



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Overview of the Parent and Family Center Improvement Program

Program Overview

On June 15, 2011, the Board of Education approved an amendment to the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) that provides an allocation of \$20 million for the creation of the Superintendent's Parent and Family Center Improvement Program. This Board-approved program is an integral part of the implementation of the Parents as Equal Partners in the Education of Their Children Resolution, adopted by the Board of Education in December 2010, and reflects the recommendations contained in the Parents as Equal Partners Task Force presented to the Board of Education on March 29, 2011.

Purpose and Scope

The program will make key facility improvements and equipment investments to enhance a school site's ability to develop and deliver parent education classes and activities that enhance and deepen the parents' and families' capacity to support student learning at home and at school. Typical investments and upgrades will include:

- **Technology package**—computers to support parent education classes on the use of online resources such as lausd.net, LAUSD's Parent Portal, educational and college websites, and email to communicate with teachers, principals, and other school staff
- **Training package**—LCD projector, screen, document reader, printer, and cart
- **Parent and Family Center Signage**—a package of exterior and interior signage that promotes the Parent and Family Center and encourages parent participation
- **Multi-purpose training furniture**—tables, chairs, storage and bookshelves to meet diverse parent training needs
- **Children's area** —as space permits, to support participation of families with non-school age children
- **Maintenance and Operations improvements**—floor repair, paint, etc. as needed

The effective use of bond-funded investments is crucial to the implementation and success of the program. Security measures such as installation of window grills, re-keying doors and the addition of locks on the technology equipment will protect valuable investments and deter theft.

Schools that are selected and approved to participate in the program will be required to collect documentation about their Parent and Family Center, including parent education activities, and parent participation in workshops and events. The Local District Parent and Community Engagement team and the Office of Parent and Community Services (PCS) will collect and analyze this information at regular intervals in order to assist schools in engaging parents and families in their children's learning. Additionally, the data will be used to document progress in parent engagement, assess the value and effectiveness of bond investments and secure future funding.

Sustainability and supportive partnerships to strengthen parent engagement

The Parent and Family Center Improvement Program is intended to equip schools with a space conducive to robust parent engagement activities that will lead to improved student academic achievement. As such, the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools have required





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that all Parent and Family Center investments demonstrate programming that directly supports the District's key strategies and benchmarks that will lead to 100% graduation and proficiency for all.

Every school under consideration for the Parent and Family Center Improvement Program will participate in a program and facility site visit that will include 1) an assessment of the current level of parent engagement activities, outcomes and benchmarks in place for the development of a partnership agreement that demonstrates the school's use of its new Parent and Family Center as a means to deepen and enhance parent engagement to support learning at home and at school, and 2) an evaluation of the school's Parent and Family Center in order to assess its physical needs and ensure an appropriate scope of work.

The following overarching goals of this program will serve as the framework for partnerships between schools, local districts, and the central administration:

- Create and expand parent education classes and activities that support academic achievement
- Equip parents and caregivers with information and tools to support learning at home and communicate effectively with teachers
- Foster teacher-parent collaboration and communication
- Engage all school site staff in fostering a welcoming environment for parents and families
- Support families in reducing obstacles to parental engagement in order to promote student achievement
- Develop strong partnerships within the greater community that advance the school's family engagement goals and benchmarks

