



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Mendez High School
for College and Career Preparation
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Austin Beutner
Superintendent of Schools

Joan Sullivan
Chief Executive Officer,
Partnership for Los Angeles Schools (PLAS)

Mauro Bautista
Principal

March 25, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

We are excited to submit this letter of intent to be considered for LAUSD's Community Schools Program. Mendez High School has always strived to be a community hub for our students, families and neighborhood. Since it's opening, 10 years ago, we have developed meaningful relationships with various community partners and organization to better support the academic and social-emotional needs of our students. When examining the Community School's evidence-based school improvement framework's four pillars, Mendez High School has already made progress but with additional support and resources, could implement each pillar even more so. Currently, we are doing the following:

1. **Integrated Student Supports:** Our administration team, counseling department, and case-management partners, such as Communities in School, connect struggling students and their families with outsider service providers, such as mental health agencies (ENKI, GRYD, Alma, Ramona, etc), wellness care (St. John's Mobile Clinic), legal aid (Loyola Immigration Clinic), and more in order to help remove any barriers that may impede our students from reaching their full potential. Through our Student Support And Progress Team meetings, we assess individual students' needs and come up with a personalized approach to ensure their success.
2. **Expanded Learning Time and Opportunities:** Through our partnerships with City Year, UCLA, East LA College, Beyond the Bell/Impacto, Self-Help Graphics, etc, we are able to provide students tutoring, advanced learning opportunities, and enrichment. Students stay late after-school and work on class assignments, play sports, or engage in fun and engaging activities. We also have a list of various clubs in which students can explore their personal interests and develop their talents. Additionally, we offer Summer Bridge for incoming 9th graders to welcome them and help them transition smoothly into high school. We run a successful Jaime Escalante Math Program to help students advance in math courses.
3. **Family and Community Engagement:** For the past 8 years, Mendez HS has won the *High School of the Year* award in Family and Community Engagement through the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools. We work hard to communicate frequently with our parents and invite them to engage in their children's academic progress. Our Parent Center is very active and offers a robust calendars of events and workshops to provide information and resources to parents and community members. We hold school-wide campaigns aligned to our mission and goals and do our best to outreach to all stakeholders. We also participate in neighborhood events and have a reputation in our community as an open, community-centered and safe

school. Every year, our School Experience Survey data reflects how safe and happy our students, families, and staff feel on campus. Our Family Action Team, School Culture Committee, and community partners meet often to ensure we are engaging our community and families in the best way possible.

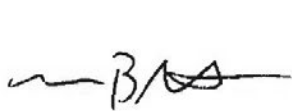
4. **Collaborative Leadership and Practice:** We believe that “team work makes the dream work” and work diligently to hold a shared vision and equal opportunities to lead and share knowledge. Through various committees and rotating professional development, we are open to learning from one another and ensuring that all stakeholders are invited to the table. We often host professional development for other schools, including our feeder schools, to come onto to our campus and share best practices, go through observations, and build stronger connections. We also nurture various governing bodies such as School Site Council, Local School Leadership, School Culture Committee, Family Action Team, and House of Student Representatives.

As exemplified above, Mendez High School is committed to upholding the four pillars of Community Schools. We have already begun and will continue to collaborate through school partnerships with organizations, businesses, elected officials, families and community members. We already have outstanding relationships with Promesa Boyle Heights, Proyecto Pastoral, Communities in Schools, City Year, YMCA, Geffen Playhouse, Casa 0101, Self-Help Graphics, Las Fotos Project, Inner-City Struggle, 826LA, Boys and Girls Club, Latino Equality Alliance, Peer Health Exchange, and more. We are also looking forward to breaking ground for our Wellness Center in September 2019 and will hopefully, open its doors to our students and community in the Fall of 2020.


We are also proud to work with our feeder schools and often invite their students to participate in school events or campus tours to encourage them to see our school as a welcoming space for them, too. Through Promesa Boyle Heights and the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, we work with Hollenbeck MS, Stevenson MS and Utah Elementary. Our students have volunteered in their schools and we hope to strengthen mentorship opportunities.

By becoming an official LAUSD Community School, we hope to continue being a safe space for the community and by the community.

Respectfully,



Mauro Bautista
Mendez HS Principal



Peter Olson
UTLA Chapter Chair



Jose Huerta
Local District Superintendent




Joan Sullivan
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENT A

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**

NAME OF SCHOOL: Mendez High School			
NAME	ROLE AT SCHOOL (e.g., Teacher, Parent, Principal, Student)	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
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