

# LOS ANGELES UNIFIED'S 2024 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

The Los Angeles Unified School District's (Los Angeles Unified) 2024 federal priorities seek to build upon the work and achievements made over the past two years aligned with commitments in the District's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, and we remain committed to working with our federal partners as the nation continues to transition into post-pandemic life. More students are graduating at the highest levels and are now headed to college or into a career. We have also strengthened our academic achievement through intervention efforts: attendance has increased to pre-pandemic levels while chronic absenteeism has decreased. We maintain our optimism for the future and remain committed to educating the next generation of Americans by advocating for the following programs and initiatives:



## TITLE I AND MAGNET SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Title I is a vital funding source that has supplemented supports in schools such as academic coaches and reading specialists who provide targeted instructional support for the most vulnerable students. Los Angeles Unified has 333 magnet programs that provide rigorous, high-quality, theme-based instruction designed to promote academic achievement. ***To strengthen and expand our programs, we urge the federal government to provide a significant increase in funding for both Title I and the Magnet Schools Assistance grants.***



## TITLE II

Academic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic requires ongoing strategic investments to recruit, retain, and support educators. ***We urge the federal government to provide robust funding for Title II to address educator staffing needs, improve training and support for educators, and increase educator diversity.***



## TITLE III – ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Los Angeles Unified honors the multilingual and multicultural tapestry in our schools. Currently, nearly one of every two students enrolled in Los Angeles Unified are English Learners (ELs) or former ELs. The District is taking steps toward increasing achievement for multilingual learners by identifying and implementing evidence-based practices that yield effective teaching, improvements in education outcomes, and family engagement. To ensure that Los Angeles Unified remains a leader in providing exemplary instructional programs for multilingual learners, ***we urge the federal government to increase funding for Title III.***



## TITLE IV, PART A – STUDENT SUPPORT AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Los Angeles Unified strives to address barriers that prevent students from learning and to optimize their

health and wellness to facilitate academic achievement. To do so, the district has invested funds to provide additional counselors, psychiatric social workers, and other health professionals at schools to help students process the anxiety and trauma over the past few years. However, addressing these growing needs requires ongoing resources. ***We urge the federal government to increase funding for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment program and invest in school-based health professionals such as counselors, psychologists and psychiatric social workers to support the physical and mental health needs of students and their families.***



## INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

Each year that Congress fails to fulfill its promise of fully funding IDEA, it results in school districts paying a higher proportion of special education costs to ensure students with disabilities receive the services they are entitled to. Despite its commitment to provide 40% of the extra costs associated with educating students with disabilities, the federal government only covers approximately 14%. ***We urge the federal government to fulfill the promise and fully fund IDEA as proposed in the IDEA Full Funding Act introduced by Senator Chris Van Hollen (MD) and Congressman Jared Huffman (CA-2).***



## E-RATE AND CYBERSECURITY

Cyberattacks on school districts are on the rise and continue to pose serious and ongoing threats to instruction, school operations, and student privacy. Schools of all sizes and varying levels of IT sophistication remain susceptible to ransomware attacks as demonstrated by the 2022 attack on Los Angeles Unified. ***We urge the federal government to increase funding for E-rate and allow its use to strengthen IT security infrastructure to counter the most common cyberattacks.***



### EXPANDING CONNECTIVITY

Access to the internet has become paramount to education in the modern age, and online resources prove to be a significant educational tool. However, access to the internet is often aggravated by economic inequality and poverty. Marginalized communities without sufficient internet access and devices become disadvantaged in schooling as compared to their peers. We are encouraged by recent actions by the Federal Communications Commission to fund Wi-Fi on school buses. ***We urge the federal government to increase connectivity funding to provide students and teachers access to devices and internet services for off-campus use.***



### CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The school meal waivers provided in the Family First Coronavirus Act, along with subsequent extensions, provided significant flexibility to school systems attempting to ensure its students and families received free, nutritious meals during the pandemic. However, challenges in procuring supplies, modernizing equipment, and serving meals continue to persist, and additional flexibility is needed. We urge the federal government to provide flexibility for school nutrition programs, including extending the congregate meal requirement waived during COVID-19. ***We also urge the federal government to approve federal reimbursements for school meals in a timely manner and request the U.S. Department of Agriculture re-examine the existing formula to propose differentiated reimbursement rates based on regional cost differences.***



### SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

In Los Angeles Unified, the majority of students are learning in old and outdated classrooms: 2020 estimates reveal that there were over \$60 billion of unfunded school facilities and technology needs districtwide, and those needs grow every year. Additionally, with the growing threat that climate change poses to facilities, school districts must begin building resilience in school infrastructure and making greater investments in greening projects. ***We urge the federal government to provide robust funding to modernize aging public school infrastructure, and to build resiliency to protect students from the impacts of global warming.***



### PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Los Angeles Unified has taken groundbreaking steps to expand access to a life-changing, academically formative, and socially enriching experience in Preschool and Universal Transitional Kindergarten (TK) programs for 3- and 4-year-old children. However, as we further develop this program, sustained resources in teacher preparation and facility renovations are needed. ***We urge the federal government to invest in universal preschool, including funding for early childhood educator preparation programs and facilities renovations for preschool programs.***



### SUBSTANCE USE AND RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES

Los Angeles Unified became a leading organization in responding to the opioid crisis as one of the first school districts in the nation to make naloxone available at all K-12 schools. We were the first urban school district in the nation to empower students to be part of the solution by allowing them to carry naloxone in schools. ***We urge the federal government to support funding to address substance abuse and recovery support services for students.***



### IMMIGRANT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Los Angeles Unified embraces and celebrates immigrant families and multicultural experiences. We remain committed to supporting our immigrant community by ensuring they have the tools needed to thrive academically, and assistance as they apply for legal status. ***We urge the federal government to increase funding and supports for immigrant students and families, including newcomer students, and to urge Congress to pass permanent legal protections and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth.***



### CONTACT INFORMATION

Martha Alvarez, Chief of Legislative Affairs & Government Relations, [martha.alvarez1@lausd.net](mailto:martha.alvarez1@lausd.net)

**Los Angeles Office:** 333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017

**Sacramento Office:** 1201 K Street, Suite 1040, Sacramento, CA 95814 | (916) 443-4405