



PSC 3.0 INFORMATIONAL SCHOOL PLAN SUMMARY

FOR: SR ES #10 PLAN

PROPOSED BY: LA'S PROMISE

FOR: SR ES #10

Mission & Vision of the School

LA's Promise (www.laspromise.org) is a nonprofit organization working to radically improve the education, health and social outcomes for thousands of youth in one South Los Angeles community. This will accomplish a "neighborhood turnaround" in an area we call LA's Promise Neighborhood. LA's Promise Neighborhood is an enrollment zone that includes two large South LA high schools and one middle school operated by LA's Promise on a first-of-its-kind performance contract with LAUSD. Within this zone, LA's Promise transforms chronically failing public schools, opens new schools to offer world-class educational opportunities and remakes schools into community hubs that offer comprehensive support services for students and families. To accomplish this vision, every public school in this community must provide a rigorous, college preparatory education for ALL students, and the schools themselves must become hubs for the vital social and health services that students and families need.

The following mission and vision statement for South Region Elementary School #10 (SR ES #10) guides our planning and aligns with the mission of LA's Promise and the other schools it operates:

“SR ES #10 provides its students a rigorous academic experience, emphasizing the study of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields so that students graduate prepared to succeed in middle school, high school and college, and beyond. Students will develop the knowledge and habits required to be healthy and successful in the 21st century.”

To advance the STEM study, ES #10 students will learn in a “blended learning” school environment—the combination of teacher led instruction and online learning. This approach improves student learning and accelerates student achievement by meeting the diverse array of learning styles. LA's Promise will work with the nationally regarded blended learning company, Education Elements, (<http://www.edelements.com>) to design and implement a blended learning model. In addition, several partner organizations will work with LA's Promise to realize our vision for SR ES #10. These partners include City Year, Teach for America, Girl Scouts STEM, and Great Minds in STEM. Additionally, LA's Promise will operate SR ES #10 as a K-12 STEM and blended learning pipeline. Curriculum, professional development and blended learning programs will be aligned across the LA's Promise operated schools (John Muir Middle and Manual Arts High School).

LA's Promise has identified four goals that describe what it means to be “healthy and successful” in the 21st century:

- **All Students are Ready for College & the 21st Century:** Students complete a course of study that prepares them for success in middle school, high school and college, and learn to think critically, understand complex ideas and solve problems across multiple disciplines. Students will be grade level fluent in computer use, technology and the STEM fields.
- **All Students are Culturally Aware:** Students are prepared to succeed in today's diverse global economy and can function collaboratively in multiple contexts with respect, ease and confidence.
- **All Students Become Lifelong Learners:** Students grow into creative, reflective and actively engaged adults.
- **All Students Live a Healthy Life:** Students understand that physical, emotional, mental and social health factors are important to their overall well-being, and they manage their lives to make healthy, productive life choices.

Designing Data Driven & Student Centered Instructional Programs

SR ES #10 relief schools have accomplished positive academic trends that LA's Promise will continue and strengthen. From 2009-2010 to 2010-2011, all subgroups increased English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics proficiency on the California State Tests (CST). Specifically, in ELA:

- English Learners' proficiency rates increased from 13% to 19%.
- African American students' proficiency rates increased from 22% to 27%.
- Special Education students' proficiency rates increased from 0% to 5%.

In Mathematics:



- English Learners’ proficiency rates increased from 30% to 42%.
- African American students’ proficiency rates increased from 29% to 36%.
- Special Education students’ proficiency rates increased from 5% to 15%.

Although there have been promising and positive trends in proficiency growth, progress has not been rapid enough. Student achievement rates must be significantly increased, and the achievement gap among subgroups must be closed.

- In 2011, only 5% and 15% of Special Education students were proficient in ELA and Math respectively.
- Forty-two percent of English Learners were proficient in Math in 2011, yet only 19% tested as proficient in ELA.
- Only 27% of African American students are proficient in ELA, 8% lower than the entire school population. African American students also have a math proficiency rate that is 17% lower than the school population.

To ensure that all students are provided with the individualized and immediate support needed to be successful, LA’s Promise will implement blended learning across all its core subjects. Blended learning combines the best of traditional teaching with the best of online learning to accelerate student achievement on a more personalized basis for every student. Students will also be energized to learn by the hands-on, real world learning opportunities provided by the STEM theme. The STEM theme will be integrated across all curriculums. Interventions will be based on a successful model that provides holistic, personalized, and data-driven supports for all students. By utilizing data regularly and providing individualized and immediate support and intervention for students, LA’s Promise expects that:

- In 3 years, the number of SR ES #10 students who are proficient or advanced in ELA and Math will nearly double, and the achievement gap among subgroups will be closed.
- In 5 years, nearly *every* student will be proficient or advanced in ELA and Math
- Upon graduation from SR ES #10, students will be ready for middle school and on the path towards college readiness.

Instructional Program

LA’s Promise’s instructional philosophy is to do “whatever it takes” to ensure students from South Los Angeles are prepared to succeed in college and live a healthy life. LA’s Promise’s instructional program, developed from leading research and successful practices of exemplary schools, is based on four components:

- Rigorous Common Core State Standards-based curriculum with extensive interventions
- Holistic, personalized, data-driven supports
- Highly effective, well-trained educators and staff
- Transformed school culture for all stakeholders

SR ES #10 will have a diverse student population where 96% of students qualify for free or reduced price school lunches, 56% are English learners, 9% of students receive special education services, at least 2% are identified as gifted and talented, and 100% of students are Latino or African-American. Based on extensive research as well as its track record serving similar student populations at John Muir Middle School, Manual Arts High School and West Adams Prep, LA’s Promise believes that high quality instruction will help close the achievement gap between SR ES #10’s different subgroups and non-poverty students statewide. LA’s Promise’s plan to serve subgroups is as follows:

Students with special needs and/or disabilities - LAUSD, LA’s Promise and SR ES #10 will adhere to the terms, conditions and requirements of the Chandra Smith Modified Consent Decree (“MCD”) and other court orders imposed upon the District pertaining to special education. SR ES #10 will continue to adhere to the District’s Special Education Policies and Procedures Manual and Welligent, the District-wide web-based software system used for online IEPs and tracking of related services provided to students during the course of their education. LA’s Promise will continue to use LAUSD’s services for special education. The blended learning environment will serve special education students well by personalizing their learning opportunities with both their teacher and their curriculum. Online learning will allow students with special needs to learn on the mode that is most appropriate for them and at their own pace as they master each subject. The extra time in the classroom will also provide struggling students with additional language development and/or math supports.

Socio-economically disadvantaged students - The student population of SR ES #10 is predominantly socio-economically disadvantaged, thus LA’s Promise’s core instructional program is designed to address the needs and academic challenges often faced by disadvantaged students. Features of LA’s Promise instructional program for SR ES #10 are: (1) School-wide emphasis in literacy, across all subjects and at all grade levels using instructional scaffolding as a key tool. Instructional scaffolding provides students with a supportive learning environment, where they are empowered by their teacher to take



ownership of the learning event; (2) Comprehensive math and ELA interventions that provide holistic, personalized, and data driven supports for all students; (3) Focus on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) process standards; (4) Focus on language and content integration, (5) Implementation of a comprehensive performance management system (aligned to the Teacher Effectiveness Task Force recommendations), utilizing extensive data and comprehensive support to provide relevant teacher feedback and accelerate teacher proficiency, (6) blended learning approach that fosters personalized and self-paced learning toward mastery of each subject, and (7) STEM themed learning that offers real world learning opportunities that excite students about learning.

Gifted students - For students identified as GATE and students who are achieving above grade level, SR ES #10 will implement several approaches to provide a continuously challenging learning environment. First, the blended learning model will group students within each class according to their results on a subject and allow teachers to work in small-group settings with each level of learners. When students are on the computers, the online learning programs will adjust the level of learning to meet, support and challenge students to achieve at their greatest potential. Second, all teachers will be trained to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of advanced learners by utilizing instructional strategies such as experiential learning, complex instruction, and supplementing core curriculum with more advanced grade level texts. Next, with an extended day schedule, SR ES #10 will have the ability to offer elective classes designed for accelerated learners. Courses may include Robotics and Engineering, Creative Writing, Computer Programming, Journalism, and Advanced Art, all reinforcing the school’s STEM theme. LA’s Promise is able to support these courses through an expansive network of over 60 external partners.

English Language Learners & Standard English Learners – With over half of SR ES #10 students identified as English learners, LA’s Promise will support the English Language Development program at SR ES #10. First and foremost, LA’s Promise believes that all students, including English learners can learn and excel at the highest of levels. Additionally, LA’s Promise will implement a comprehensive program at the school, which will include:

- English learners in mainstream classrooms;
- Blended learning program to group students within a classroom according to level to receive specialized instruction from their teacher and utilizing computer learning programs that accelerate English learner growth in Math and English;
- Summer and yearlong training for teachers and administrators, focusing on how best to teach English learners using research proven strategies;
- Extended learning time (up to an extra hour a day) for English learners to develop their language skills;
- A system to monitor and reclassify fluent-English-proficient students according to district and state protocols and supporting the ongoing success of reclassified students;
- Regular contact with parents regarding their students’ placement, options and progress.

School Culture

LA’s Promise’s schools promote a culture characterized by a safe, effective learning environment for all students, where a student’s path toward college and healthy living drives every decision. SR ES #10 will have excellent school-wide positive student behavior characterized by a shared sense of responsibility for all students. SR ES #10 will have common expectations in and out of classrooms for all students and staff. In addition to being clean and organized, the school will provide structured classrooms with high expectations.

On a typical day at SR ES #10, when students arrive to school, school staff members and City Year volunteers will greet them warmly. Once instructional time begins, hallways will be quiet except for an occasional student walking to the classroom with a hall pass. During class time, rigorous, standards-based instruction will take place with a caring and supportive teacher. As a result of regular assessments and data analysis, teachers will know exactly how students are performing and will customize instruction accordingly. Students who are not performing at grade level will be provided with intervention support during the school day and afterschool. Once the bell rings, students will participate in the school’s “7 to 7” program, engaging in various afterschool activities such as robotics, music, sci-fi art, dance and tutoring. To accomplish this vision, LA’s Promise relies on a handful of key strategies including:

- *A rigorous focus on creating a safe and welcoming campus:* LA’s Promise will enforce a dress code (uniform policy). A strong school leadership team, including APs, City Year, LA’s Promise team members and safety staff, will create a noticeable and consistent campus safety presence in order to reduce behavioral and other disciplinary issues.
- *Engaging strong parent partnerships:* LA’s Promise focuses on engaging strong parent partnerships so that every student has a well-informed parent or guardian supporting their journey to college.



- *Extending the school day with expanded enrichment opportunities:* LA’s Promise has designed a “7 to 7” program, already implemented at LA’s Promise’s current schools. The program extends the school day with expanded enrichment opportunities from 7am to 7pm and on weekends, radically increasing student and family participation in positive afterschool activities. Activities will include robotics, music, sci-fi art, soccer, tutoring and much more.

Parent Engagement & Involvement

LA's Promise believes that parents, families, guardians and other school stakeholders are key partners in achieving a school’s vision and every student’s success. Because of the importance of parent engagement, LA's Promise staffs every school with a full time Associate Director of Parent and Community Engagement. This position, which is 100% funded by LA’s Promise, will work closely with community representatives and parent volunteers.

LA’s Promise works with parents to ensure they are aware of their child's education each step of the way and that they have the resources necessary to address any barriers. To ensure that parents and guardians are engaged in the academic achievement of their children, LA’s Promise will implement four key engagement activities:

- *Ongoing Parent Support Courses:* Through key partnerships, LA’s Promise empowers parents through ongoing support and education courses offered through its Parent University. For example, healthy living and fitness classes as well as college readiness classes to support parents in their child’s academic success.
- *Volunteer and Leadership Opportunities:* Parents at LA's Promise schools are key partners in the schools’ daily operations and decision-making. Parents will be trained and empowered to be active leaders and participants in the school.
- *Consistent and Ongoing Parent Communication:* LA's Promise will work closely with faculty members and administrators to develop a system for consistent and ongoing parent communication (for example, weekly homework messages from teachers to parents and regular “Coffee with the Principal” events).
- *Active & Vibrant Parent Center:* LA’s Promise assigns a staff member to coordinate all of the parent engagement efforts and works with parents to build a vibrant parent center that is their hub of activity, trainings and information.

Staffing

An effective and diverse teacher workforce is essential in improving student learning at SR ES #10. LA’s Promise will have a highly effective educator in every classroom at SR ES #10. LA’s Promise will implement a system to attract, recruit, select and retain teachers who exhibit the characteristics consistent in successful urban elementary teachers. In addition, LA’s Promise will screen for teachers that have a track record of success and are committed to the STEM and blended learning environments that SR ES #10 will feature. LA's Promise will work with LAUSD Human Resources to place teachers that are emerging from a Workforce Investment Board and California State University program that provided math and science training to displaced multiple subject-credentialed teachers. Further, Teach for America will work with LA’s Promise to place outstanding Corp members that fit the STEM and blended learning requirements at SR ES #10.

Once hired, LA’s Promise in conjunction with the school site team, will provide SR ES #10 teachers with the following summer and ongoing supports:

- *1:1 Coaching:* The LA’s Promise leadership team at SR ES #10 will dedicate several hours daily towards observing and working directly with teachers, students and support staff.
- *Common Planning Time:* LA’s Promise will implement a master schedule at SR ES #10 that will enable teachers within the same grade level to have common prep periods to plan together.
- *“Teacher Partner” Observations:* Additional sub-coverage will be built into the school’s budget to allow for release time in order for teachers to visit high performing classrooms and schools.
- *Master Teacher Cohort:* SR ES #10’s most proficient teachers will be utilized to support and mentor other teachers.
- *LA’s Promise Teacher Training:* LA’s Promise is working with Teach for America, Amgen and others to provide teachers an array of trainings like free National Board Certification, parent engagement, new teacher supports, STEM, blended learning, 7 to 7, and the online directory.

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