LIS: GENERAL OVERVIEW

* Established through the LAUSD/UTLA Local School Stabilization and Empowerment Initiative (LSSEI) of 2011 and provides for increased decision-making authority and empowerment of the faculty, principal and parents to determine various aspects of a school’s educational program and policies.
* Allows for deliberate adoption of specific autonomy from an array of autonomy options for local empowerment
* Granted automatic waivers from District controls and parts of the LAUSD-UTLA CBA as needed to implement matters subject to local determination
* Local Initiatives are to be driven solely by the imperative of continued improvement in student achievement and quality of instruction
* Remain part of the District; open to students in accordance with student assignment plan
* Total of 22 LIS schools across LAUSD at all school levels

LIS: AUTONOMIES

**Internal Program Autonomy:** offers the following options from which to choose:

* Methods of Improving Pedagogy: methods to improve pedagogy and student achievement, such as articulation between grade levels/departments, intervention strategies and support programs
* Curriculum: instructional standards, objectives and emphases subject to State and District minimum curriculum standards
* Assessment: Local interim benchmark assessments, tests and/or pacing plans are aligned with and equivalent to District requirements and comply with any State and Federal requirements.
* Professional Development: aligned with Single Plan for Student Achievement except as to training related to legal/compliance mandates

**Internal Organization and Operations:** schools may choose to exercise autonomy over the following areas:

* Schedule: refers to daily instructional days/minutes, school activities and events, and special schedules to accommodate additional prep time for teachers (subject to the District mandated minimum number of school days and calendar requirements). Subject to State mandated minimum number of instructional minutes.
* Internal Organization: such as division into academies, SLCs or houses within the assigned student population
* Budget: provides general fund budget control pursuant to the District’s evolving site-based funding system
* Health and Safety: aligned with District-wide health/safety mandates
* Re-adoption in the Local Initiative School Program: any current special conditions/waivers already applicable to the school pursuant to SBM, ESBMM, Pilot or other arrangements
* Adoption of Separate Waiver Plans: Pilot program or ESBMM subject to each program’s requirements
* Discipline and Code of Conduct: aligned with the District-wide standards and rules governing student conduct, suspensions, expulsions and transfers

**Staffing:** schools may choose to exercise autonomy over the following areas:

* Staffing: schools must comply with return rights or other placement rights to the school; subject to restraints of the CBA and District staffing policies
* Teacher Assignments: determine assignments of teachers to grade levels, departments, subjects and classes (e.g., looping, team-teaching, ungraded instruction or multi-age groupings)
* Appointed Positions: selecting grade level or department chairs, coordinators, deans, instructional coaches, etc.

**Additional Waivers**: Local Initiative Schools may request local authority waivers in addition to those described above. Such additional waivers would require separate consideration from both the District and UTLA before becoming effective. Please contact LOOC *before writing the petition* if selecting additional waivers.