

Ms. García, Dr. Rodriguez, Ms. Ratliff, Dr. McKenna - Not In Our Schools, Not In Our Communities: Address, Prevent, and Eliminate Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Los Angeles Unified School District (Res-026-15/16) (Noticed January 12, 2016)

ADOPTED on February 9, 2016

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District has a goal of 100% graduation and is dedicated to providing a safe learning environment with an atmosphere to learn academics and socio-emotional skills;

Whereas, The California Child Welfare Council reports that the fast growing criminal industry of commercial sexual exploitation affects 100,000-300,000 children a year nationally, with 11-14 being the most common ages of victims coerced into the industry;

Whereas, The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a form of human trafficking and child abuse, where the child is treated as a commercial sexual object, involving the exchange of sexual activity for money or something of value;

Whereas, Exploited children endure complex trauma that negatively affects psychosocial development, physical health, and academic engagement, which may manifest in chronic absenteeism, low academic performance, and increased the probability of school dropout;

Whereas, According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Los Angeles County is amongst those with the highest prevalence of CSEC in the country, where African Americans and children whom had prior contact with foster care and/or the juvenile justice system are disproportionately represented as sexually exploited youth;

Whereas, In August 2014, the LAUSD Office of Human Relations, Diversity and Equity created the Preventing CSEC Task Force, a collaboration of over 60 professionals from the District, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, Los Angeles County Department of Probation, Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, Federal Bureau of Investigation, local law enforcement, and government and community agencies, with the goal to develop an action plan to strengthen efforts to prevent CSEC in the District; and

Whereas, The initiative's funding is subject to availability of existing resources and contingent on the District's LCAP investments priorities. Reprioritization of invested funds is validated by inputs from community and other stakeholders; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District stands in solidarity with all local agencies working to eliminate and address the CSEC crisis that exists in Los Angeles County;

Resolved further, That the Los Angeles Unified School District will infuse CSEC awareness, prevention and intervention into all applicable District units, policies and trainings, such as the biannual mandatory child abuse trainings, and incorporate the District's CSEC response and intervention plan into the Los Angeles County CSEC Plan by the 2016-17 school year;

Resolved further, That the District will review existing LCAP-related investments and school climate programs that support vulnerable student populations to identify potential opportunities for expanding available District programs and supports to students identified as victims of CSEC;

Resolved further, To recognize that this is a District's priority and encourage the schools to engage their local communities and invest a portion of their local school autonomy allocation in a CSEC awareness and prevention program;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent will develop and implement a CSEC awareness and prevention model for every secondary school in the District by the 2019-2020 school year. A pilot that targets most impacted schools will begin in the 2016-17, no later than 2017-2018 school year and be expanded every year thereafter. This program will include, but is not limited to: 1) supplemental resources to support the prevention-education used with the required adopted comprehensive sexual health curriculum in a health course, 2) training for all school staff, 3) a reference guide for school site use, and 4) a reporting strategy for quarterly updates to the Board and public; and, be it finally

Resolved, That a proposed implementation plan, including budget, and timeline for the first year pilot will be prepared for review and approval within 60 days of the adoption of the Superintendent's FY 2016-17 budget, subject to the availability of resources and the District's LCAP investment priorities, and will identify opportunities to re-purpose funds, leverage funds and seek new revenue.