



### MISSION

To address barriers that prevent students from learning and to optimize their academic achievement.



### VISION

We support students, families, and staff to cultivate a safe, healthy, welcoming and affirming learning and working environment where all students thrive and graduate as empowered members of society.



### CORE BELIEFS

All students have the ability to learn, graduate and succeed when equitable access to appropriate supports is provided to eliminate barriers to learning. Safe and healthy environments promote student success. Everyone involved in the educational process is responsible for contributing to a system of holistic supports. Support systems work when inclusive, comprehensive and integrated. Parent and family support is vital to student success.

## SHHS DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

For a current administrator directory and additional program information, visit the SHHS website at

[achieve.lausd.net/shhs](https://achieve.lausd.net/shhs)

**Pia V. Escudero, LCSW**  
Executive Director | (213) 241-3840

## OVERVIEW

The SHHS Division, under the Office of Chief Special Education Equity & Access, provides a comprehensive array of services that support student achievement and success in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

## DISTRICT NURSING SERVICES (DNS)

Sosse Bedrossian, MSN, MA, RN, FNP-C, Director  
P: (213) 202-7580 | E: [sosse.bedrossian@lausd.net](mailto:sosse.bedrossian@lausd.net)

School Nurses are members of a multi-disciplinary team established to meet the health and educational needs of all LAUSD students. LAUSD School Nurses are California Registered Nurses that possess a California School Nurse Services Credential. The program component of Nursing Services includes health assessment, communicable disease control, state mandated screenings, such as vision and scoliosis,

first aid and disaster preparedness, immunization follow-up, child abuse reporting, suicide risk assessment, utilization of approved community resources, and health education of students and staff. School Nurses train, assign, and supervise unlicensed personnel to provide specialized physical health care services. Our nurses focus on students' health and promote student attendance and achievement.

## HUMAN RELATIONS, DIVERSITY & EQUITY (HRDE)

Judy Chiasson, Ph.D., Coordinator  
P: (213) 241-8719 | E: [judy.chiasson@lausd.net](mailto:judy.chiasson@lausd.net)

We are committed to fostering a safe and affirming District, school and community culture where all students and staff can lead healthy, purposeful and academically fruitful lives. Students and staff flourish in settings where they feel safe and their identities are affirmed. The presence of even one caring adult can be transformative. Our team provides resources and support services for students, staff, and families to build collaborative learning and working environments. The areas of focus include sexual orientation and gender identity; bullying prevention and response; intergroup relations; bias reduction; team building, communications and conflict resolution; mindfulness; healthy relationships, and other related topics.

## POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS/ RESTORATIVE PRACTICE (PBIS/RP)

Laura Zeff, BCBA, SHHS Administrative Coordinator  
P: (213) 241-3571 | E: [laura.zeff@lausd.net](mailto:laura.zeff@lausd.net)

Our team leverages a trauma-informed Multi-Tiered System of Support framework to support teachers and all stakeholders in the implementation of PBIS/RP. The team supports school sites with the cultivation of safe, healthy, welcoming, and affirming learning environments while establishing a culture of learning and positive behavior, systems and structures that address the wellness and social-emotional needs of the whole child, whole classroom, whole school, and whole community.

Effective PBIS/RP is achieved through good teaching. School-wide and classroom behavioral expectations are defined, taught, reinforced, monitored, and corrected. Structure and sense of safety are maximized by developing predictable routines, using effective management strategies, co-regulation approaches and stress reduction behaviors and strategies. Students are actively engaged in culturally and linguistically responsive learning

experiences that reinforce appropriate and expected behaviors and provide multiple opportunities to learn and practice these skills.

Our PBIS/RP team curates and creates resources, tools, and training in alignment with the Teaching and Learning Framework and School Leadership Framework to support effective implementation of PBIS and RP throughout the District.



## PUPIL SERVICES & ATTENDANCE (PSA)

Elsy Rosado, MSC, Director  
P: (213) 241-3844 | E: [eyr3367@lausd.net](mailto:eyr3367@lausd.net)

Our counselors are child welfare and attendance advocates who utilize a three-tiered model (prevention, early intervention, and intensive intervention) to improve individual and system-wide student attendance, engagement, achievement and graduation. Counselors work directly with students who experience difficulties in achieving their academic potential due to social/emotional, home and community barriers. PSA counselors in specialized programs provide additional support services that are needed by the specific populations they serve.

## SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH (SMH)

Joel E. Cisneros, LCSW, Director  
P: (213) 241-3841 | E: [joel.cisneros@lausd.net](mailto:joel.cisneros@lausd.net)

We provide a range of prevention, early intervention and acute mental health assessment and treatments in group, individual, or family modalities. Psychiatric Social Workers (PSWs) support a school-wide foundation of positive discipline, safe climate, academic success, and mental and emotional wellness by helping develop and sustain a caring school environment that promotes problem-solving skills and positive behavior.

Additionally, SMH is dedicated to restoring and maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for the students and staff after critical incidents on or near a school campus. Crisis Counseling and Intervention Services staff build the capacity of District staff to implement prevention strategies and mitigate the risk of school and community crises.

## STUDENT MEDICAL SERVICES AND MEDI-CAL PROGRAMS (SMS)

Ron H. Tanimura, Ed.D., Director  
P: (213) 241-2684 | E: [rht0055@lausd.net](mailto:rht0055@lausd.net)

We are comprised of school physicians, nurse practitioners, optometrists, and medical support staff working together to provide needed health care to students who have no access to a regular doctor. SMS provides direct services in schools, as well as in school-based health centers, and provides policy and program direction for the entire school District.

## STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS (SSP)

Denise Miranda, Ed.D., Director  
P: (213) 241-3840 | E: [denise.miranda@lausd.net](mailto:denise.miranda@lausd.net)

Our department provides comprehensive, specialized support services to eliminate disparities in well-being, school stability, attendance, achievement, graduation, and college access for our students in foster care, experiencing homelessness, involved in the juvenile justice system, as well as students returning from probation camps and/or Los Angeles County Office of Education schools. A-G Diploma Program staff support identified students

in secondary schools who are demonstrating risk of or are currently off-track from meeting the District's A-G graduation requirements. Student Discipline and Expulsion Support Unit provides guidance and consultation related to formal student discipline, due process for all expulsion recommendations in alignment with legal requirements, as well as specialized support services for students who are expelled.

## WELLNESS PROGRAMS (WP)

William Celestine, M.Ed., Director  
P: (213) 241-3850 | E: [wcelesti@lausd.net](mailto:wcelesti@lausd.net)

We ensure the coordination of health and wellness services and initiatives throughout the District. Its purpose is to lead efforts aligned with the District's Blueprint for Wellness and strategic plan, and coordinate with all other divisions to facilitate access to basic health, mental health, and wellness services for students and families. In addition, the Wellness Programs helps to assess gaps in services and programs, and establishes and strengthens internal and external partnerships to improve wellness among all stakeholders in an effort to achieve 100% graduation.

