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JOHN E. DEASY, Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOL

January 22, 2013

Dear Parents:

The Board of Education for the Los Angeles Unified School District is committed to providing school choices to meet the diverse needs and interests of the students we serve. This has been reflected in the District's Public Schools Choice initiative for which community, staff, and independent groups developed comprehensive educational plans for District schools of choice. Groups who submitted proposals to operate a District school were required to include detailed plans describing the provision of supports and services for students with disabilities prior to approval as a Public School Choice operator. These school choices are available for all students, including English learners, gifted students, and students with disabilities.

Charter schools authorized by the Los Angeles Unified School District are schools of choice for many families. These schools, like all District-operated schools, are viable options for students with disabilities. The Charter Schools Act of 1992, Education Code section 47605(d)(1) states that a charter school "...shall not discriminate against any pupil on the basis of characteristics listed in Section 220" of the California Education Code which includes discrimination on the basis of disability. Within its school capacity, a charter school is required to admit all students who wish to attend the school. In addition, conversion charter schools that were formerly District-operated schools must give admission preference to students who reside within the former attendance area of that public school.

I encourage parents of students with disabilities to consider schools of choice including charter schools when considering the most appropriate educational placement for their child. Charter schools must serve the needs of students with disabilities as required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) in the same manner as District-operated schools. This includes providing programs such as special day and resource specialist programs as well as all related services described in the law including, but not limited to, speech and language, transportation, counseling, occupational therapy, behavioral support, physical therapy, and adapted physical education.

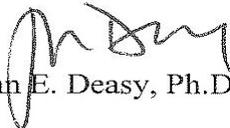
To assist parents in reviewing appropriate educational settings for their student, a list of the District's charter schools opening in the 2012-2013 school year is attached (Attachment A). Additionally, a list of charter schools scheduled to open in the 2013-2014 school year is also included (Attachment B). Information about current and scheduled charter schools is available and regularly updated on the District's website (lausd.net). Please follow these directions to access this information:

1. Type "lausd.net" in the address window;
2. Click on *Offices*;
3. Click on *Charter Schools Division*; and
4. Click on *School Directory* (on the upper left hand corner of the homepage).

You may select a list of current charter schools or schools scheduled to open in 2012-2013 or 2013-2014. If you are unable to access the internet for this information, you may contact the Innovations and Charter Schools Division at (213) 241-0399 for a list of charter schools.

Los Angeles Unified School District is proud to be able to offer families this robust set of educational options for all students, and we hope that you will avail yourself of a program that meets the needs of your child.

Sincerely,



John E. Deasy, Ph.D.

Attachments

- c: Members, Board of Education
- Michelle King
- David Holmquist
- Jose Cole-Gutierrez
- ESC/ISIC Superintendents
- ESC/ISIC Operations Administrators