



Los Angeles Unified School District

2023 ADVOCACY AGENDA

ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

The Los Angeles Unified School District (Los Angeles Unified) legislative and funding priorities call for policy changes that make schools a safe, welcoming, and equitable place for learning. The 2023 Advocacy Agenda is aligned to Los Angeles Unified's 2022-26 Strategic Plan and its goal to lead and leverage the District's role as an impactful member of local, state, and national communities. In addition to the issues identified below, the Office of Government Relations will continue to support and advocate for legislative proposals and initiatives that are consistent with the Strategic Plan and will pursue the necessary policy and funding flexibilities in 2023 as new issues arise.

LOCAL

The Office of Government Relations, in collaboration with other District departments, will explore opportunities for partnerships with local municipalities serving District schools to address the following:

- Strengthen intergovernmental collaboration to expand the District's enrollment campaign efforts and support school-aged children who are not enrolled or attending school, including the most disadvantaged such as homeless, foster and newcomers.
- Expand prevention and public education efforts to combat the public health issue of fentanyl-related overdoses and strengthen support services for students.
- Increase low to no cost transportation opportunities for students through a continued partnership with LA Metro and the City of LA.
- Expand programming for students through continued partnerships with regional Parks and Recreation departments.
- Increase crossing guard funding and support the timely staffing of these positions.
- Strengthen partnership with Los Angeles County to address mental health and wellness with the goal of unifying mental health funding and staffing to provide consistent services for schools and communities in high-need areas.
- Increase resources to support a positive school climate and safe routes to and from schools.
- Support efforts aimed at the relocation or closure of the Atlas facility site in Watts, and explore funding opportunities for site clean-up.
- Expand joint-use facilities agreements, including the expansion of Community School Parks.
- Establish municipal education compacts with local governments.

STATE

The Office of Government Relations will pursue the following legislation and state budget priorities:

Sponsored Legislation

- Strengthen collaboration between counties and school districts on the allocation of existing prevention and early intervention mental health funding to expand school-based behavioral health services.
- Make Kindergarten a mandatory grade level to close opportunity gaps.

- Extend authorization to operate single gender schools.
- Provide funding to local educational agencies based on total student enrollment.
- Improve state auditing process to expand access to school health and mental health services and ensure timely reimbursements for eligible services.
- Accelerate the construction and installation of shade structures that reduce the impact of extreme heat on schoolyards.
- Pursue authorization for school districts to offer specialization programs in certain pupil personnel services to address staff shortages.
- Permanently authorize the task order contracting procurement method used for maintenance and repair projects.

State Budget Priorities

- Advocate for increased ongoing investments through the Local Control Funding Formula.
- Support maximum flexibility of new one-time or ongoing Proposition 98 funding.
- Pursue other technical clarifications and flexibilities as necessary.

FEDERAL

The Office of Government Relations will continue to advocate for the following issues at the federal level:

- Additional funding to increase access to high-quality preschool programs for all 3- and 4-year olds, including to support increased reimbursement rates, teacher preparation programs and facilities renovations.
- Passage of the bipartisan IDEA Full Funding Act to increase spending for special education to the full 40 percent financial commitment.
- Increase connectivity funding to provide students and teachers access to devices and internet services for off-campus use and support changes to the E-Rate program to use funds to strengthen IT security infrastructure.
- Increase appropriations for Title I, Title II, Title IV, GEAR UP, and other education programs.
- Funding to address substance abuse and recovery support services for students.
- Protection and support of immigrant students and families, including support for permanent legal protections and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth.
- Flexibilities for school nutrition programs to enable continued free, nutritious meals for all children.
- Adoption of a school construction bill to increase financial support for school facilities.
- Ensure large school districts that serve a significant number of students in poverty are prioritized for funding under the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program.
- Funding to address educator shortages, improve training and support for school staff, and boost educator diversity.