FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **What is a community school?**

   A community school addresses issues of structural poverty and racism by providing a learning environment where all children can learn and thrive. This includes an integrated wraparound education that transforms the school into a community center coordinated by a partnership between the school site, civic leaders, and community-based organizations with a shared purpose to accelerate student achievement, 100 percent graduation, college and career readiness. This approach evolves the school site into a hub for the community where families access health, socio-emotional, mental health, and enrichment support for students during and following normal school hours.

2. **What is the difference between the Community Schools Initiative and Community of Schools?**

   The LA Unified Community Schools Initiative (CSI) was established as a result of the collective bargaining agreement between the United Teachers of Los Angeles and LAUSD. CSI is a reform effort to bring about transformational change that positively impacts student achievement through stakeholder empowerment and collaborative decision making.

   The Community of Schools (CoS) is a cluster comprised of approximately 15-20 preK-12 schools and designed to offer services and educational opportunities that are tailored to the specific needs and assets of neighboring community. It is an organizational structure.

3. **What is the governance model of a Community Schools Initiative?**

   Per the MOU, each Community School will have the Local School Leadership Council (LSLC) as the governing body and will work to strengthen collaborative and shared decision-making processes.
   Note: Pilot Schools and Affiliated Charters may have another recognized governance council as per the plan. Amendments can be made to broaden the governance scope if there is not alignment.

4. **What is "community school council" and does it replace the School Site Council (SSC) or Local School Leadership Council (LSLC or LLC)?**

   The LSLC or LLC is the decision-making body for Community School related issues as per the Collective Bargaining agreement. It does not replace the SSC.

5. **Does becoming a Community School create more work for the Chapter Chair, Parent Center Rep, & Principal?**

Becoming a high-quality Community School is a process that takes time and investment from a majority of school and community stakeholders. The transformation process is designed to include feedback from diverse stakeholders, which will inform how the Community School will tailor its approach to implementation. Having all key actors involved in the work, from the LSLC, principal, and CSC, will make the process much smoother. Through distributive leadership, the workload is not placed only upon the shoulders of a few individuals.

6. **What is the cohort II application timeline?**

The Letter of Intent is due 2/22/21. Applications are due 4/9/21.
Notifications will be made the week of 4/26/21. Please refer to the complete timeline in the CSI reference guide found at https://achieve.lausd.net/csi

7. **What is the role of the Community School Coordinator?**

The Community Schools Coordinator (CSC) is the systems manager who will facilitate the Community School transformation process. The primary job of the CSC is to coordinate optimal partnerships between external individuals/organizations, and school site staff. Through the needs and asset assessment conducted by the CSC, school site staff will provide feedback on focus areas that merit more attention (e.g. curriculum, wrap-around supports).

8. **Who is responsible for the search and hire of the Community Schools Coordinator?**

The selection of the CSC follows the process identified for coordinator selection in the Collective Bargaining Agreement

9. **What are the qualifications for the coordinator? Who is eligible for the Community Schools position?**

A CSC must be a certificated, UTLA represented employee of LAUSD and possess strong written and verbal communications skills, experience working with children, and knowledge of community resources.