

August 21, 2019

Superintendent Austin Beutner and the Board of Education

Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)  
333 S. Beaudry Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Superintendent Beutner, School Board Members and LAUSD stakeholders,

As Dean of LaFetra College of Education, I believe I speak for our professors of General and Special Education at University of La Verne. We put our full support behind LAUSD's efforts to maximize opportunities for students with disabilities to be educated with their general education peers. Inclusive practices ensure that all students are successful and are made to feel welcome at school and given access to every aspect of school life. For this important project to be successful, it is imperative that the most capable teams from both the general education and special education arenas come together to support all learners.

Research has consistently proven the benefits of educating students with disabilities alongside their non-disabled peers for both student groups (see attached Research Support for Inclusive Education and SWIFT). Even more striking, there has not been a study in 30 years supporting the educational practice of segregating students with disabilities. We have an ethical obligation to provide students with disabilities with equitable access to rigorous instruction aligned to the Common Core State Standards and believe this will lead to better post-secondary outcomes.

We highly support these efforts to design and deliver inclusive environments for all students at every opportunity. We are committed to providing resources and guidance in LAUSD's implementation of increased inclusion and look forward to having more inclusive classrooms for both general and special education student teachers and intern teachers to implement practices learned in their credential programs.

Kind regards,



**Dr. Kimberly A. White-Smith | Dean and Professor of Education**

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