

AUSTIN BEUTNER UPDATE TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

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Good morning. I'm Austin Beutner, Superintendent of Los Angeles Unified.

I hope you and your family are safe and well as we all struggle with the impact COVID-19 is having on our local community and the world around us.

As we start a new year with a new semester for students just a week away, I want to take the time to update you on our Primary Promise. This is our commitment to make sure every student in elementary school has the literacy, fluency in math and critical-thinking skills to provide the foundation to help them succeed in school and in life.

We started work on this more than a year ago, with a commitment to focus on the unique needs of each elementary school student by providing more individual and small-group instruction. When the pandemic reached our schools, we quickly shifted to an online pilot program in two of our Local Districts. We've seen great progress and will be soon rolling out Primary Promise to schools across the entire school district.

Alison Yoshimoto-Towery, our Chief Academic Officer, Adaina Brown, Local District Superintendent, and Alma Kimura, Administrator of Instruction, will each share their perspective on this work.

You'll hear some consistent themes:

- A commitment of the resources needed to provide one-on-one and small-group instruction. Simply put, this means more reading and math teachers in early grades to work alongside the classroom teachers.
- A clear and consistent approach to implementation. The goals are made clear to all involved and classroom educators use quick, simple diagnostic assessments to look at student progress so they can fine-tune their instructional support. No time is tied up in lengthy summative tests which try to distill a year's worth of progress into one or two numbers. Rather, a few simple checks help provide feedback in real time when it can make a difference.
- Providing unique support to each student. Every child learns differently and it stands to reason the best way to help students learn is to adapt the instruction to a student's unique needs.

The Primary Promise is a game-changer for Los Angeles Unified. When we build this proper foundation in early learners, they'll gain much more from everything else along the way to graduation.

Education is cumulative. We get it right early, we'll see big gains in achievement across all grades. And we'll help every student reach their full potential.

I hope you'll enjoy listening to Alison, Adaina and Alma. Thank you again for your continued patience and support.