local libraries (*Proposition 14-California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000 - 2/22/00*)
- Provide funding for substance abuse diversion programs
- Increase opportunities and provide funding for joint-use facilities (*Multiple Use Facilities & Joint School Siting with the Los Angeles Community College District - 9/24/99; Secondary After-School and Parks Program - 3/24/06*)
- Facilitate, expedite, and augment funding for new school and classroom construction (*Support of Proposition 26 – Let’s Fix Our Schools Initiative - 2/8/00*)
- Ensure the safety of children in school and in their communities (*Proposed Sunshine Canyon Landfill - 10/26/99; Support of Proposition 12-Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 - 2/22/00; Electric School Buses - 2/8/00; Effects of Non-Ionizing Radiation - 6/27/00; Low Emission School Bus Program - 2/13/01; Alternative Fuel School Bus Fleet Rule by South Coast Air Quality Management District - 3/27/01; Support of Measure A, General Obligation Earthquake and Fire Safety Bond Measure - 10/8/02; Child Well-being Motion - 4/22/03; Adult Entertainment Facility Motion - 8/26/03; Support of "No Secrets Program" in the District - 2/10/04; Support of Measure H, Affordable Housing General Obligation Bonds - 10/31/06; Creating and Maintaining a Safe School Environment - 7/10/07; Keeping Kids Safe (MTA Expo Light Rail Line) – 11/13/07; Reduction in Air Pollution Health Risk at Schools – 1/22/08; Protection of Air Quality of Los Angeles Unified School District Communities – 2/12/08; Establishing Lower Speed Limits Around Schools – 2/26/08; Wireless Telecommunication Installations – 5/26/09*)
- Promote the coordination of services for the various pupil health and support programs (*Improve Service For Dependent And Probation Youth - 11/25/03*)
- Facilitate District efforts to provide fair and satisfactory relocation assistance for purposes of school construction
- Support efforts to enhance environmental conditions (*Allow Use of Solar Power at District Schools – 10/28/08*)
- Discourage and reduce truancy
- Improve coordination of schools and agencies in reducing gang activity in and around schools (*Resolution to Effectively Prevent Gang Violence On and Around District Campuses – 5/13/08*)
- Promote arts education
- Provide funding for the County public healthcare system (*Child Well-being Motion - 4/22/03*)
- Expand health services for low-income families (*Support of Healthy Child Act of 2007 - 6/28/07*)
- Expand the number and funding of school-based clinics (*School-Based and School-Linked Health Centers Motion - 3/25/03*)
- Support the neighborhood council concept (*Saving Neighborhood Councils – 5/12/09*)

Revised 11/18/09