

## LETTER OF INTENT FOR LA UNIFIED COMMUNITY SCHOOL

We, the staff of Catskill Avenue Elementary School, believe with confidence that we have the optimal school-ecosystem for implementation of an LAUSD Community School.

### SCHOOL COMMITMENT

Every year, the Catskill School Site Council and Local School Leadership generously appropriates a large amount of the annual school budget for integrated student supports. Catskill, which is 90% Title I, is one of the few schools in the Harbor Area that has a School Mental Health Psychiatric Social Worker (PSW) on-site for 4 days a week. The PSW directly connects our students to social-emotional support; from counseling, peer-mediation groups, providing Operation School Bell services, as well as referring families to the Carson Wellness Center for medical services located at Carson High School. A PSA counselor is on-site once a week to monitor and incentivize student attendance. In this school year, Catskill's attendance has increased from 63% to 71%. Catskill residents live by the large oil refineries, so a Breathmobile is onsite once a month to assist students with chronic asthma. Furthermore, our school psychologist works directly with students by leading student support groups three days per week.

Catskill Elementary offers a variety of unique opportunities to nurture the whole-child. The principal, teachers, and parents agree that students benefit from expanded learning and enrichment opportunities. Our staff has taken the initiative to host clubs to which underserved students might not otherwise have access. Before school, there are two teachers who lead a 60-member musical chorus for grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> each spring. Students have access to after school enrichment clubs such as sewing, LEGO/S.T.E.M., dance, Reading Buddies, art & crafts, softball, and baseball. We also offer Saturday school and after school reading/math intervention for at-risk students.

Various forms of modern communication help Catskill staff bridge the gap with parents and the Carson community. Parents are encouraged to sign up for an LAUSD Passport Account, have access to the Catskill school website, and ClassDojo. Flyers and EdConnect phone messages are disseminated in English and Spanish.

The strength of Catskill's leadership is in the equitable shared control between the principal, the parents, students, staff members and Carson community. The climate of the school is already innately a collaborative effort with the structures of Local School Leadership, School Site Council and Academic Leadership Council already established.

### SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Catskill prides itself on all its successfully engaged community partnerships with the L.A. Chargers, L.A. Galaxy, Shoes That Fit, Vision to Learn, Books in Homes (Watson Land Development), Operation School Bell, Harbor Occupational Center, Carson Wellness Center, Carson Care Clinic, UCLA Design for Sharing, Angel's Gate, UCLA Breathmobile, and Sharefest. These partnerships have provided our students with numerous opportunities, services and even bikes!

The Wellness Center Model would be beneficial element for the Catskill community since we are ready to contribute mental and physical health services on our campus. Catskill is also ready to establish a mental health provision that can support families with after-hours counseling services. This would give working parents an opportunity to participate in much-needed but underutilized family therapeutic services. An urgent care center would also be a key service which would greatly improve student attendance, as well as parents' work attendance. Another need is a paralegal and notary service to provide legal counsel, especially in the areas of immigration and family law. We believe that although Catskill receives school partnerships, the campus needs to continue to evolve to better suit the needs of working families and the immigrant population.

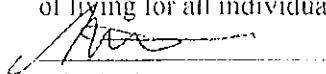
#### FAMILY OF SCHOOL

Geographically, Catskill is located between the feeder secondary schools: Carnegie Middle School, Stephen White Middle School, and Carson High School. Catskill teachers are aware that high school students cannot get accepted to the more competitive colleges based on academic grades alone, but rather from creating a well-rounded portfolio of extracurricular experiences to stand out from the rest of the other college applicants. For example, students who begin participating in the after school dance club can continue to develop that talent through Stephen White's national award winning drill team. Additionally, Stephen White's clubs come to Catskill campus at the end of the year to showcase their music, dance and student government programs. Clubs and sports that begin in elementary school have the potential to enable students to develop lifelong skills that will continue to progress throughout their academic careers as they progress from elementary, middle school, high school, and college.

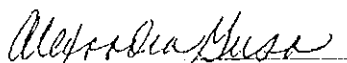
#### COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

Catskill Leadership consists of the Local School Leadership, the School Site Council and Academic Leadership Council. The Local School Leadership meets each month. Their sole responsibility is to manage school operations--discipline, equipment needs, school activities schedule. The LSL also addresses how to continually engage the parents and community sponsors to partner with Catskill. The School Site Council oversees how school funds are managed based on recommendations from the ELAC, LSLC, parents, staff and community members. A checks and balance system exists in that all who partake (principal, certificated staff, classified staff and parents) are fairly represented. Furthermore, Academic Leadership Council's role is to address grade level concerns in academics, discipline, and professional development.

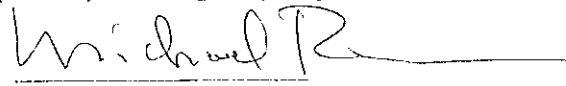
Our Catskill learning community is eager to take action to upgrade services and unite families, educators and community partners to provide a better opportunity and a higher quality of living for all individuals.



Principal  
Suzanne Zopatti



UTLA Chapter Chair  
Alexandra Gusa



Local District Superintendent  
Michael Romero

**COMMUNITY SCHOOL DESIGN TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION**

A design team should represent all stakeholders of a school – Principal, Teachers, Counselors, Students, Parents, and Community Partners. **FILLABLE FORM**

<b>NAME OF SCHOOL:</b> Catskill Avenue Elementary School			
NAME	ROLE AT SCHOOL (e.g., Teacher, Parent, Principal, Student)	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
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