

November 9, 2020

Los Angeles Unified School District
Members, Board of Education
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Via email: boardmembers@lausd.net

RE: 11/10/20 Board Meeting Agenda Item #27 – Special Reports
Consideration of Los Angeles County Office of Education Recommendations on
District Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan

Honorable Members of the Board:

It has been nearly 60 days since the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD or the District) could have begun small cohort in-person instruction. It has already been too long. And, as you know, the District must eventually assess and compensate for all of this learning loss. Action to ensure that those students who are not benefiting from a distance learning only environment will help to mitigate the amount of compensatory support the District owes these students in the future while stemming the ongoing learning loss now.

The District must ensure students who cannot meaningfully participate in distance learning can access education opportunities while complying with all health and safety guidelines. Until the District can safely re-open schools for all, it is critical for LAUSD to provide in-person assessments, Individualized Education Program (IEP) services, and small cohort in-person instruction to all students who are suffering from significant learning loss, including youth with disabilities and students who need special education, many of whom are also in foster care.

We urge an emphasis on strategies to re-engage these vulnerable populations and mitigate learning gaps through:

- Small cohort in-person instruction, and
- In-person IEP assessments and services.

Providing tutoring support is an important supplement to in-person instruction and services – but youth who are not benefiting from an exclusive distance learning environment need the underlying instruction and assessments so that they can access the educational curriculum.

In addition, providing a space for students to participate in distance learning and receive meals is not equivalent to providing small cohort in-person instruction or classroom-based instruction. While such services are critical for students who have no place to engage in

distance learning, it is still distance learning and cannot address the needs of children who are unable to benefit from distance learning. These services do not meet LAUSD's duty to utilize small cohort in-person instruction in a manner consistent with public health guidelines.

As noted in our November 5th letter, we implore the LAUSD to ensure that students with disabilities and students who need special education are assisted in their desire and efforts to get back on track through immediate in-person assessments, IEP services, and small cohort in-person instruction, in accordance with California Department of Education and local public health guidelines.

Thank you for your continued support of our most vulnerable students.

Sincerely,



Kristin Power
Government Relations Director

Attachment – Letter from Alliance for Children's Rights (2020.11.05)