

PREVIOUS PROPOSALS:

9/15/17 – UTLA Initial

FEB 15 2018

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LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESPONSE TO UNITED TEACHERS LOS ANGELES
AFFORDABLE HOUSING & STUDENT HOMELESSNESS PROPOSAL OF
SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

FEBRUARY 15, 2018

On September 15, 2017, UTLA put forth an “affordable housing and student homelessness” proposal. The parties are in agreement that housing stabilization does contribute to improved student, family, and employee outcomes. The high cost of housing is a problem across the state of California.

In affirming the fundamental importance of supporting District employees, students, and families, LAUSD has taken the following actions:

To date, the District has developed three workforce housing projects on District land. All three projects were done under the Joint Occupancy provision of the Education Code. These three projects, Sage Park Apartments, Selma Community Housing and Norwood Learning Village, consist of 185 one, two and three bedroom units for families in the 30 – 60% of Average Median Income (AMI) range. At least one of these communities took a family from homeless to “home.” Some include community gardens and a community building for joint use. Sage Park won the Affordable Housing Finance 2015 Readers Choice Award for Best Family Project and was certified LEED Gold. Selma Community Housing won the Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing 2016 Project of the Year Award and was a finalist or earned a Gold award in different non-profit housing industry groups. Selma Community housing was certified LEED Platinum. Again, all three projects have been very successful and have helped over 150 District employees and their families find more affordable housing. The District continues to look at ways of developing underutilized assets to address issues facing the District, our staff, employees and their families.

The Homeless Education Program offers training to District staff in a variety of methods:

Training is provided to all Homeless School Site Liaisons on an annual basis. Training content includes, but is not limited to, review of federal mandates such as: the McKinney-Vento Act and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), educational rights and protections afforded students experiencing homelessness, the educational definition of homelessness, Homeless Education Program support provided to students and families, overview of *Bulletin 6718.0 Educational Rights and Guidelines for Youth in Foster Care, Experiencing Homelessness and/or Involved in the Juvenile Justice System*, review of the Dispute Resolution process, AB1806 Graduation Exemption for students experiencing homelessness, the identification process in My Integrated Student Information System (MiSiS), etc. In addition, online Training for the Homeless School Site Liaison via the Learning Zone is offered 24/7 to any LAUSD Staff.

From August through September 30th, 18 Pupil Services and Attendance Counselors in the Homeless Education Program visit every school site in their assigned Local Districts and provide on-site training to Homeless School Site Liaisons, Administrators, and staff facilitating student enrollment. Participants are

provided with a packet of materials (e.g., District/Program/community resources, useful attachments from BUL. 6718.0, etc.), a review of District policy, as well as program resources.

Homeless Education Program Staff (PSA Counselors and PSA Aides) provide targeted schools with on-site support 1 day/week for 3 weeks. While at the school site, training is provided to the Homeless School Site Liaison and the alternate Liaison that creates a system of identification and support for students and families experiencing homelessness. Schools are selected based on need (e.g., high numbers of identified students, possible under identification of students based on community demographics, newly identified Homeless Liaison, Liaison in need of refresher training, etc.).

PSA Counselors in the Homeless Education Program are co-located at the CES sites for families and youth in six different Service Planning Areas. Being co-located with agency staff, the Homeless Education Program staff is able to prescreen candidates for employment opportunities, discuss any attendance matters that require attention, and provide information related to community referrals. As a partner of the Coordinated Entry System, HEP staff members have been identified as a referral source for various subsidized housing programs which are accessible to eligible students and their families.

Homeless Education Program Community Collaborative meetings are held on a quarterly basis at the California Endowment. Invitations to collaborative meetings are delivered via email to Homeless Liaisons District-wide and community partners. Presentations are provided by community organizations supporting the needs of children, youth and families experiencing homelessness. The Collaborative allows community partners and District staff the opportunity to share information regarding upcoming events, resources available to students and parents and/or support services provided.

The Homeless Education Program plans and coordinates events (i.e., Operation School Bell Universal, OSB Prom and Tux, Sponsor a Family and/or Sponsor-a-Graduate, various scholarship opportunities) with the support of private individuals/groups in the community, community organizations, as well as District staff. Referrals are typically received from the Homeless School Site Liaisons.

Annually, the Homeless Education Program receives donations (i.e., in-kind and monetary) from various community groups, District offices and private donors. Program staff actively seek out donations and leverage existing partnerships to secure items useful to families.

As a subcontractor for the Los Angeles County Office of Education and a recipient of Measure H funding, the Homeless Education Program is providing outreach and services to the Coordinated Entry System for youth sites to enhance services for Transition-Age Youth (i.e., youth and young adults 16-24 years of age) experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

The Pupil Services Homeless Education Program's purpose is to remove barriers that may impede student access to educational options available and to promote student enrollment stability.

Bargaining demands related to public policy advocacy are outside the scope of bargaining and are, indeed, prohibited by the Education Employment Relations Act ("EERA"). EERA specifically details those subjects that are within the scope of bargaining: "The scope of representation shall be limited to matters relating to wages, hours of employment and other terms and conditions of employment. 'Terms and conditions of employment' means health and welfare benefits . . . , leave, and transfer and reassignment policies, safety conditions of employment, class size, procedures to be used for the evaluation of employees, organizational security . . . , procedures for processing grievances . . . , the

layoff of probationary certificated school district employees . . . and alternative compensation or benefits for employees adversely affected by pension limitations . . .” Gov Code § 3543.2(a)(1). EERA also explicitly provides that “[a]ll matters not specifically enumerated are reserved to the public school employer and *may not be a subject of meeting and negotiating*, except that this section does not limit the right of the public school employee to consult with any employees or employee organization on any matter outside the scope of representation.” Gov Code § 3543(a)(4)(emphasis added).

While issues surrounding affordable housing and homelessness are not enumerated as a subject of bargaining and so EERA precludes the parties from meeting and negotiating about it, this does not preclude the parties from working collaboratively on these issues, and the parties intend to do so.