



PSC 3.0 INFORMATIONAL SCHOOL PLAN SUMMARY

FOR: SOUTH REGION HIGH SCHOOL #3

PROPOSED BY: SCHOOLS FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

FOR: SCHOOL OF URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Mission & Vision of the School

The teachers, recent alumni, parents, and community members of the Schools for Community Action (SCA) team are dedicated to building the powerful and effective learning environment that the youth in our community have long deserved. Our SCA members have either been raised in the neighborhood or have worked nearly exclusively in the immediate area, including Manual Arts High School and Muir Middle School. Two teachers of the SCA team were born and/or raised in the neighborhood surrounding the school, attending all local LAUSD schools. All of the other main contributors of this proposal have served the community in several capacities. Our plans are specific to the community needs of our South Central¹ community, to which we are deeply connected, know well, and value intensely.

Through our outreach into the community, we realized that we need to provide families with distinct choices in the education of their children. That is why we designed four separate plans for four distinct small schools on the Augustus Hawkins campus. These four choices resulted from our findings as we spoke to the people in our community and as we read through various studies on education:

1. Critical Design and Gaming School (C:\DAGS)
2. Community Health Advocates School (CHAS)
3. Responsible Indigenous Social Entrepreneurship (RISE) School
4. The School of Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science (USES)

Mission: To educate and empower students to creatively lead their communities towards sustainable futures.

Vision: As a result of students being provided with authentically engaging educational experiences that prepare them for 21st century college and career pursuits, the community around Slauson & Hoover will become a more environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable and just neighborhood.

Our Students: Upon graduating from the School of Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science, students will have a strong academic foundation that will prepare them for 21st century careers and post-secondary education. Utilizing unique skill sets, our students will tackle some of today’s most challenging environmental issues. They will be trained in rigorous social and scientific research methods to study our local communities and environments. Students will be able to link ecological principles to evaluate issues related to community health and sustainable practices. They will embody community advocacy around issues of local importance as well as make connections globally to urban sustainability and community health. Students will graduate with a set of experiences that inspire and empower them to be leaders in their communities, innovators in their fields, and civic and environmentally minded citizens.

Our students will be:

- Ready for College and Careers of the 21st Century
- Concerned for the well being of their community
- Active participants in identifying and addressing community issues, both local and global

Designing Data Driven & Student Centered Instructional Programs

What we know about helping students succeed:

- Learning needs to be ACTIVE and ENGAGING
- School needs to CONNECT to the lives of our students

¹ South Central Los Angeles was renamed “South Los Angeles” in 2003, in an attempt by the City to improve its image, yet based on our experiences working and living there, we strongly believe it is imperative to recognize and preserve the identity and history of South Central Los Angeles.



- Parents are VITAL team members in the learning process
- Teachers need to be of the highest quality and committed to the learning of EVERY child
- All students need SUPPORT at every stage in order to guarantee academic and personal success and achievement
- High School Graduation and College acceptance rates need to be IMPROVED

At the School of Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science every class and every subject will be taught from a student centered perspective. Projects will be designed with and by students in order to apply the concepts they are learning. Students will become mathematicians, scientists, writers, and historians in their quest to understand their community better. They will explore key environmental and social issues situated within their community. Their neighborhoods will become their classrooms and learning laboratories. Students will be supported along career and college pathways that focus on urban planning and environmental science.

At the School of Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science every student will be supported to reach high levels of excellence. Through an engaging curriculum, caring and supportive staff, and personalized learning environment, every student will be known, appreciated and encouraged to succeed. All students will be part of a community of learners that support each other in reaching their academic and personal dreams.

Instructional Program

Supporting ALL Learners: Every student learns differently, yet there are best educational practices that when employed benefit all learners. The School of Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science will be a campus dedicated to using these best practices in supporting the success of all students. Some of these practices include:

- **Highly Engaging Curriculum** – Students need to be engaged in learning through meaningful experiences
- **Highly Collaborative** – Learning happens when students and teachers are discovering together, and sharing those discoveries with each other
- **Highly Rigorous** – School needs to be challenging at a level that encourages students to work hard, have high self expectations, and take ownership of their learning
- **Highly Relevant** – The material and activities in school need to connect to what students see and experience everyday.
- **Highly Supportive & Personalized** – Instruction needs to be flexible in order to adapt to the needs of each specific learner

The School of Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science will utilize collaborative **Project Based Learning** experiences to help students see the connection between the classroom and the real world. Community and wilderness expeditions/field trips will expose students to the power of learning in different types of local environments. Collaboration with University partners, Community Based Organizations, and Local Businesses will support students in their pursuit of viable College and Career STEM pathways. Utilizing a common framework of instruction school-wide, all students will be supported to think in an interdisciplinary way. Our school will utilize a **Universal Design for Learning**© approach to instruction that allows for:

- Information and content to be presented in many different ways
- Demonstration of student learning in many different ways
- Stimulation of interest and motivation of each student in many different ways

When students are able to learn and demonstrate their learning in a variety of different ways, school becomes more engaging and student motivation to succeed increases. This allows:



Students with disabilities – to have access to supports they need while being involved in a highly engaging and flexible curriculum.

Socio-economically disadvantaged students – to utilize resources on our campus to achieve academically regardless of socio-economic status

Special needs students – to have their needs immediately identified and instructionally met using differentiation

Gifted students – to apply their capabilities in a way that promotes the highest level of depth and complexity while maintaining engagement

English Language Learners – to have access to an engaging and rigorous core curriculum that supports and promotes proficiency in academic English

Standard English Learners – to maximize their development of academic English in highly engaging and supportive learning environments

Data Driven – The School of Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science will utilize multiple sets of data to ensure that the highest quality instruction is matched with student needs. Through the use of Individualized Learning Plans for each student, data will be collected and utilized to ensure that students of all levels achieve their highest potential.

School Culture

The Safety and Security of Students are of Highest Priority:

We will provide a safe and nurturing experience from home to school and back again for every student by employing the following strategies:

- **Purposeful scheduling:** classes start later in the morning to support families with dropping off younger siblings at local elementary and middle schools.
- **Cooperation with community programs such as Safe Passages:** ensure afternoon student safety for our students and the students at local elementary and middle schools.
- **Campus policy:** administrators and staff will be actively present before, during, and after school.
- **Communication with LAUSD and local Police Department:** support through presence.

A Culture of Community Learning: The School of Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science will be a safe and supportive campus dedicated to social and scientific inquiry. The outcomes of learning will be the continual betterment of our students, our school, and the community we serve. This can only be done through a spirit of collaboration with all stakeholders. By collaboratively creating a culture of community learning, the School of Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science will make aims towards achieving its mission and vision.

Student Life: A day in the life of a student at the School of Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science will be exciting. Every morning students will engage with their advisors to plan and reflect on their goals, academic progress, and preparations for the upcoming day of learning. In their core classes, students will be immersed in projects that promote students to think critically about the world around them. Lessons will connect to each other in interdisciplinary ways. Students will participate in field inquiries, internships, or service learning projects in the community. A student at our school will know and come to love the learning that takes place beyond the classroom.

Extracurricular Activities: Involvement in learning at the School for Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science does not end when the bell rings. On any given day students will be involved in a number of activities:

- Development of Community & School Gardens
- After School Clubs and Organizations
- Sports
- Field Trips
- Community Presentations of Student Projects



- Campus Tours & Greening

Parent Engagement & Involvement

Authentic Collaboration: Reform in our schools is not possible without collaboration with our students' families. The School for Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science will work together with our families to:

- Communicate regularly around their child's academic progress, utilizing multiple means of relaying information including phone, internet, and in person meetings
- Coordinate with families to schedule necessary services for students with need
- Build community capacity around how to best support the academic needs of their students through parent and community-led workshops and seminars
- Encourage and coordinate opportunities to volunteer throughout the school year
- Provide campus tours for parents and community members
- Continually share out student projects through community presentations and celebrations of student work and accomplishments
- Solicit community feedback throughout the year in a variety of ways
- Develop relationships based on respect and trust through community dialogue

Parents and community members will always be welcome at our campus. The School of Urban Sustainability will continue to cultivate relationships with families in the community in order to ensure that our campus is always welcoming, respectful, open, and focused on what is best for our children.

Staffing

Excellent Teachers & Staff: Studies that suggest that the single most influential factor in determining student academic achievement is the quality of teacher a child receives. It is for this reason that the teaching staff at the School of Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science will be driven by a commitment to the learning success of every child. All staff members will be guided by the school mission, vision, and the following CORE values:

- **Student Centered:** We believe that education should always begin with a strong respect and understanding of each student's potential and desire to learn.
- **Community Collaboration:** We believe that authentic community collaboration leads to transformative school design.
- **Innovation and Excellence:** We believe that teachers should constantly improve their practice to ensure students achieve new levels of success.
- **Social Justice:** We believe that our community deserves better educational opportunities than have been historically provided.
- **Sustainability:** We believe in creating interlinked strength between the four small schools of the Augustus Hawkins campus.

In staffing our school we will consider individuals that embody these CORE beliefs in mind, spirit, and practice.

Applicant Team Contact Information

Lead and/or Team Member Name(s): Mark Gomez, Jazmin Garcia, Andrew Terranova, Kevin Damato

Applicant Team Contact Phone Number: 310-699-6342

Applicant Team Contact Email: mgomez@ed4change.com